

SOCIAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT  
SCOPING REPORT

SALDANHA BAY NETWORK  
STRENGTHENING PROJECT, WESTERN  
CAPE PROVINCE

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## Executive Summary

This social impact assessment (SIA) study forms part of the Scoping and Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) that is being undertaken for the proposed Saldanha Bay network strengthening project. Savannah Environmental (Pty) Ltd has been appointed by Eskom Holding SOC Limited, to undertake the required EIA process for the construction and operation of the proposed Distribution Substation, Transmission Substation and power lines. This report contains the findings of the scoping level SIA for the EIA process.

The scope of Saldanha Bay network strengthening project includes the following:

- » Construction of a new 400/132kV Transmission Substation in the Saldanha Bay area with a planned capacity of 3 x 500 MVA transformers. The transmission substation footprint will be 600m x 600m.
- » Construction of a new 132/66kV Distribution Substation near the current Blouwater Substation in the Saldanha Bay area. The distribution substation footprint will be 120m x 120m.
- » The construction of two 400kV power lines (approximately 35 - 40 km) from the Aurora Substation to the new proposed distribution and transmission substations. A servitude of 55m is required for each power line
- » Replacing two of the four existing 250 MVA 400/132kV transformers with 2 x 500 MVA transformers at Aurora Substation.
- » Establishing 2 x 132 kV feeder bays around Aurora Substation.

The proposed Distribution substation (Dx), Transmission substation (Tx) and power lines will be located in the Saldanha Bay area, approximately 130km north west of Cape Town, in the Western Cape Province. The location of the proposed substations and power lines will be within 20km from the coast and falls within the Saldanha Bay Local Municipality (SBLM), which is part of the West Coast District Municipality (WCDM). The closest towns are Saldanha Bay and Vredenburg.

Alternative substation sites and power line corridors have been identified within a broader study area. These, together with any other feasible alternatives identified through the EIA process, will be assessed and preferred alternatives recommended for implementation. Should the project be authorised by the National Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA), Eskom will then enter into a negotiation process with each affected landowner. The process of negotiating a servitude is independent of the EIA process, and will be undertaken directly by Eskom.

The main aim of the social scoping assessment is to identify and describe social impacts that may arise from the proposed development. The purpose of the study is to:

- 
- » Provide a description of the environment that may be affected by the proposed activity and also provide a description of the manner in which the environment may be affected by the proposed development.
  - » Provide a description of the potential social issues associated with the proposed development (in terms of the construction, operational and decommissioning phases of the project).
  - » Provide a description of the approach proposed for assessing the potentially significant issues that will be addressed by the SIA in the EIA phase.

Secondary data sources were utilised for the desktop study where secondary data was gathered and analysed for the purpose of the social scoping report.

### ***Legislation and Guidelines***

The review of the relevant planning and policy documents was undertaken as a part of the SIA process. The key documents reviewed included:

#### National Policies:

- » The Constitution of the Republic of South Africa (Act 108 of 1996)
- » The National Environmental Management Act (107 of 1998) (NEMA)
- » The National Energy Act (34 of 2008)
- » The Department of Energy Strategic Plan 2015-2020
- » National Development Plan 2030
- » National Climate Change Response White Paper (DEA, 2010)
- » White Paper on Energy Policy of the Republic of South Africa (1998)

#### Provincial Policies:

- » Western Cape Provincial Spatial Development Framework Draft 2013

#### Local and District Policies:

- » West Coast District Municipality (WCDM) Integrated Development Plan (IDP) (2012-2017)
- » West Coast District Municipality (WCDM) Spatial Development Framework (SDF) (2014)
- » Saldanha Bay Local Municipality (SBLM) Spatial Development Framework (SDF) (2011)
- » Saldanha Bay Local Municipality (SBLM) Integrated Development Plan (IDP) (2012-2017)

### **Summary of the socio-economic profile of the study area**

The Saldanha Network Strengthening project is located within the SBLM which forms part of the WCDM of the Western Cape Province.

*Western Cape:*

The Western Cape is located on the southern tip of the African continent between the Indian and Atlantic Oceans. It is bordered by the Northern Cape and Eastern Cape provinces. The Western Cape's natural beauty makes the province one of the world's greatest tourist attractions. Sectors such as finance, real estate, ICT, retail and tourism have shown substantial growth, and are the main contributors to the regional economy.

*West Coast District Municipality:*

The largest towns in the district are Vredenburg and Saldanha on the Cape Columbine peninsula and the main economic sectors include manufacturing, agriculture, forestry and fishing, wholesale and retail trade, catering and tourism.

*Saldanha Bay Local Municipality:*

The SBLM is located within the WCDM, approximately 140km north of Cape Town on the south-eastern coastline of South Africa. The principal contributors to Saldanha Bay Municipality's GDP are services (15%), finance (12%), transport (16%), trade (13%), construction (5%), manufacturing (30%) and agriculture (7%). SBLM has the largest natural port in Africa and the area is earmarked as a regional engine for the development of the Western Cape Province (SBLM IDP 2012-2017). The greatest social problems in the SBLM are illiteracy and poverty. The income distribution is distorted in the SBLM to the disadvantage of the less economically secured people, who also represents the majority of the municipal area. Poor households are a result of a lack of wage income, either due to unemployment or low-paying jobs. However, SBLM area is considered to be well serviced in terms of the extent and level of infrastructure available.

*Land use character of the study area and prominent features:*

The study area essentially consists of agricultural land. The surrounding area is characterised by a flat agricultural farm areas, primarily wheat and crop production activities. Majority of the area has a low number of farmsteads that are sparsely populated. Farmsteads occur within the study area and within the surrounding area and adjacent farms. Nearby areas are comprised of developments such as the Saldanha Bay Smelter, Langebaan Air Force Base and Independent Power Producers' Wind Farms. There are numerous nature reserves and significant tourism attractions of national relevance located in or near the study area, such as Thali Thali Game reserve, West Coast Fossil Park, West Coast National Park and the Elandsfontein and Hopefiled Private Nature Reserves (see Section 4.4). Two secondary scenic routes (R27 and R45) also traverse the study area (WC SDF, 2011).

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## ***Identification of key potential social impacts***

### *Construction Phase:*

The potential issues and impacts for the construction phase of the proposed development have been identified as follows:

#### Positive-

- » Employment opportunities
- » Economic multiplier effects

#### Negative-

- » Pressure on economic and social infrastructure impacts from an in-migration of people (pressure on municipal services)
- » Impacts on daily living and movement patterns (intrusion impacts)
- » Safety and security risks
- » Nuisance impacts (noise and dust impacts)

### *Operation Phase:*

The potential issues and impacts for the operation phase of the proposed development have been identified as follows:

#### Positive-

- » Providing electricity network capacity

#### Negative-

- » Visual impact and sense of place impact
- » Impact on tourism

### *Cumulative Impacts:*

Possible cumulative impacts as a result of other similar electricity network strengthening projects in the area could have cumulative negative and positive impacts for the local community.

#### Negative-

- » Cumulative impacts on the sense of place and landscape (visual impacts)

## ***Conclusion***

Based on the initial assessment of the receiving environment it is anticipated that the proposed projects could have some negative as well as positive social impacts. The main negative impacts are associated with the intrusion impacts associated with the construction phase and visual impacts on tourism during the operation phase. The most important potential social benefits associated with the construction and operation of the proposed development refer to job opportunities, strengthening the area's electrical infrastructure and possible socio-economic spin-offs created. The extent of the negative impacts and possible benefits would be further assessed during the EIA phase.

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### List of Abbreviations

CNA	Community Needs Assessment
DEA	Department of Environmental Affairs
DGDS	District Growth and Development Strategy
DM	District Municipality
EAP	Economically Active Population
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
EMF	Environmental management Framework
EMPr	Environmental Management Programme
EMZ	Environmental Management Zone
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
HA	Hectares
HD	Historically Disadvantaged
HDSA	Historically Disadvantaged South Africans
IDP	Integrated Development Plan
IPP	Independent Power Producer
KPA	Key Performance Area
kV	Kilovolts
LED	Local Economic Development
LM	Local Municipality
MW	Megawatt
NEMA	National Environmental Management Act
NDP	National Development Plan
NSSD	National Strategy for Sustainable Development
PV	Photovoltaic
PSDF	Provincial Spatial Development Framework
PGDS	Provincial Growth and Development Strategy
REIPPPP	Renewable Energy IPP Procurement programme
SBLM	Saldanha Bay Local Municipality
SEMP	Strategic Environmental Management Plan
SDF	Spatial Development Framework
SIA	Social Impact Assessment
SIPs	Strategic Infrastructure Projects
VIA	Visual Impact Assessment
WCDM	West Coast District Municipality

## 1. Introduction

This Social Impact Assessment (SIA) study forms part of the Scoping and Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) that is being undertaken for the proposed Saldanha Bay network strengthening project. Savannah Environmental (Pty) Ltd has been appointed by Eskom Holding SOC Limited, to undertake the required EIA process for the construction and operation of the proposed distribution (Dx) substation, transmission (Tx) substation and power lines. The proposed Dx, Tx and power lines will be located in the Saldanha Bay area, approximately 130km north west of Cape Town, in the Western Cape Province. The location of the proposed substations and power lines will be within 20km from the coast and falls within the Saldanha Bay Local Municipality (SBLM), which is part of the West Coast District Municipality (WCDM). The closest towns are Saldanha Bay and Vredenburg. This report contains the findings of the scoping level SIA for the EIA process.

### 1.1. Social Impact Assessment (SIA)

SIA is described as “the process of assessing or estimating, in advance, the social consequences that are likely to follow from specific policy actions or project developments, particularly in the context of appropriate national, state, or provincial environmental policy legislation” (Becker et al, 2003). By social impacts meaning the consequences to human populations of any public or private actions that alter the ways in which people live, work, play, relate to one another, organize to meet their needs and generally cope as members of society. The term also includes cultural impacts involving changes to the norms, values, and beliefs that guide and rationalize their cognition of themselves and their society (National Maritime Fisheries Service, 1994).

SIA is a methodology or instrument used by social assessment practitioners to determine the social impacts from a project and to provide ways to mitigate and monitor potential impacts (Vanclay, 2003). The SIA is divided into a number of phases however the public consultation is a crucial step in the preparation of an SIA. SIA is concerned with the human dimensions of the environment, this meaning that;

*"SIA is the process of analysing (predicting, evaluating and reflecting) and managing the intended and unintended consequences on the human environment of planned interventions (policies, programs, plans, projects) and any social change processes invoked by those interventions so as to bring about a more sustainable and equitable biophysical and human environment (Vanclay, 2003: 2)."*

The National Environmental Management Act (NEMA) (Act 107 of 1998) sets out a number of principles which underpin environmental management in South Africa. A number of these principles relate to the social dimension of sustainable development and public process requirements such as transparency, accountability, democracy and environmental justice. The following principle outlines the basis for a SIA:

*Environmental management must place people and their needs at the forefront of its concern, and serve their physical, psychological, developmental, cultural and social interests equitably.*

More specifically, the social, economic and environmental impacts of activities must be considered and assessed. SIA is a useful planning tool that can assist the project proponent to conceptualise and implement a project in a manner which would see the identified negative social impacts addressed through avoidance or mitigation and the positive impacts realised and optimised. It also allows the community to anticipate, plan for, and deal with the social changes once they come to effect. In this sense then the SIA is an indispensable part of the EIA, the Environmental Management Programme (EMPr) and any participative activity (E.g. Community involvement in mitigation and monitoring during planning and implementation). The purpose of an SIA report is to provide baseline information regarding the social environment and to identify possible social impacts that may come about as a result of a project. The report highlights the most likely associated social impacts to occur from the proposed project and provides methods to aim towards emphasizing positive impacts and avoiding, reducing or mitigating negative identified impacts.

## **1.2. Terms of Reference**

The main aim of the social scoping assessment is to identify and describe social impacts that may arise from the proposed development. The purpose of the study is to:

- » Provide a description of the environment that may be affected by the proposed activity and also provide a description of the manner in which the environment may be affected by the proposed development.
- » Provide a description and evaluation of the potential social issues associated with the proposed development (in terms of the construction, operational and decommissioning phases of the project);
- » Provide a description of the approach proposed for assessing the potentially significant issues that will be addressed by the SIA in the EIA phase.

## **1.3. Specialist Details**

The SIA scoping report was prepared by Candice Hunter of Savannah Environmental, a SIA specialist with a Master's degree in Environmental Management and an advanced certificate in SIA from the University of Johannesburg. The SIA report will be reviewed in the EIA phase by Dr Neville Bews, an independent external SIA specialist who has consulted in the SIA field for over 10 years and has a Ph.D in Sociology.

#### **1.4. Declaration of Independence**

A signed declaration of independence for Candice Hunter of Savannah Environmental is attached in Appendix A.

#### **1.5. Project Overview**

##### ***1.5.1. Project background and description:***

As part of the envisaged developments in the Saldanha Bay area, Eskom has been prompted to re-assess the capability of the existing electricity network in the area in order to meet the forecasted load requirements from industrial customers, the Industrial Development Zone (IDZ), local distributors and also to facilitate the integration of renewable generation. Power to the Saldanha Bay area is supplied from Aurora Substation which is located 28km east of Saldanha Bay. Aurora Substation supplies Distribution's Blouwater, Saldanha Steel and Smelter Substations. From the load forecast, it is evident that there will be a constraint at Aurora Substation. The projected new load of approximately 200 MVA that will be realised in the area together with the natural load growth will increase Aurora Substation demand from 517 MVA to approximately 890 MVA in year 2030. The firm capacity in the area will be exceeded in 2018 if the additional loads are to be supplied from Aurora Substation. The transformation capacity is also insufficient to evacuate all of the potential renewable generation planned in the area, amounting to 2 885 MW.

The scope of Saldanha Bay network strengthening project includes the following:

- » Construction of a new 400/132kV Transmission Substation in the Saldanha Bay area with a planned capacity of 3 x 500 MVA transformers. The transmission substation footprint will be 600m x 600m.
- » Construction of a new 132/66kV Distribution Substation near the current Blouwater Substation in the Saldanha Bay area. The distribution substation footprint will be 120m x 120m.
- » The construction of two 400kV power lines (approximately 35 - 40 km) from the Aurora Substation to the new proposed distribution and transmission substations. A servitude of 55m is required for each power line

- » Replacing two of the four existing 250 MVA 400/132kV transformers with 2 x 500 MVA transformers at Aurora Substation.
- » Establishing 2 x 132 kV feeder bays around Aurora Substation.

### **1.5.2. Project location:**

The proposed Distribution substation (Dx), Transmission substation (Tx) and power lines will be located in the Saldanha Bay area, approximately 130km north west of Cape Town, in the Western Cape Province. The location of the proposed substations and power lines will be within 20km from the coast and falls within the SBLM (as part of the WCDM). The closest towns are Saldanha Bay and Vredenburg.

### **1.5.3. Alternatives being assessed:**

Alternative substation sites and power line corridors have been identified within a broader study area (See Figure 1). These, together with any other feasible alternatives identified through the EIA process, will be assessed and preferred alternatives recommended for implementation. Should the project be authorised by the National Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA), Eskom will then enter into a negotiation process with each affected landowner. The process of negotiating a servitude is independent of the EIA process, and will be undertaken directly by Eskom.

### **1.5.4. Construction phase:**

- » *Duration:* It is estimated that the construction phase for the Saldanha Bay network strengthening project is expected to extend over a period of between 18-24 months for each phase of the project.
- » *Capital expenditure:* The total construction capital expenditure associated with Saldanha Bay network strengthening project is still to be confirmed. In terms of business opportunities for local companies, expenditure during the construction phases will create business opportunities for the regional and local economy.
- » *Employment opportunities and wages:* Saldanha Bay network strengthening project is likely to create approximately 200 employment opportunities, depending on the final design. The injection of income into the area in the form of wages will represent an opportunity for the local economy and businesses in the area.
- » *Labour accommodation:* According to information provided by the proponent, no on-site accommodation is envisaged. Most labourers will come from within the local area and will not be housed on site, given the relative proximity of the site to nearby towns. However, overnight site worker presence will be limited to security staff; a security team is likely to be present at the

construction camp at all times. Labourers and skilled staff from outside the area will be housed off-site within nearby towns.

- » *Transportation of components and equipment:* Transportation of project components and equipment to the proposed site would be transported using vehicular / trucking transport. The national, secondary and internal access roads will be used to transport all components and equipment required during the construction phase of the development. Some of the components may be defined as abnormal loads in terms of the Road Traffic Act (Act No. 29 of 1989)<sup>1</sup> by virtue of the dimensional limitations. Typical civil engineering construction equipment will need to be brought to the site (e.g. excavators, trucks, graders, compaction equipment, cement trucks, etc.). The access road will either be off the R27 or the R45.

#### **1.5.5. Operation phase:**

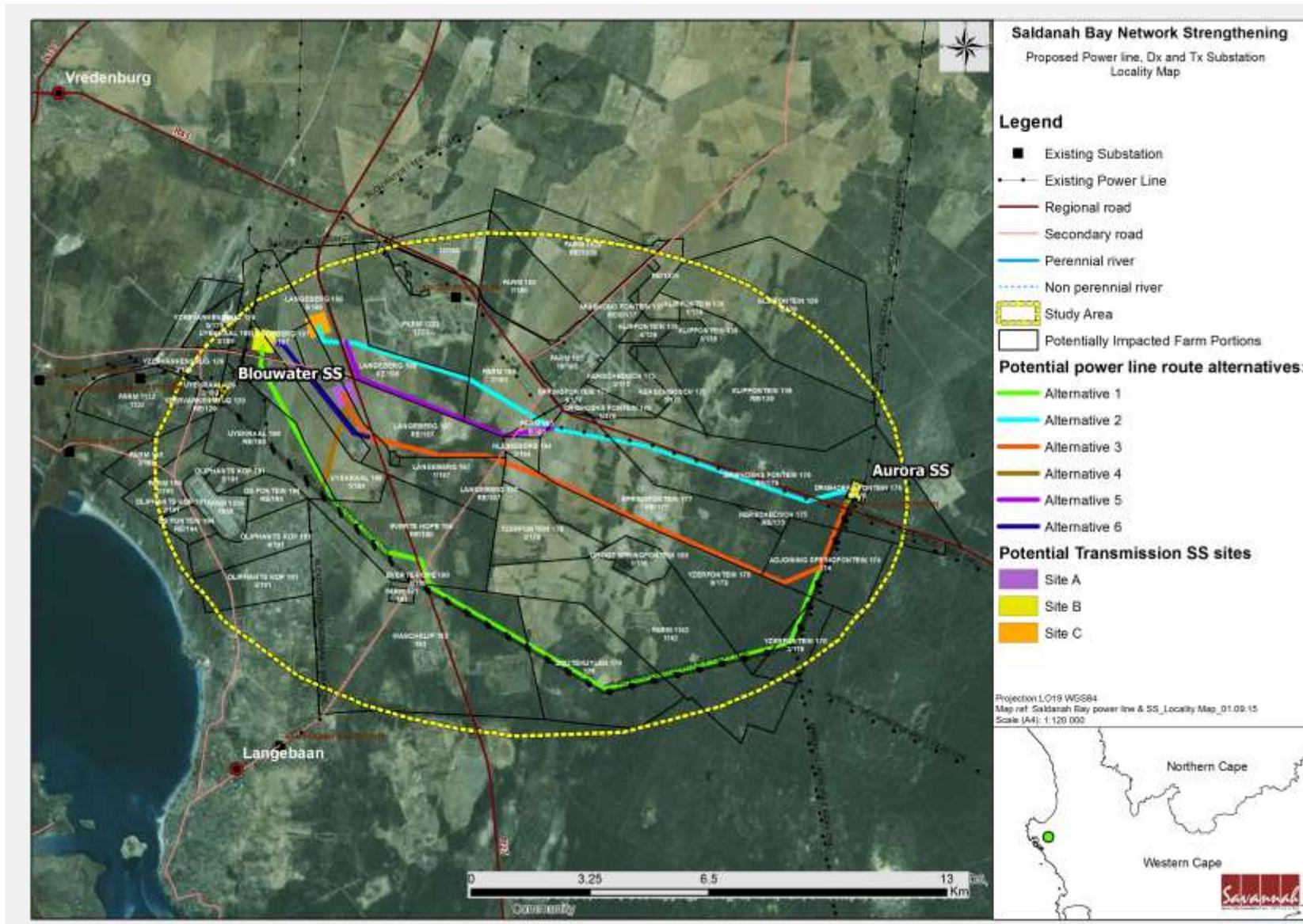
- » *Duration:* The Saldanha Bay network strengthening project is planned to be operational for at least 35 years.
- » *Employment:* Full-time operational and maintenance crews would be required for the Saldanha Bay network strengthening project.
- » *On-site presence:* Saldanha Bay network strengthening project is planned to operate continuously, unattended and with low maintenance. Regular monitoring and maintenance activities would be required to ensure safe and consistent operation for the duration of operation (i.e. A mobile team for maintenance).

#### **1.5.6. Decommissioning phase:**

The Saldanha Bay network strengthening project is anticipated to have a lifespan of approximately 35 years. It is likely that the Saldanha Bay network strengthening project will be replaced with more modern technology at the end of their lifespan, but this will depend on the need for the infrastructure at the time. Disassembling and replacement activities will require the transport of abnormal loads to and within the site. Decommissioned components will be removed from the site and reused, recycled or disposed of in accordance with regulatory requirements. According to current legislation, infrastructure will have to be removed and the site rehabilitated once final decommissioning has occurred

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<sup>1</sup> A permit will be required for the transportation of these abnormal loads on public roads.



**Figure 1:** Location of the proposed power line route alternatives and potential transmission substation sites

## **2. Methodology and Approach**

### **2.1. Approach to Study**

The main aim for the social report is to identify and describe the social impacts that may arise from the proposed solar energy facility. The approach used for the SIA study is based on the Western Cape Department of Environmental Affairs and Development Planning Guidelines for SIA (February 2007). These guidelines are based on the international best practice, the key objectives in the SIA scoping process include:

- » Describing and obtaining an understanding of the proposed development (type, scale, location), the communities likely to be affected and determining the need and scope of the SIA;
- » Collecting baseline data on the current social environment and historical social trends;
- » Identifying and collecting data on the SIA variables and social change processes related to the proposed intervention.

### **2.2. Data Collection**

Secondary data sources were utilised in aid of the objectives of the study. Secondary data collection methods were mostly centred on a desktop study, where secondary data was gathered and analysed for the purpose of the study, in which the following documents were examined:

- » Project maps;
- » A desktop aerial study of the affected area through the use of the latest version of Google Earth 7.1 (2016);
- » The background information document (BID);
- » The 2011 South African Census Survey and the Local Government Handbook;
- » Planning documentation such as District Municipality (DM) Integrated Development Plans (IDPs), Spatial Development Framework (SDF) and Environmental Management Framework (EMF) as well as Local Municipality (LM) IDPs and policies;
- » Relevant guidelines, policies and plan frameworks in relation to the project and in relation to the area were utilised, as outlined in Section 3 of this report;
- » Other similar specialist studies and relevant information has been fed into the SIA where there have been cross-cutting issues; including the EIAs undertaken for previous power line developments in South Africa.

Information that was relevant to the project was identified and assessed from these sources within the context of the proposed project.

### **2.3. Limitations and Assumptions**

The following assumptions and limitations were relevant:

- » The 2011 Census is the most recent source of official statistics and this has been used for generating a lot of the information provided in the baseline profile of the study area. In addition to this, the latest District and Local Municipality policies and plans were utilised in generating information. While the data does provide useful information, it should be noted that this data may now be out of date to some degree and may no longer accurately reflect the current socio-economic profile;
- » This study was done with the information available to the specialist at the time of executing the study, within the available timeframes. The sources consulted are not exhaustive, and additional information which might strengthen arguments, contradict information in this report, and/or identify additional information might exist. The specialist did try to take an evidence-based approach in the compilation of this report and did not intentionally exclude scientific information relevant to the assessment;
- » A limited amount of finalised project details from the project developer means that some of the actual project projections may be higher or lower than estimated in this report;
- » It was assumed that the motivation for, planning and feasibility study of the project were undertaken by the developer with integrity, and that information provided to date by the project developer, the independent environmental assessment practitioner and the public participation consultant was accurate.

### **3. Legislation and Guidelines**

A review of the policy environment provides valuable insight into the government's priorities and plans. The review of the relevant planning and policy documents was undertaken as a part of the SIA process. The key documents reviewed included:

#### National Policies:

- » The Constitution of the Republic of South Africa (Act 108 of 1996)
- » The National Environmental Management Act (107 of 1998) (NEMA)
- » The National Energy Act (34 of 2008)
- » National Development Plan 2030
- » National Climate Change Response White Paper (DEA, 2010)
- » White Paper on Energy Policy of the Republic of South Africa (1998)

#### Provincial Policies:

- » Western Cape Provincial Spatial Development Framework Draft 2013

#### Local and District Policies:

- » West Coast District Municipality (WCDM) Integrated Development Plan (IDP) (2012-2017)
- » West Coast District Municipality (WCDM) Spatial Development Framework (SDF) (2014)
- » Saldanha Bay Local Municipality (SBLM) Spatial Development Framework (SDF) (2011)
- » Saldanha Bay Local Municipality (SBLM) Integrated Development Plan (IDP) (2012-2017)

The legislative and policy context plays an important role in identifying and assessing the potential social impacts associated with a proposed development. In this regard a key component of the SIA process is to assess the proposed development in terms of its suitability with regards to the key planning and policy documents. A brief overview of the most relevant policies, plans and guidelines, in relation to the proposed development are discussed in this section below.

#### **3.1. National Policies**

Any project contributing to the objectives mentioned within the national policies discussed briefly below could be considered strategically important for the nation. A brief review of the most relevant national policies is provided below.

##### **3.1.1. The Constitution of the Republic of South Africa (Act 108 of 1996)**

The Constitution of the Republic of South Africa (Act 108 of 1996) has been adopted as the supreme law of the country and forms the foundations for a

democratic society in which fundamental human rights are protected. In terms of the environment, Chapter 2 Section 24 states that everyone has a right:

- (a) *"To an environment that is not harmful to their health or well-being; and*  
(b) *To have the environment protected, for the benefit of present and future generations, through reasonable legislative and other measures that:*
- i. prevent pollution and ecological degradation;*
  - ii. promote conservation; and*
  - iii. secure ecologically sustainable development and use of natural resources while promoting justifiable economic and social development."*

Chapter 7 defines the role of local government in its community. Five objectives of local government are described in Chapter 7 Section 152:

- » to provide democratic and accountable government for local communities;
- » to ensure the provision of services to communities in a sustainable manner;
- » to promote social and economic development;
- » to promote a safe and healthy environment; and
- » to encourage the involvement of communities and community organisations in the matter of local government.

The Constitution outlines the need to promote social and economic development. An SIA is a requirement for sustainable development as it assesses the social impacts associated with development and aims towards safeguarding people's future well-being. The proposed Saldanha Bay network strengthening project will promote social and economic development opportunities by providing an electricity network in the area in order to meet the forecasted load requirements from industrial customers, the Industrial Development Zone (IDZ), local distributors and also to facilitate the integration of renewable generation planned in the area, amounting to 2 885MW.

### **3.1.2. The National Environmental Management Act (107 of 1998) (NEMA)**

NEMA is the legislation setting out the framework for environmental management in South Africa. The Act promotes cooperative environmental governance and establishes principles for decision making on matters affecting the environment. An overarching principle in Chapter 1 emphasises that development must be socially, environmentally and economically sustainable.

The EIA Regulations (Government Notices R982-985 of December 2014) define an EIA as 'the process of collecting, organising, analysing, interpreting and communicating information that is relevant to the consideration of that application'. The SIA aims to fulfil these requirements by providing all social information relevant to the consideration of the project.

### **3.1.3. The National Energy Act (34 of 2008)**

One of the objectives of the National Energy Act is to promote diversity of supply of energy and its sources. In this regard, the preamble makes direct reference to renewable resources, including:

*"To ensure that diverse energy resources are available, in sustainable quantities, and at affordable prices, to the South African economy, in support of economic growth and poverty alleviation, taking into account environmental management requirements; to provide for increased generation and consumption of renewable energies (Preamble)."*

The National Energy Act aims to ensure that diverse energy resources are available, in sustainable quantities and at affordable prices, to the South African economy in support of economic growth and poverty alleviation, taking into account environmental management requirements and interactions amongst economic sectors, as well as matters relating to renewable energy. The Act provides the legal framework which supports the development of renewable energy facilities for the greater environmental and social good. The proposed Saldanha Bay network strengthening project will support economic growth by providing an electricity network in the area in order to meet the forecasted load requirements from industrial customers, the Industrial Development Zone (IDZ), local distributors and also to facilitate the integration of renewable generation planned in the area, amounting to 2 885MW.

### ***The Electricity Regulation Act, 2006 (Act No. 4 of 2006), as amended***

The Electricity Regulation Act, 2006, replaced the Electricity Act, 1987 (Act No. 41 of 1987), as amended, with the exception of Section 5B, which provides for the funds for the energy regulator for the purpose of regulating the electricity industry. The Act establishes a national regulatory framework for the electricity supply industry and introduces the National Energy Regulator as the custodian and enforcer of the National Electricity Regulatory Framework. The Act also provides for licences & registration as the manner in which generation, transmission, distribution, trading & the import and export of electricity are regulated.

### **3.1.4. Department of Energy Strategic Plan 2015-2020**

The Department of Energy (DoE) is mandated to ensure secure and sustainable provision of energy for socio-economic development. This is achieved by developing an Integrated Resource Plan (IRP) for the entire energy sector and

promoting investment in accordance with the IRP which focuses on energy. The DoE strategic outcome-orientated goals include:

1. *Security of Supply*: to ensure that energy supply is secure and demand is well managed
2. *Infrastructure*: to facilitate an efficient, competitive and responsive energy infrastructure network.
3. *Regulation and Competition*: to ensure that there is improved energy regulation and competition.
4. *Universal Access and Transformation*: to ensure that there is an efficient and diverse energy mix for universal access within a transformed energy sector.
5. *Environmental Assets*: to ensure that environmental assets & natural resources are protected and continually enhanced by cleaner energy technologies.
6. *Climate Change*: to implement policies that adapt to & mitigate the effects of climate change.
7. *Corporate Governance*: To implement good corporate governance for effective and efficient service delivery.

The DoE Strategic Plan 2015-2020 Programme 4 on *Electrification and Energy Programme and Project Management* aims at managing, coordinating and monitoring programmes and projects focused on access to energy. Sub-programmes within Programme 4 include: Integrated national electrification programme, programme and projects management office, energy infrastructure. The Strategic plan also discusses long-term infrastructure and capital plans. The proposed project is in line with the DoE Strategic Plan 2015-2020 as the Saldanha Bay network strengthening project will contribute in facilitating an efficient, competitive and responsive energy infrastructure.

### **3.1.5. National Development Plan 2030**

The National Development Plan aims to eliminate poverty and reduce inequality by 2030. Given the complexity of national development, the plan sets out a number of interlinked priorities, some of which include:

- » Bringing about faster economic growth, higher investment and greater labour absorption.
- » Focusing on key capabilities of people and the state.
- » Building a capable and developmental state.

Enabling milestones include:

- » Increase employment from 13 million in 2010 to 24 million in 2030.
- » Establish a competitive base of infrastructure, human resources and regulatory frameworks.
- » Ensure that skilled, technical, professional and managerial posts better reflect the country's racial gender and disability makeup.

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- » Increase the quality of education.
  - » Provide affordable access to quality health care.
  - » Establish effective, safe and affordable public transport.
  - » Produce sufficient energy to support industry at competitive prices, ensuring access for poor households, while reducing carbon emissions per unit of power by about one-third.
  - » Ensure that all South Africans have access to clean running water in their homes.
  - » Make high-speed broadband internet universally available at competitive prices.
  - » Realise a food trade surplus, with one-third produced by small-scale farmers or households.

The National Development Plan aims to provide a supportive environment for growth and development, while promoting a more labour-absorbing economy. The proposed Saldanha Bay network strengthening project will create jobs in the local area as well as assist in creating a competitive infrastructure based on terms of energy contribution to the national grid.

### ***3.1.6. National Climate Change Response White Paper (2011)***

South Africa's response to climate change has two objectives: 1) to effectively manage the inevitable climate change impacts through interventions that build and sustain South Africa's social, economic and environmental resilience and emergency response capacity; and 2) to make fair contribution to the global efforts to stabilise greenhouse gas (GHG) concentrations in the atmosphere at a level that avoids dangerous anthropogenic interference with the climate system within a timeframe that enabled economic, social and environmental development to proceed in a sustainable manner. The paper proposes a number of approaches dealing with climate change impacts with respect to selected sectors. Energy, in this context, is considered to be one of the key sectors that provides for possible mitigations to address climate changes. The White Paper provides supports the developments of renewable energy facilities which will contribute to managing climate change impacts, supporting the emergency response capacity as well as assist in reducing GHG emissions in a sustainable manner. The proposed Saldanha Bay network strengthening project will provide an avenue for Eskom to meet the forecasted load requirements from industrial customers, the Industrial Development Zone (IDZ), local distributors and also to facilitate the integration of renewable generation planned in the area, amounting to 2 885MW.

### ***3.1.7. White Paper on the Energy Policy of the Republic of South Africa (1998)***

The White Paper on Energy Policy states the need to improve the energy security in the country by means of expanding the energy supply options. This implies the increase in the use of renewable energy and encouraging new entries into the generation market. The support for renewable energy policy is guided by a rationale that South Africa has a very attractive range of renewable resources, particularly solar and wind and that renewable applications are in fact the least cost energy service in many cases; more so when social and environmental costs are taken into account. Government policy on renewable energy is thus concerned with meeting the following challenges:

- » Ensuring that economically feasible technologies and applications are implemented;
- » Ensuring that an equitable level of national resources are invested in renewable technologies, given their potential and compared to investments in other energy supply options; and,
- » Addressing constraints on the development of the renewable industry.

The policy supports the advancement of renewable energy sources at ensuring energy security through the diversification of supply. The proposed Saldanha Bay network strengthening project will provide an avenue for the Eskom to meet the forecasted load requirements from industrial customers, the Industrial Development Zone (IDZ), local distributors and also to facilitate the integration of renewable generation planned in the area, amounting to 2 885MW.

According to the South African Energy White Paper compiled in 1998, an increase to affordable energy services are desired since many South Africans still depend on inferior and/or expensive fuels (eg. paraffin, gas) for their provision of energy. This desire was underwritten by a further White Paper on Energy compiled in August 2002 and the following goals were identified:

- » Improving energy governance
- » Stimulating economic growth
- » Managing energy related environmental impacts
- » Securing supply through diversity

It is thus clear that the industrialisation and growth of the identified municipal areas necessitates access to modern energy sources. The provision of electricity is critical for economic growth and development. The manufacturing activities rely heavily on the reliable energy sources. The provision of electricity to the remote areas is important to contribute to the social upliftment of the people. There is at present insufficient capacity to cater for the present demand, and therefore the Saldanha Bay network strengthening project is required in order to cater for expansion in development.

### **3.1.8. National Integrated Resource Plan for South Africa (2010-2030)**

The primary objective of the Integrated Resource Plan (IRP) is to determine the long term electricity demand and detail how this demand should be met in terms of generating capacity, type, timing and cost. However, the IRP also serves as input to other planning functions, *inter alia* economic development, and funding, environmental and social policy formulation. The accuracy of the IRP is to be improved by regular reviews and updates, and a draft revised Plan is currently available for public comment. The National Integrated Resource Plan 2010 projected that an additional capacity of up to 56 539MW of generation capacity will be required to support the country's economic development and ensure adequate reserves over the next twenty years. The required expansion is more than two times the size of the existing capacity of the system. The proposed Saldanha Bay network strengthening project will provide an avenue for the Eskom to meet the forecasted load requirements from industrial customers, the Industrial Development Zone (IDZ), local distributors and also to facilitate the integration of renewable generation planned in the area, amounting to 2 885MW.

### **3.1.9. Strategic Infrastructure Projects (SIPs)**

The Presidential Infrastructure Coordinating Committee (PICC) are integrating and phasing investment plans across 18 Strategic Infrastructure Projects (SIPs) which have five core functions: to unlock opportunity, transform the economic landscape, create new jobs, strengthen the delivery of basic services, and support the integration of African economies. A balanced approach is being fostered through greening of the economy, boosting energy security, promoting integrated municipal infrastructure investment, facilitating integrated urban development, accelerating skills development, investing in rural development, and enabling regional integration.

SIP 10: Electricity transmission and distribution for all-

- Expand the transmission and distribution network to address historical imbalances, provide access to electricity for all and support economic development.
- Align the 10-year transmission plan, the services backlog, the national broadband roll-out and the freight rail line development to leverage off regulatory approvals, supply chain and project development capacity.

## **3.2. Provincial Policies**

A brief review of the most relevant provincial policies is provided below. The proposed Saldanha Bay network strengthening project is considered to align with the aims of these policies, even if contributions to achieving the goals therein are only minor.

### **3.2.1. Western Cape Provincial Spatial Development Framework Draft 2013**

The Western Cape Provincial Spatial Development Framework (PSDF) puts in place a coherent framework for the Province's urban and rural areas, by focusing on a transversal system of spatial governance, the sustainable use of the Western Cape's assets, opening up opportunities in the Provincial space-economy and developing integrated and sustainable human settlements.

This PSDF sets out a proposed agenda for the sustainable use of the Western Cape's resource base presented in terms of the following provincial spatial policies (each resource policy is discussed in terms of the project study area):

- » Policy R1: Biodiversity and ecosystem services- protect biodiversity and ecosystem services
  - The proposed site will be located near ecological support areas as well as a critical biodiversity area (CBA) (see page 36). Land transformation (i.e. conversion from natural to manmade landscapes), is the primary cause of biodiversity loss and deteriorating eco-systems health.
- » Policy R2: Inland water, oceans and coasts- manage repair and optimise provincial water resources
  - Based on the Inland Water Systems map on pg. 99 of the PSDF, the area where the proponent is looking at the Saldanha Network Strengthening project will not fall within any significant water systems.
- » Policy R3: Soils, agricultural and mineral resources- manage, protect and sustainably use provincial agricultural and mineral resources
  - The proposed site falls within an area of mines and quarries (see page 42).
- » Policy R4: Resource consumption and disposal- minimise negative impacts of resources consumption and disposal:
  - Waste: The location of regional waste sites has the potential to either unlock opportunities or unnecessarily burden municipalities operationally. There are numerous waste site waste water treatment plants in the Saldanha Bay area (see page 44).
  - Air Quality: The study area is located in an area that has high fire occurrence. The greenhouse gas emissions are also low within the area (see page 45).
  - Energy: Energy is primarily drawn from unsustainable energy sources, with a very small emergent sustainable energy sector in the form of wind and solar energy locating in the more rural, sparsely populated areas of the province. "Emergent IPPs and sustainable energy producers (wind, solar, biomass and waste conversion initiatives) must be supported and encouraged to thrive in the rural and renewable resource rich areas of the province as a means to uplift rural,

- stagnating economies.” An Eskom substation is located in the study area and there are also proposed wind farms located nearby (see page 46).
- Climate change: The key challenge identified regarding climate change for the province is to devise effective adaptation and mitigation responses, especially for vulnerable municipalities. The focus areas for mitigation are energy efficiency, demand management and renewable energy.
- » Policy R5: Landscape and scenic assets- protect and manage all provincial landscape and scenic assets. One of the priority focus areas proposed for conservation or protection includes:
- Landscapes under pressure for large scale infrastructural developments such as wind farms, solar energy facilities, transmission lines and fracking, e.g. Central Karoo. Based on the Scenic landscape and assets map on pg. 49, the area where Eskom is looking at developing the Saldanha Bay network strengthening project falls within an area identified with archaeological landscapes of importance. The study area is also traversed by two secondary scenic routes of the Western Cape, namely the R27 and the R45.

The PSDF identifies sustainable use of Western Cape’s resources, space economy as well as settlement patterns with policies to guide future developments. As part of its Provincial Planning mandate and in line with the priority it has given to economic growth, the Western Cape Government is responsible for ensuring that the unique assets of the Western Cape are used sustainably. It also needs to safeguard against risks to assets of provincial and regional significance by mitigating and/or adapting to current and looming risks. If managed responsibly, the Province’s spatial assets hold immense potential for socio-economic development. Conversely, mismanagement of these resources can severely hinder development, particularly of the rural areas of the Province. The project area is traversed by secondary scenic routes, as well as it falls within an area of archaeological landscapes of importance which needs to be taken into consideration. The PGDS emphasises the provinces priorities, some of which are aligned with the proposed development such as the “Emergent IPPs and sustainable energy producers (wind, solar, biomass and waste conversion initiatives) must be supported and encouraged to thrive in the rural and renewable resource rich areas of the province as a means to uplift rural, stagnating economies.” The provision of electricity is critical for economic growth and development. The industries in the local area rely heavy on the reliable energy sources. There is at present insufficient capacity to cater for the present demand, and therefore the Saldanha Bay network strengthening project is required in order to cater for expansion in development. The transformation capacity is also insufficient to evacuate all of the potential renewable generation planned in the area, amounting to 2 885 MW.

### **3.3. District and Local Municipalities Policies**

These strategic policies at the district and local level have similar objectives for the respective areas, namely to accelerate economic growth, create jobs, uplift communities and alleviate poverty. The proposed development is considered to align with the aims of these policies, even if contributions to achieving the goals therein are only minor.

#### **3.3.1. West Coast District Municipality (WCDM) Integrated Development Plan (IDP) (2012-2017)**

The following planning framework for the WCDM is used for improving inter-governmental alignment and service delivery integration. At the district municipality level, the strategic objectives have been derived from those regional development imperatives that confront the district at present and will continue to confront the district. The WCDM's strategic intent and vision for the following five years can be summarized as follows:

Vision: "A quality destination of choice through an open opportunity society"

Mission: To ensure outstanding service delivery on the West Coast by pursuing the following objectives:

- » Ensuring environmental integrity for the West Coast:
  - The environmental integrity of the larger WCDM is largely transformed from natural environment to commercial farming practices. The environmental integrity section within the WCDM is currently lacking capacity in terms of human and financial resources to implement, fund and roll out projects and programmes within the region.
- » Pursuing economic growth and facilitation of jobs opportunities:
  - The focus within the district has shifted to promoting the district as an investment destination and stimulating the regional economy through promoting projects of scale which have catalytic potential to create jobs and income and which have private sector buy-in.
- » Promoting social wellbeing of the community
  - Our core mandate as WCDM, as part of the Constitution (Section 152), is to create an enabling environment for communities in the West Coast where they can function optimally. The high level of poverty, illiteracy and unemployment that communities are experiencing is evident in the West Coast District. Thus it is our mandate to enhance the wellbeing of communities through programmes and projects that will attribute meaningfully to the lives of people, thereby creating a stimulating environment. Environmental health
- » Providing essential bulk services in the region

- The main thrusts for essential bulk services are the effective provisioning and maintenance of infrastructure in a sustainable manner that contributes to the development and conservation of the West Coast District. Water provisioning, roads, solid waste management, spatial planning and development
- » Ensuring good governance and financial viability:
  - Ensuring good governance (annual report, oversight reports, public relations and communications, managing performance)

These objectives also respond to those priorities at the global, national and provincial level and align with its strategic intent. The Saldanha Bay network strengthening project will contribute towards providing essential bulk infrastructure in the region as well as provide an avenue for economic growth and development in the area which is line with the strategies of the WCDM IDP.

### ***3.3.2. West Coast District Municipality (WCDM) Spatial Development Framework (SDF) (2014)***

The intention of the WCDM is to align its District SDF with the most current policies and guidelines in order to compile a credible SDF to guide spatial decisions for the next five years.

The Saldanha Bay to Vredenburg area is the centre of development and activity in the District and the Saldanha Bay Port can be considered as the most prominent spatial feature in the district, attracting economic activity and enhancing the growth potential of the adjacent towns and nodes. Agriculture is considered as the primary economic growth sector in the majority of towns in the West Coast District, followed by fishing and tourism, which are also considered as important functions in the study area. Tourism in the Western Cape is strongly based on natural attractions. The WCDM is specifically popular for its natural flower display in parts of the Matzikama and Cederberg areas as well as the Cederberg Mountains, the quaint seaside villages such as Yzerfontein, Paternoster and Lambertsbay as well as the Rooibos cultivation area and the Langebaan Lagoon. Following the assessment of the Growth Potential Study (2013), it was noted that it is important that investment and development directives should be focussed primarily in areas with the highest growth potential, which are clustered within the Saldanha Bay and Swartland Municipalities. Within the provincial context Saldanha Bay harbour is also considered as a key economic centre and major growth node within this district, unlocking trade and manufacturing opportunities in the area, such as the Industrial Development Zone (IDZ). The study area for the Saldanha Bay network strengthening project is located within the Saldanha Port (Industrial hub) (page 37 of WCDM SDF 2014). The main regional growth engine of the WCDM is positioned around the towns of Vredenburg, Saldanha, Langebaan and Veldrif, which are high and very high

growth potential towns. Based on its combined economic growth potential and comparative advantages, this area creates the pre-conditions for economies of scale and is therefore identified as the major regional corridor in the WCDM.

From the aforementioned overarching spatial principles and IDP objectives, the SDF now proposes three overarching spatial goals that will reflect the direction of spatial growth and management in the district. The following three goals underpin the West Coast District Spatial Strategy and Vision, namely:

- » Goal 1: Enhance the capacity and quality of infrastructure in the areas with the highest economic growth potential, while ensuring continued provision of sustainable basic services to all residents in the District.
- » Goal 2: To facilitate and create an enabling environment for employment, economic growth and tourism development, while promoting access to public amenities such as education and health facilities.
- » Goal 3: Enhance and protect the key biodiversity and agricultural assets in the district and plan to minimise the human footprint on nature, while also mitigating the potential impact of nature (climate change) on the residents of the district.

There are currently a number of environmental assessments for wind and solar projects all over the district, from Koekenaap, Lutzville and Brand se Baai in Matzikama, to Piketberg, Hopefield and Saldanha Bay to the south of the district. The transformation capacity is insufficient to evacuate all of the potential renewable generation planned in the area. Eskom is planning a number of new electrical lines and substations that will have certain spatial implications on a local level. These new and proposed power lines could potentially also unlock further development opportunities, i.e. industrial, mining, business, etc. The proposed Saldanha Bay network strengthening project will also help attract economic activity and enhance the growth potential and development opportunities in the area, therefore the project falls in line with the WCDM SDF.

### **3.3.3. Saldanha Bay Local Municipality (SBLM) Spatial Development Framework (SDF) (2011)**

The objective in the compilation of the Saldanha Bay Spatial Development Framework (SDF), is to formulate spatially based guidelines and proposals whereby changes, needs and growth in the area can be managed to the benefit of the environment and its inhabitants.

Future development pressure is anticipated from the industrial sector and it may impact on the natural environment and therefore the tourism potential of the area. From a spatial management perspective, it is therefore critical that the municipal area is managed in a manner that:

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- » Protects indigenous biodiversity and sensitive ecosystems;
  - » Protects high potential agricultural land;
  - » Promotes local economic development, tourism and industrial development opportunities;
  - » Promotes the growth of the Saldanha port facility and related industrial development;
  - » Ensures the efficient and feasible provision and maintenance of infrastructure, without placing an inordinate consumptive pressure on natural resources, e.g. groundwater;
  - » Utilises existing designated urban land in an efficient and appropriate manner, ensuring integration and equitable access to community facilities.

The industrial tourism and agricultural sectors are seen as the primary economic drivers in the Saldanha Bay municipal area's economy. The natural environment is the main attraction for tourists to the western of the municipal area. Therefore, industrial development should take place in such a way that the natural environment and tourism attractions are not effected negatively.

The socio-economic benefits of tourism to an area such as the Saldanha Bay Municipal area, form the rationale for the strategic need to formulate a development policy and strategy plan. The tourism industry is important to the economic growth of the region, with an expected growth of more than 50%. The tourism industry offers much economic development potential to a large part of the local community, with the potential of a year round flow of tourists, and consequently, economic activity. It is within this context that the importance of the sub-region's bio-physical integrity is critical to its future economic well-being. The conservation of the important elements of the natural environmental setting and the sensitive and appropriate development of urban areas is therefore critical. In order to achieve integrated sustainable development, which addresses the challenges facing the sub-region's tourism industry, a tourism development plan needs to be formulated.

Although tourism is a valuable source of income, some tourist destinations and attractions may require locations on rural land, thereby conflicting with some conservation principles. Therefore, developments should be guided by principles that attempt to balance the economic potential and the conservation status of the rural landscape. The following types of tourism development need to be addressed in this regard:

- » Agri-tourism: This contributes to the income of farming enterprises. It includes value adding to farms and establishment of chalets on the farms.
- » Adventure based tourism: This includes hiking, rafting, 4 x 4 routes, boat-based recreation, whale watching, as well as visits to islands.

- » Scenic routes: The development of scenic routes, especially where these are accessible from country roads, has potential economic advantages to rural communities.
- » The natural assets of the area, especially in Paternoster, Langebaan and St Helena Bay should be focused on.
- » The West Coast Fossil Park is a national asset and the significance of this tourism attraction should be emphasised.

The document notes that the tourism sector is a valuable sector in the region and that industrial development should take place in such a way that the natural environment and tourism attractions are not effected negatively. The West Coast Fossil Park is a national asset that is located near the Alternative 2 power line option. The social impacts with the alternative 2 power line would need to be assessed in the EIA phase.

### **3.3.4. Saldanha Bay Local Municipality (SBLM) Integrated Development Plan (IDP) (2012-2017)**

One of the primary objectives of the IDP process was to create a new vision for the SBLM future local economic development based on its unique strengths and its capacity to leverage existing assets to generate revenue. The SBLM has a mission is to be a leading municipality; render quality service at an affordable price; be a place in which all have access to development opportunities; utilise the riches of land and seas in a sustainable manner; and strive to achieve the three aims of sustainable development, namely human well-being, economic success and ecological responsibility.

The IDP focuses on nine key strategies that serve as the foundation on which the municipality will be able to realise its vision, help to drive National and Provincial Government's agenda, expand and enhance its infrastructure, and make sure that all residents have access to the essential services they require. The key strategies to deliver on the strategic objectives can be summarised as follows:

- » *Local Economic Development:*
  - To diversify the economic base of the municipality through industrialisation, whilst at the same time nurturing traditional economic sectors
- » *Basic Service Delivery:*
  - To develop an integrated transport system to facilitate the seamless movement of goods and people within the municipal area and linkages with the rest of the district and the City of Cape Town.
  - To develop safe, integrated and sustainable neighbourhoods
  - To maintain and expand basic infrastructure as a catalyst for economic development
- » *Municipal Transformation & Organisational Development:*

- To be an innovative municipality on the cutting edge in respect of the use of technology and best practice
- » Municipal Financial Viability and Transformation:
  - An effective, efficient and sustainable developmental oriented municipal administration
- » Good Governance and Public Participation
  - To develop and use a multi-platform communication system to ensure swift and accurate dissemination of information
  - To provide ethical and effective leadership that engenders trust in the municipality amongst its stakeholders
  - To ensure compliance with the tenets of good governance as prescribed by legislation and best practice

The IDP aims at promoting local economic growth and social development in order to provide a better life for the communities. The proposed development will provide employment opportunities and contribute in assisting the district municipality in achieving local economic development and building a sustainable economy through providing the necessary infrastructure to support economic development and growth in the local area.

### **3.4. Conclusion**

The findings of the review of the relevant policies and documents therefore indicate that the Saldanha Bay network strengthening project is supported at a national, provincial, and local level, and that the proposed project will contribute towards the various targets and policy aims.

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## **4. Socio-Economic Profile**

Eskom has been prompted to re-assess the capability of the existing electricity network in Saldanha Bay in order to meet the forecasted load requirements from industrial customers, the Industrial Development Zone (IDZ), local distributors and also to facilitate the integration of renewable generation. The Saldanha Network Strengthening project is located within the SBLM which forms part of the WCDM of the Western Cape Province. The main information sources used were Census 2011 data, Integrated Development Plans (IDPs), Spatial Development Frameworks (SDFs) and Local Government Handbook (2012). Given the scale of the project, the socio-economic context includes information on the Western Cape, the West Coast District and the Saldanha Bay Municipal area as well as the key individual towns or settlements, namely: Saldanha Bay and Vredenburg. Overall, this section will provide a brief overview of the study area; from a regional context, local context (which includes the baseline description of the local social environment), site context and surrounding land use context (which includes the land use character of the immediate area of influence).

### **4.1. Western Cape Province**

The Western Cape is located on the southern tip of the African continent between the Indian and Atlantic Oceans. It is bordered by the Northern Cape and Eastern Cape provinces. The Western Cape's natural beauty makes the province one of the world's greatest tourist attractions. The capital is Cape Town. Other major cities and towns include George, Knysna, Paarl, Swellendam, Oudtshoorn, Stellenbosch, Worcester, Mossel Bay and Strand.

The Western Cape is rich in agriculture and fisheries. The climate of the peninsula and the mountainous region is ideal for grape cultivation. Other fruit and vegetables are also grown here, and wheat is an important crop to the north and east of Cape Town. Fishing is the most important industry along the west coast and sheep farming is the mainstay of the Karoo. The province has a well-established industrial and business base and the lowest unemployment rate in the country. Sectors such as finance, real estate, ICT, retail and tourism have shown substantial growth, and are the main contributors to the regional economy. The Western Cape is divided into one metropolitan municipality (City of Cape Town Metropolitan Municipality) and five district municipalities, which are further subdivided into 24 local municipalities.

### **4.2. West Coast District Municipality**

The WCDM is located in the Western Cape Province. The municipalities adjacent to the WCDM are Namakwa District to the north and north-east, Cape Winelands District to the south-east and City of Cape Town to the south. It is also bordered

by the Atlantic Ocean to the west. Moorreesburg is the seat of the district. (Local Government Handbook, 2012).

According to WCDM IDP 2012-2016, the district is made up of five municipalities which are Matzikama (North), Cederberg in the centre and Bergrivier, Saldanha Bay and Swartland municipalities in the South. The N7 national road connects all the municipalities in this district except Saldanha Bay municipality. This municipality covers an area of 31 119km<sup>2</sup>. The largest towns in the district are Vredenburg and Saldanha on the Cape Columbine peninsula and the main economic sectors include manufacturing, agriculture, forestry and fishing, wholesale and retail trade, catering and tourism.

### **4.3. Saldanha Bay Local Municipality**

The SBLM is located within the WCDM, approximately 140km north of Cape Town on the south-eastern coastline of South Africa. The municipality is bordered in the west by the Atlantic Ocean, in the north by Bergrivier Municipality and the east by Swartland Municipality. It covers an area of 2 015km<sup>2</sup> with a coastline of 238km, and is predominantly urban (96.8%). Major settlements include Vredenburg, Saldanha and Langebaan. The principal contributors to Saldanha Bay Municipality's GDP are services (15%), finance (12%), transport (16%), trade (13%), construction (5%), manufacturing (30%) and agriculture (7%). SBLM has the largest natural port in Africa and the area is earmarked as a regional engine for the development of the Western Cape Province (SBLM Municipality IDP 2012-2017).

Tourism and the establishment of holiday homes have played an increasingly important role in the local economies of the coastal towns in the area, including St Helena Bay. The Saldanha Bay region's key economic assets include the Saldanha Bay Harbour and the region's pristine coastline. Coastal settlements such as Langebaan, Saldanha, Jacobsbaai, Paternoster and St Helena Bay represent the key tourist destinations in the region. The major tourist attractions include the region's wild flower displays (late August to mid-October), as well as whale, dolphin and bird watching opportunities. The coastline is also extensively used for recreational uses such as angling, crayfishing and various water sports. The role of the tourism sector has been enhanced by the region's proximity to Cape Town and other large towns in the Boland region (Stellenbosch, Paarl, and Wellington). In this regard the Draft SBLM SDF, 2010, notes that the tourism industry is well-established, and expected to grow by 50% over the next ten years. Tourist flows appear to enter and leave the Vredenburg Peninsula either via the MR 240 (for Paternoster), or via the MR 533 (for the St Helena Bay/Stompneusbaai area).

Agriculture and coastal fisheries are traditionally the main drivers of the Saldanha Bay Municipality economy. However, the role of manufacturing and tourism are

becoming more important. Commercial agriculture continues to be the dominant land use in the Saldanha Bay region, with the Koppiesveld and "Middel Swartland" (south-east of Hopefield) constituting the areas with the highest potential agricultural potential. Due to low rainfall and limited water resources, the potential for intensive agricultural production is however limited. Traditional cropping activities are dominated by wheat cultivation. Mixed farming operations are typical, with sheep farming being the main livestock farmed, followed by beef and dairy cattle. The low carrying capacity of the natural veld constitutes a limiting factor.

#### *4.3.1. Saldanha:*

The town of Saldanha is located along the western edge of Saldanha Bay, one of the best natural harbours in the world, and the deepest and safest harbour in South Africa. Until a naval base was established in 1944, Saldanha was essentially a fishing town. Despite the decline in fortunes of the West Coast fishing industry over the past decade or two, Saldanha remains an important fishing and fish-processing centre. More recently, a number of aquaculture operations have been established in the Bay. During the 1970's, the harbour was expanded to accommodate the export of iron ore and manganese from the Northern Cape (Sishen). Saldanha harbour has been considerably expanded since then, and is currently the largest harbour on the west coast of the African continent. The harbour is linked to Sishen by means of a dedicated ore railway line, known as the Sishen-Saldanha line. In addition, the harbour also handles the import of crude oil. There are also a number of large industrial sites located in close proximity to the site. These include the Saldanha Steel Mill and Namakwa Sands Smelter. The Saldanha Steel Mill was commissioned in 1998 and currently employs in the region of 800 employment opportunities and produces approximately 1.25 million tonnes of steel per year.

#### *4.3.2. Vredenburg:*

The town of Vredenburg, located ~130 km north of Cape Town, is the nearest large town to the study area (~10km north west of the study area). As with many towns in the West Coast area, the establishment of Vredenburg effectively resulted from the construction of a church in 1862 to serve the local farming community. The town gained municipal status in 1932, and has since grown into a major town with a sizable population, that functions as the commercial and distribution centre of the SBLM area. The town is also the administrative centre of the SBLM. The Vredenburg-Saldanha-Langebaan area has also been identified as a major provincial growth node. The 2004 *Growth Potential Study* described the town's place identity as "Thriving business centre", and its economic base as "regional centre". The town's rated high development potential is linked to its strong position regarding institutional and commercial services, as well as its market potential and the economic vitality of the region. The Study notes that Vredenburg demonstrates a well-balanced and diversified development structure.

The town accommodates agri-industrial and industrial land uses, and the sense of place is that of a working town. Tourism does not play a significant role in the town's economy.

#### *4.3.3. Baseline characteristics and challenges of the SBLM:*

The socio-economic profile provides an overview of the study area. The following is a summary of the key baseline characteristics and challenges of the SBLM. In summary, the area was found to have the following general characteristics (Census, 2011 & SBLM IDP 2012-2017):

- » The population of the WCDM in 2011 was approximately 391 766 people, of which 99 193 people reside in the SBLM.
- » Of the ~99 193 population, about 50.2% are female, while 49.8% are male.
- » In the SBLM there are approximately ~28 835 households with an average household size of ~3.2 persons per household. Of the ~28 835 households in SBLM approximately 81.7% live in formal dwellings.
- » Approximately 55.8% of the population comprise the Coloured ethnic group.
- » The most spoken language in the SBLM is Afrikaans (70.8% of the population).
- » The Economically Active Population (EAP) (individuals that are aged 15-64 that are either employed or actively seeking employment) accounts for 58.9% of the entire population.
- » The population aged 0-14 years comprise 25.2% of the population and those aged 65 years and above accounts for 5.3% of the entire municipal population.
- » The dependency ratio is the amount of individuals that are below the age of 15 and over the age of 64, that are dependent on the EAP. The dependency ratio in the SBLM comprises 30.5% of the population.
- » There are low levels of literacy amongst the members of the community. The level of education influences growth and economic productivity of a region. In the SBLM 3.4% of the population have no schooling, 39.2% have some primary education, 6.2% have completed primary, 34.8% have some secondary, 12.4% have completed matric and only 1.4% of the population have higher education. This means that majority of the population have a low-skill level and would need job employment in low-skill sectors.
- » The municipality's unemployment rate stands at 23.4% (2011).
- » Households that have either no income or low income fall within the poverty level (R0- R38 200 per annum) accounts for 48.4%. A middle-income is classified as earning between R38 201 - R307 600 per annum. Approximately 43.4% of the households earn a middle income and 6.8% of households earn a high income that is classified as earning R307 601 or

more per annum. A high percentage of household income falls within the poverty level. The high poverty level has social consequences such as not being able to pay for basic needs and services.

- » Approximately 88.2% of the population have access to electricity. For all the population that has access to electricity; 97% use it for lighting, 75.4% use it for heating and 92.4% for cooking. Approximately 97.4% of the SBLM have access to regional /local water scheme (operated by municipality or other water service providers)
- » Approximately 92.5% of households within the municipality have access to a flush toilet and 96.6% of the municipal households have their refuse disposal removed by the municipality.
- » SBLM has a total of 14 primary health care facilities including 8 fixed clinics, 1 district hospital, 3 satellite and 2 mobile clinics.
- » Saldanha Municipal area is considered to be well serviced in terms of the extent and level of infrastructure available.
- » Agriculture forms the backbone of Saldanha economy and accounts for the largest labour to date. Despite the passing trade, the Saldanha economy has not diversified and capitalized on its potential.
- » Saldanha Bay harbour is also considered as a key economic center and major growth node within this district, unlocking trade and manufacturing opportunities.
- » In comparison with the District labour force, Saldanha Bay's labour force represents 27.1% of the West Coast District labour force.

The greatest social problems in the SBLM are illiteracy and poverty. The income distribution is distorted in the SBLM to the disadvantage of the less economically secured people, who also represents the majority of the municipal area. Poor households are a result of a lack of wage income, either due to unemployment or low-paying jobs. However, SBLM area is considered to be well serviced in terms of the extent and level of infrastructure available.

The proposed development supports the social and economic development through promoting employment creation within the local area. The development would mainly focus on economic benefits to the area and contribute towards strengthening the existing electricity network and infrastructure in the local area.

#### **4.4. Land use character of the study area and prominent features**

The proposed Distribution substation (Dx), Transmission substation (Tx) and power lines will be located in the Saldanha Bay area, approximately 130km north west of Cape Town, in the Western Cape Province. The location of the proposed substations and power lines will be within 20km from the coast and falls within the SBLM. The closest towns are Saldanha Bay and Vredenburg. The study area

essentially consists of agricultural land. The surrounding area is characterised by flat agricultural farm areas, primarily comprising wheat and crop production activities. Majority of the area has a low number of farmsteads that are sparsely populated. Farmsteads occur within the study area and within the surrounding area and adjacent farms. Prominent features in or near the study area include:

- » Nearby areas are comprised of developments such as the Saldanha Bay Smelter, Langebaan Air Force Base and Independent Power Producers' Wind Farms.
- » Saldanha Steel (ArcelorMittal South Africa, Saldanha Works) is located approximately 1km north west of the study area
- » Vredenburg town is located approximately 10km north west of the study area.
- » Thali-Thali Game Lodge is located within the southern section of the study area. Thali Thali is a 1.460ha Cape West Coast game and fynbos reserve situated just off the R27 near Langebaan. The game lodge has a 3-star grading with 8 accommodation units.
- » West Coast Fossil Park is located within the northern section of the study area. According to the Saldanha Bay SDF (2011) the West Coast Fossil Park is a national asset and the significance of this tourism attraction should be emphasised. The fossil park in the area is an important heritage resource which could potentially form part of a network of protected areas within the Saldanha Bay municipal area. The unique qualities of the fossil park should be enhanced as an important regional tourist attraction.
- » West Coast National Park (Langebaan) is located approximately 2km south of the study area
- » Elandsfontein Private Nature Reserve is located approximately 5km south east of the study area
- » Hopefield Private Nature Reserve is located approximately 4km south east of the study area
- » Elandsfontein Phosphate Mine is located approximately 2km east of the study area
- » Coastal areas to the west of the study area are also developed as tourist destinations. Mykonos, Langebaan and areas to the south particularly around the lagoon are tourism areas of possible national importance.
- » Existing electricity overhead transmission lines are currently apparent within the study area.
- » Oil storage, paper production and steel production have all been attracted to the area around the port of Saldanha Bay. The necessary infrastructure to supply power and support these heavy industries is also evident throughout the landscape.
- » According to the Western Cape Provincial Spatial Development Framework, the R27 and R45 are secondary scenic routes. Both these secondary scenic routes traverse the study area.

## 5. Identification of Key Potential Social Impacts

The potential issues and impacts for the different phases of the proposed development have been identified and discussed below.

### 5.1. Construction phase

The potential positive impacts which could arise as a result of the construction activities include the following:

- » Socio-economic benefits could accrue through job creation (primarily lower skilled levels) during the construction phase. The local community could thus benefit in this regard;
- » It is anticipated that the more skilled positions could be filled by individuals from South Africa;
- » At this stage it is not anticipated that local procurement would be achievable for the project. Local procurement would be more focused on the procurement of general construction materials, goods and services.

**Impact:**

**Direct employment opportunities:**

The construction of the proposed project will require a workforce and therefore direct employment will be generated. The proposed development will create employment opportunities for the local community. This is a positive temporary social impact. There will be skilled and unskilled work available. Skilled work is mostly contested by electrical contractors through a tendering process. These contractors are encouraged employ or make use of local people where possible especially for less and unskilled work opportunities. People from the SBLM and nearby towns are most likely going to benefit the most from this positive impact.

**Desktop Sensitivity Analysis of the Site:**

Issue	Nature	Extent of Impact	No-Go Areas
Direct employment opportunities and skills development	The creation of employment opportunities during the construction phase for the country and local economy	Local-regional	None

**Description of expected significance of impact**

The potential impact is expected to be positive, probable, short term, with a low intensity and have a low significance. This will be confirmed during the EIA phase following detailed investigations and assessment of impacts. In terms of reversibility of the impact and irreplaceable loss of resources, this is not applicable to this type of impact. The potential impact may be enhanced with possible enhancement measures which will be elaborated on in the SIA EIA phase.

**Gaps in knowledge & recommendations for further study**

It is recommended that a detailed SIA is undertaken to determine actual impact of job opportunities.

**Impact:**

**Economic multiplier effects:**

There are likely to be opportunities for local businesses to provide services and materials for the construction phase of the development. The local service sector will also benefit from the proposed development. The economic multiplier effects from the use of local goods and services opportunities will include, but is not limited to, construction materials and equipment and workforce essentials such as services, safety equipment, ablution, accommodation, transportation and other goods. In terms of business opportunities for local companies, expenditure during the construction phase will create business opportunities for the regional and local economy. Also the injection of income into the area in the form of wages will represent an opportunity for the local economy and businesses in the area. The SBLM and nearby towns (Vredenburg and Saldanha) are most likely going to benefit the most from this positive impact.

**Desktop Sensitivity Analysis of the Site:**

<b>Issue</b>	<b>Nature</b>	<b>Extent of Impact</b>	<b>No-Go Areas</b>
Economic multiplier effects	Significance of the impact from the economic multiplier effects from the use of local goods and services	Local-regional	None

**Description of expected significance of impact**

The potential impact is expected to be positive, probable, short term, with a low intensity and have a low significance. This will be confirmed during the EIA phase following detailed investigations and assessment of impacts. In terms of reversibility of the impact and irreplaceable loss of resources, this is not applicable to this type of impact. The potential impact may be enhanced with possible enhancement measures which will be elaborated on in the SIA EIA phase.

**Gaps in knowledge & recommendations for further study**

It is recommended that this impact is further assessed in the EIA phase of the SIA.

The potential negative impacts which could arise as a result of the construction activities include the following:

- » An influx of workers and jobseekers to an area (whether locals are employed or outsiders are employed) could increase the safety risks in the local area and have an impact on the local social dynamics. Should locals be employed it could minimise the perceived and actual risk in this regard;
- » An influx of an outside workforce could put pressure on municipal services, as indicated from the baseline description of the local area. Therefore introducing an external workforce to the local area will put pressure on local services and local community. This would, however, also depend on the exact size of the workforce.

- » There may be impacts for road users of the main access road whereby an increase in traffic and heavy vehicles could have a negative impact on regular daily living and movement patterns. Construction of the activities will be in phases (e.g. Dx substation and lines may commence more or less at the same time and Tx substation will commence later, could be 5yrs after Dx substation construction). Each construction phase could be for a period of between 18-24 months.
- » A large number of construction vehicles utilising the R27 and R45 and internal access roads for a period of 18-24 months during each construction phase for the Saldanha Bay network strengthening project, could add to the negative impacts on the roads. Construction vehicles utilising these roads over the construction period with heavy construction vehicles could increase the wear and tear on the roads utilised, secondary roads and internal access roads; also crossing over the roads to access the site could increase the risk of accidents;
- » During the construction phase adjacent landowners could be negatively affected by the dust, noise and negative aesthetics created as a result of the construction activities.

<b>Impact:</b>			
<b><u>Safety and security impacts:</u></b>			
An increase in crime is often associated with construction activities. The perceived loss of security during the construction phase of the proposed project due to the influx of workers and/or outsiders to the area (as influxes of construction workers, newcomers or jobseekers are usually associated with an increase in crime), may have indirect effects, such as increased safety and security issues for neighbouring properties and damage to property, such as the risk of veld fire, stock theft, crime and so forth. Areas of concern include the impacted farmland and adjacent farming areas where livestock farming and farmsteads may occur.			
<b>Desktop Sensitivity Analysis of the Site:</b>			
<b>Issue</b>	<b>Nature</b>	<b>Extent of Impact</b>	<b>No-Go Areas</b>
Safety and security impacts	Temporary increase in safety and security concerns associated with the influx of people in the study area during the construction phase	Local	None at this stage
<b>Description of expected significance of impact</b>			
The potential impact is expected to be negative, improbable, short term, with a low intensity and have a low significance. This will be confirmed during the EIA phase following detailed investigations and assessment of impacts. The potential impact can be reversed and there are no irreplaceable loss of resources associated with the potential impact. The potential impact may be avoided with possible mitigation measures which will			

be elaborated on in the SIA EIA phase.

**Gaps in knowledge & recommendations for further study**

A site visit and consultations with key stakeholders will need to take place in the EIA phase in order to determine the perceived safety and security risks associated with the proposed development.

**Impact:**

**Impacts on daily living and movement patterns:**

An increase in traffic due to heavy vehicles could create short-term disruptions and safety hazards for current road users. Transportation of project components and equipment to the proposed site will be transported using vehicular / trucking transport. The existing secondary access road will either be off the R27 and / or the R45.

**Desktop Sensitivity Analysis of the Site:**

Issue	Nature	Extent of Impact	No-Go Areas
Impacts on daily living and movement patterns	Temporary increase in traffic disruptions impacting local communities movement patterns and increased safety risks for road users	Local	None

**Description of expected significance of impact**

The potential impact is expected to be negative, probable, short term, with a low intensity and have a low-medium significance; this will be confirmed during the EIA phase. The potential impact can be reversed and there are no irreplaceable loss of resources associated with the potential impact. The potential impact may be mitigated with possible mitigation measures which will be elaborated on in the SIA EIA phase.

**Gaps in knowledge & recommendations for further study**

Consultations with key stakeholders will need to take place in the EIA phase in order to determine the impact on daily living and movement patterns. A traffic impact assessment will also need to be undertaken to determine the exact traffic impacts from the proposed development.

**Impact:**

**Pressure on economic and social infrastructure impacts from an in-migration of people:**

The in-migration of people to the area as either non-local workforce of construction workers and/or jobseekers could result in pressure on economic and social infrastructure (municipal services) due to in-migration of construction workers and jobseekers and pressure on local population (rise in social conflicts and social dynamics). Influx of people into the area, especially by job seekers, could further lead to a temporary increase in the level of crime, cause social disruption and put pressure on municipal services. Sensitive areas in the SBLM include nearby towns such as Vredenburg and Saldanha.

**Desktop Sensitivity Analysis of the Site:**

Issue	Nature	Extent of Impact	No-Go Areas
Pressure on	Added pressure on	Local-regional	None

economic and social infrastructure impacts from an in-migration of people	economic and social infrastructure during construction phase as a result of in-migration of people		
<p><b>Description of expected significance of impact</b></p> <p>The potential impact is expected to be negative, improbable, short term, with a low intensity and have a low significance. This will be confirmed during the EIA phase following detailed investigations and assessment of impacts. The potential impact can be reversed and there are no irreplaceable loss of resources associated with the potential impact. The potential impact may be mitigated with possible mitigation measures which will be elaborated on in the SIA EIA phase.</p>			
<p><b>Gaps in knowledge &amp; recommendations for further study</b></p> <p>Consultations with key stakeholders (ward councillor and municipalities) will need to take place in the EIA phase.</p>			

<p><b>Impact:</b></p> <p><b><u>Nuisance Impacts (noise and dust):</u></b></p> <p>Impacts associated with construction related activities include noise, dust and disruption to adjacent properties is a potential issue. Areas of concern include the impacted farmland and adjacent farming areas where farming communities may be living.</p>			
<p><b>Desktop Sensitivity Analysis of the Site:</b></p>			
<b>Issue</b>	<b>Nature</b>	<b>Extent of Impact</b>	<b>No-Go Areas</b>
Nuisance Impacts (noise & dust)	Nuisance impacts in terms of temporary increase in noise and dust, on site and on farm roads for access to the site	Local	None
<p><b>Description of expected significance of impact</b></p> <p>The potential impact is expected to be negative, probable, short term, with a low intensity and have a low significance. This will be confirmed during the EIA phase following detailed investigations and assessment of impacts. The potential impact can be reversed and there are no irreplaceable loss of resources associated with the potential impact. The potential impact may be mitigated with possible mitigation measures which will be elaborated on in the SIA EIA phase.</p>			
<p><b>Gaps in knowledge &amp; recommendations for further study</b></p> <p>A site visit and consultations with key stakeholders (impacted and adjacent landowners) will need to take place in the EIA phase in order to determine the extent of this impact.</p>			

## 5.2. Operation Phase

The potential positive impacts which could arise as a result of the operation phase include the following:

- » The proposed project will assist in the growth of the electricity network in the area which would contribute to economic growth and development. There is at present insufficient capacity to cater for the present demand, without the proposed development and therefore the Saldanha Bay network strengthening project is required in order to cater for expansion in development.

### Impact:

#### Development of electricity network capacity:

As part of the envisaged developments in the Saldanha Bay area, Eskom has been prompted to re-assess the capability of the existing electricity network in the area in order to meet the forecasted load requirements from industrial customers, the Industrial Development Zone (IDZ), local distributors and also to facilitate the integration of renewable generation. Power to the Saldanha Bay area is supplied from Aurora Substation which is located 28km east of Saldanha Bay. Aurora Substation supplies Distribution's Blouwater, Saldanha Steel and Smelter Substations. From the load forecast, it is evident that there will be a constraint at Aurora Substation. The projected new load of approximately 200 MVA that will be realised in the area together with the natural load growth will increase Aurora Substation demand from 517 MVA to approximately 890 MVA in year 2030. The firm capacity in the area will be exceeded in 2018 if the additional loads are to be supplied from Aurora Substation. The transformation capacity is also insufficient to evacuate all of the potential renewable generation planned in the area, amounting to 2 885 MW. The provision of electricity is critical for economic growth and development. The industries in the local area rely heavily on the reliable energy sources. There is at present insufficient capacity to cater for the present demand, without the proposed developments and therefore the Saldanha Bay network strengthening project is required in order to cater for expansion in development. The project will bring in the secondary benefits into the area (i.e. strengthening the area's infrastructure, thereby promoting economic growth of the area).

#### Desktop Sensitivity Analysis of the Site:

Issue	Nature	Extent of Impact	No-Go Areas
Development of electricity network capacity	Positive long-term impacts from available electricity network capacity	Local-regional-national	None

#### Description of expected significance of impact

The potential impact is expected to be positive, probable, long term, with a moderate intensity and have a medium significance. This will be confirmed during the EIA phase following detailed investigations and assessment of impacts. The potential impact can be reversed and there are no irreplaceable loss of resources associated with the potential impact. The potential impact may be enhanced with possible enhancement measures which will be elaborated on in the SIA EIA phase.

#### Gaps in knowledge & recommendations for further study

None at this stage in the process.

The potential negative impacts which could arise as a result of the operation phase include the following:

- » The permanent visual impact associated the power line and substations would alter the landscape. Perceptions with regards to the intensity of such an impact are expected to differ among landowners, stakeholders and other individuals. It is anticipated that each person would experience such an impact in a different way depending on their perception of power line servitudes, the activities undertaken on the surrounding area, their interest in the project and their exposure to the project on a daily basis. The proposed development is located in a rural area so the visual implications could have a further negative impact on areas sense of place.
- » The tourism sector is regarded as one of the key economic sectors in the SBLM area. The tourism potential of the area is linked to the area's natural resources, including the relatively undisturbed scenery and landscape. There are numerous nature reserves and significant tourism attractions of national relevance located in or near the study area, such as Thali Thali Game reserve, West Coast Fossil Park, West Coast National Park and the Elandsfontein and Hopefield Private Nature Reserves (see Section 4.4). Two secondary scenic routes (R27 and R45) also traverse the study area (WC SDF, 2011). The Saldanha Bay network strengthening project could have negative impacts on tourism in the study area.
- » Health (possible impacts of Electro-magnetic Fields EMFs) Eskom power lines are designed and built to comply with the Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) Act (Act 85 of 1993). As long as activities under the power line comply with the servitude conditions, they are therefore safe to undertake. EMF effects decrease as distance from the power line increases and any living quarters outside the servitude will not be affected by the power line and radiation from the power line is nil at the edge of the servitude.

**Impact:**

**Visual impact and impacts on sense of place:**

The sense of place is developed over time as the community embraces the surrounding environment, becomes familiar with its physical properties, and creates its own history. The sense of place is created through the interaction of various characteristics of the environment, including atmosphere, visual resources, aesthetics, climate, lifestyle, culture and heritage. Importantly though it is a subjective matter and is dependent on the demographics of the population that resides in the area and their perceptions regarding trade-offs. An impact on the sense of place is one that alters the visual landscape to such an extent that the user experiences the environment differently, and more specifically, in a less appealing or less positive light. The social impacts associated with the impact on sense of place relate to the change in the landscape character and visual impact from the proposed power line and substations. Sensitive receptors include the immediate area of influence; landowners in the study area and commuters utilising the R27 and R45 as well

as tourism attractions in the nearby area.

**Desktop Sensitivity Analysis of the Site:**

Issue	Nature	Extent of Impact	No-Go Areas
Visual impact and impacts on sense of place	Visual impacts and sense of place impacts associated with the operation phase of the project	Local	None

**Description of expected significance of impact**

The potential impact is expected to be negative, probable, long term, with a moderate intensity and have a low-medium significance. This will be confirmed during the EIA phase following detailed investigations and assessment of impacts. The potential impact can be reversed and there are no irreplaceable loss of resources associated with the potential impact. The potential impact may be mitigated with possible mitigation measures which will be elaborated on in the SIA EIA phase.

**Gaps in knowledge & recommendations for further study**

A site visit is required to confirm the sensitivity of the area. A visual impact assessment will need to be undertaken to determine the exact visual impacts from the proposed development.

**Impact:**

**Impacts on tourism:**

The tourism sector is regarded as one of the key economic sectors in the SBLM area. The tourism potential of the area is linked to the area's natural resources, including the relatively undisturbed scenery and landscape. There are numerous nature reserves and significant tourism attractions of national relevance located in or near the study area, such as Thali Thali Game reserve, West Coast Fossil Park, West Coast National Park and the Elandsfontein and Hopefield Private Nature Reserves (see Section 4.4). Two secondary scenic routes (R27 and R45) also traverse the study area (WC SDF, 2011). The Saldanha Bay network strengthening project could have negative impacts on tourism in the study area. It is important that caution is taken to ensure that the development of the Saldanha Bay network strengthening project does not affect the tourism potential of the area. A site visit is required to identify the sensitivity of the tourism activities / attractions to the power line route alternatives.

**Desktop Sensitivity Analysis of the Site:**

Issue	Nature	Extent of Impact	No-Go Areas
Impacts on tourism	Impacts associated with the power line route on local tourism in the area	Local	None

**Description of expected significance of impact**

The potential impact is expected to be negative, probable, long term, with a low intensity and have a low-medium significance. This will be confirmed during the EIA phase following detailed investigations and assessment of impacts. The potential impact can be reversed and there are no irreplaceable loss of resources associated with the potential impact. The potential impact may be mitigated with possible mitigation measures which will be

elaborated on in the SIA EIA phase.

**Gaps in knowledge & recommendations for further study**

A site visit and consultations with key stakeholders is required to confirm the sensitivity of the tourism activities / attractions in the area. A visual impact assessment will need to be undertaken to determine the exact visual impacts on tourism from the proposed project.

**5.3. Cumulative Impacts**

The potential cumulative impacts which could arise include the following:

- » Possible cumulative impacts as a result of other similar power line development and associated infrastructure in the area could have cumulative negative impacts for the local community.

**Cumulative Impact:**

**Cumulative impacts on the sense of place and landscape (visual impacts):**

The visual impact of power line routes is likely to change the immediate landscape of the area. The cumulative impact of other power lines in the area could alter the nature of the visual landscape. The potential impact of power lines on the landscape is an issue that does need to be taken into consideration. Sensitive receptors includes the immediate area of influence; landowners in the study area, tourism and indirect areas of influence such as commuters utilising the R27 and R45.

**Desktop Sensitivity Analysis of the Site:**

<b>Issue</b>	<b>Nature</b>	<b>Extent of Impact</b>	<b>No-Go Areas</b>
Visual impact and impacts on sense of place assessment	Visual impacts and change in the sense of place impacts associated with the establishment of more than one power line and substations in the area	Local	None

**Description of expected significance of impact**

The potential impact is expected to be negative, probable, long term, with a low intensity and have a low-medium significance. This will be confirmed during the EIA phase following detailed investigations and assessment of impacts. The potential impact can be reversed and there are no irreplaceable loss of resources associated with the potential impact. The potential impact may be mitigated with possible mitigation measures which will be elaborated on in the SIA EIA phase.

**Gaps in knowledge & recommendations for further study**

A visual impact assessment will need to be undertaken to determine the exact cumulative impacts from numerous power line routes and substations in the area.

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## **5.4. Desktop Assessment of Alternatives**

Six alternative power line corridors were identified for the Saldanha Bay network strengthening project. At this stage in the process the Alternative 1 power line corridor would be the most preferred option as majority of the proposed power line route follows an existing servitude corridor. Three alternative transmission substation locations were identified for the proposed project. The most preferred transmission substation is Site B due to the proposed substation being located closest to the Saldanha steel industrial areas and furthest from the R27 and the West Coast Fossil Park, which will have less of a visual impact on road users and tourism. However the alternative options will be assessed in more detail during the EIA phase.

## **5.5. Conclusion**

Based on the initial assessment of the receiving environment it is anticipated that the proposed project could have some negative as well as positive social impacts.

The most important potential social benefits associated with the construction and operation of the proposed projects refer to job opportunities and possible socio-economic spin-offs created. New economic activities such as this project having the potential to assist with the developmental challenges that much of province is faced with, providing employment to the local community and contributing to the social, economic and institutional development of the local area. Additional employment and associated indirect economic benefits could improve the quality of life of the local community. The main negative impacts are associated with the influx of in-migrants and intrusion impacts associated with the construction phase, as well as the visual impacts / sense of place impacts and impacts on tourism from the development during the operation phase. The extent of the negative impacts and possible benefits would be further assessed during the EIA phase when these would be investigated in more detail.

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## **6. Proposed Methodology and approach for the SIA**

### **6.1. Proposed Approach to SIA Study**

The main aim for the social report will be to determine the social impacts that may arise from the proposed development. The proposed approach that will be used for the SIA study will be based on the Western Cape Department of Environmental Affairs and Development Planning Guidelines for SIA (February 2007). These guidelines are based on the international best practice, the key objectives in the SIA process will include:

- » Describing and obtaining an understanding of the proposed development (type, scale, location), the communities likely to be affected and determining the need and scope of the SIA;
- » Collecting baseline data on the current social environment and historical social trends;
- » Identifying and collecting data on the SIA variables and social change processes related to the proposed intervention. This requires consultation with affected individuals and communities;
- » Assessing and documenting the significance of social impacts associated with the proposed project;
- » Assessing the project (including any feasible alternatives) and identifying potential mitigation and enhancement measures;
- » Developing an Environmental Management Programme.

### **6.2. Data Collection**

Primary and secondary data sources will be utilised to inform the study in aid of the objectives of the study. Primary data sources for the SIA will include the following (refer to Figure 2):

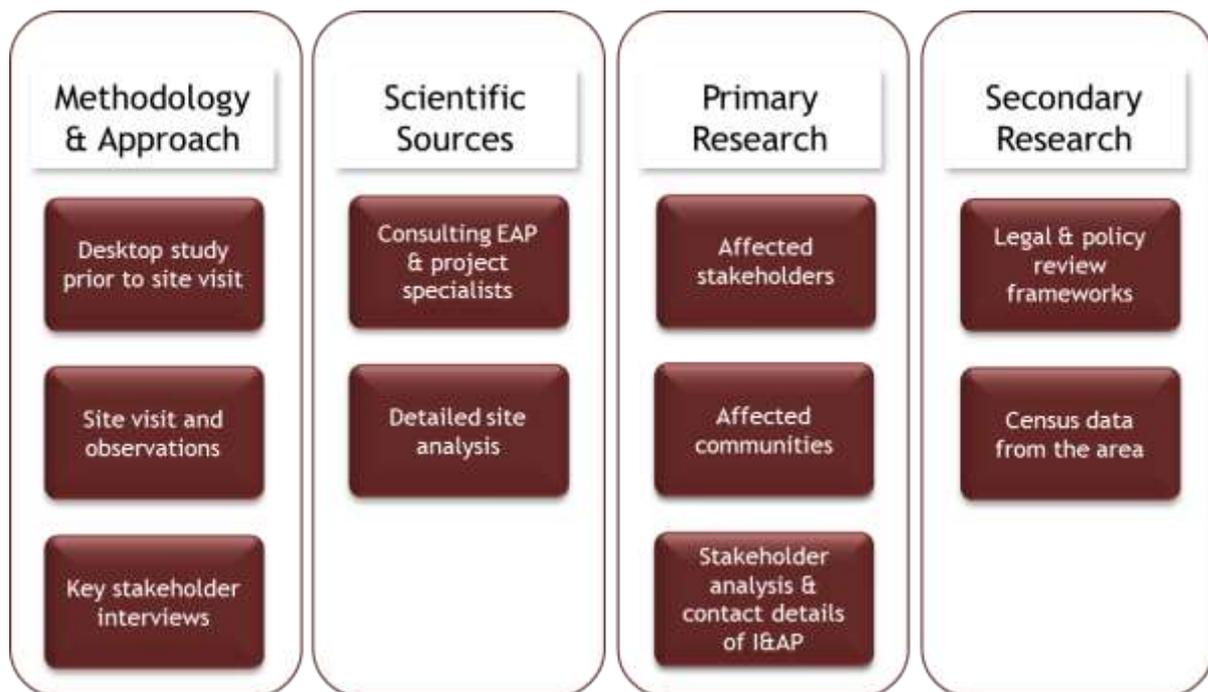
- » A site visit will be undertaken. Observations will also be made while on site and within the study area.
- » Meetings will be undertaken to collect information from representatives of key stakeholder groups. These included individuals both directly and indirectly associated with the proposed development. The meetings will mostly be undertaken face-to-face and where not possible telephonically. A project specific questionnaire will be developed and utilized for the semi-structured interviews. These meetings will form the basis of the primary data collection and assisted with the gathering of baseline information as well as establishing the stakeholder's perceptions, interests and concerns on the proposed development.

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Secondary data collection methods mostly centred on desktop study will be gathered and analysed for the purpose of the study, in which the following documents will be examined (refer to Figure 2):

- » Project maps;
- » A desktop aerial study of the affected area through the use of the latest version of Google Earth Pro 2016;
- » The background information document (BID);
- » The 2011 South African Census Survey and the Local Government Handbook;
- » Planning documentation such as District Municipality (DM) Integrated Development Plans (IDPs), Spatial Development Framework (SDF) and Environmental Management Framework (EMF) as well as the Local Municipality (LM) IDPs and policies;
- » Relevant guidelines, policies and plan frameworks;
  - » Other similar specialist studies and relevant information where there have been cross-cutting issues, such as the EIAs undertaken for previous electricity network strengthening projects in the Western Cape Province and other parts of South Africa;
  - » Literature reviews of social issues associated with electricity network strengthening projects.

Information that is relevant to the project will be identified and assessed from these sources within the context of the pre-construction, construction, operational and decommissioning phases of the proposed project. The evaluation of the social impacts will involve the assessment of both quantitative and qualitative data and the use of professional judgement. Quantitative data collected through national sources or local level interviews will be assessed and analysed with sociological techniques. However, qualitative data collected using the same methodology is more open to interpretation. In addition, what is a major impact to one person, one household or one community may be a minor impact to another according to specific personal circumstances. Hence, the results may not lend themselves easily to being ranked or assessed in exactly the same way as environmental data.



**Figure 2:** Proposed research methodology and sources diagram

### 6.3. Public Participation Process

The Public Participation Process (PPP) plays an important part in the EIA process. The process of stakeholder disclosure consultation is an ongoing overarching requirement that applies to the entire SIA process, and where possible, the PPP and SIA processes have been integrated. Effective consultation with stakeholders is important to understand the concerns and requirements of affected communities and ensuring their participation in the formulation and refinement of the project design. Relevant stakeholders are informed about the proposed project and thereafter are able to register and participate in the EIA process. The communications during the PPP and written submission of comments will be reviewed and issues raised through this process will be incorporated into the SIA where relevant. The PPP involves raising awareness of the proposed development by providing information about the proposed project to all interested and affected parties and providing an opportunity for these parties to raise any issues and/or concerns regarding the project. Consultations are of critical importance in gaining insights into the key environment and social issues and concerns of communities and other stakeholders, and in aiding the development of potential strategies for addressing these impacts.

#### **6.4. Assessment of Significance of Issues**

According to the NEMA Regulations, 'significant impact means an impact that by its magnitude, duration, intensity or probability of occurrence may have a notable effect on one or more aspects on the environment.'

In line with the Regulations, and based on qualitative findings of the activities, each potentially significant impact will therefore be assessed with regard to:

- » The nature of the impact (including the status which may be positive, negative or neutral);
- » The extent and the duration of the impact;
- » The probability of the impact occurring;
- » The degree to which the impact can be reversed;
- » The degree to which the impact may cause irreplaceable loss of resources;
- » The degree to which the impact can be mitigated; and
- » Cumulative and residual impacts.

Within this framework, there is the responsibility to propose mitigation or enhancement measures where relevant in order to reduce the significance of the negative impact and increase the significance of a positive impact.

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## 7. References

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## Appendix A: Declaration of Independence



### environmental affairs

Department:  
Environmental Affairs  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA


### DETAILS OF SPECIALIST AND DECLARATION OF INTEREST

	(For official use only)
File Reference Number:	
NEAS Reference Number:	DEAT/EIA/
Date Received:	

Application for authorisation in terms of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998), as amended and the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations, 2010

### PROJECT TITLE

Proposed Saldanha Bay network strengthening project, Western Cape Province
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Specialist:	Candice Hunter		
Contact person:	Candice Hunter		
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Professional affiliation(s) (if any)			

Project Consultant:	Savannah Environmental (Pty) Ltd		
Contact person:	Jo-Anne Thomas / Karen Jodas		
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Postal code:	2157	Cell:	
Telephone:	(011) 656 3237	Fax:	086 684 0547
E-mail:	<a href="mailto:Joanne@savannahsa.com">Joanne@savannahsa.com</a> / <a href="mailto:Karen@savannahsa.com">Karen@savannahsa.com</a>		

4.2 The specialist appointed in terms of the Regulations\_

I, Candice Hunter  
\_\_\_\_\_  
, declare that --

General declaration:

- » I act as the independent specialists in this application
- » I will perform the work relating to the application in an objective manner, even if this results in views and findings that are not favourable to the applicant
- » I declare that there are no circumstances that may compromise my objectivity in performing such work;
- » I have expertise in conducting the specialist report relevant to this application, including knowledge of the Act, regulations and any guidelines that have relevance to the proposed activity;
- » I will comply with the Act, regulations and all other applicable legislation;
- » I have no, and will not engage in, conflicting interests in the undertaking of the activity;
- » I undertake to disclose to the applicant and the competent authority all material information in my possession that reasonably has or may have the potential of influencing - any decision to be taken with respect to the application by the competent authority; and - the objectivity of any report, plan or document to be prepared by myself for submission to the competent authority;
- » **all the particulars furnished by me in this form are true and correct; and**
- » **I realise that a false declaration is an offence in terms of Regulation 71 and is punishable in terms of section 24F of the Act.**

Signature of the specialist:



*Savannah Environmental (Pty) Ltd*

Name of company (if applicable):

18 January 2016

Date: