



**ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT
ASSESSMENT PROCESS**

**SALDANHA BAY NETWORK
STRENGTHENING PROJECT,
WESTERN CAPE PROVINCE**



EIA PHASE

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCESS

Savannah Environmental (Pty) Ltd

Contact: Gabriele Wood

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FOCUS GROUP MEETING

VORTUM ENERGY

**HELD ON
WEDNESDAY 21 SEPTEMBER 2016**

**VENUE
SAVANNAH ENVIRONMENTAL OFFICES, WOODMEAD,
JHB**

Notes for the Record prepared by:

Savannah Environmental

Please address any comments to Gabriele Wood at the above address.

**FOCUS GROUP MEETING:
SALDANHA BAY NETWORK STRENGTHENING PROJECT, WESTERN CAPE PROVINCE**

Venue: Savannah Environmental Offices

Date: 21 September 2016

Time: 13:30

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

John von Mayer of Savannah Environmental welcomed all in attendance.

MEETING ATTENDEES

Name	Organisation & Position
John von Mayer (JvM)	Savannah Environmental EAP
Lerato Mokgwathheng (LM)	Eskom Transmission Project Manager
Izel van Roy (IvR)	Vortum Energy

APOLOGIES

None

BACKGROUND & TECHNICAL ASPECTS REGARDING THE PROPOSED PROJECT

John von Mayer explained the timelines of the current EIA process and noted that Vortum Energy have an authorized Gas to Power facility located on one of the properties which may be traversed by the proposed power lines depending on which route is selected. The discussion below was centred on the two maps: The proposed Saldanha Bay Network Strengthening Project and the authorised Vortum's Gas Power Facility Project

DISCUSSION SESSION

No.	Question / Comment	Response
1.	IvR: The property traversed by the power lines, Langeberg 6/188 is 130ha in size. The CCGT plant we are proposing has been	JvM: Noted. Is this an authorized facility?

No.	Question / Comment	Response
	allocated 60ha. We may develop the other half as well as we have purchased the full 130ha.	
2.	IvR: An EA has been received for the CCGT plant as well as a power line. The current EA allows connection to either Aurora or Blouwater. It depends on what the situation is when construction commences as to which option we will choose.	JvM: Noted. Which would be your preference in terms of substation site location and power line route?
3.	IvR: Transmission substation site F is slightly preferred from our side. Sites A and D are also acceptable. However site D would entail the servitude for both 400kV lines traversing our property. I would need to work out the total loss of land that would result.	LM: The servitude for the 400kV lines would be 110m. There are also servitudes for the 3 x 132kV double circuit lines – a total of 93m servitude for those lines. However only the construction of Tx substation site F would require the 132kV to traverse your property. And in that scenario the 400kV lines do not traverse the property. With Tx substation site D the 400kV servitudes go across the property but not the 132kV lines. So the total servitude would still be 110m or less in either scenario.
4.	IvR: When would the detailed on-site planning begin? We would like to get involved with that process?	LM: That would be initiated once the negotiator comes to negotiate. At this point we are just looking at lines corridors of approximately 1km width and substations' site footprints of 600m x 600m for Tx and 160m x 300m for Dx.
5.	IvR: When are you hoping to start construction?	LM: The most critical aspect at this stage is the upgrade of the Blouwater substation. Construction could start in three to five years after Environmental Authorisation.
6.	IvR: We could maybe also connect to the new Blouwater substation.	JvM: What site would you prefer to the Blouwater substation?
7.	IvR: There is a slight preference for site C.	JvM: Noted.

WAY FORWARD

John von Mayer stated further written comments could be received at any time during the EIA process and that all I&APs would be notified of the release of the Draft EIA Report. He noted that the comments received would be included in the Final EIA Report to be submitted to DEA for decision-making. The meeting was closed at 14:30.



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**SALDANHA BAY NETWORK
STRENGTHENING PROJECT,
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EIA PHASE

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FOCUS GROUP MEETING

**WESTERN CAPE DEPARTMENT OF
TRANSPORT**

**HELD ON
MONDAY 26 SEPTEMBER 2016**

**VENUE
WESTERN CAPE DEPT OF TRANSPORT OFFICES, DORP
STREET**

Notes for the Record prepared by:

Savannah Environmental

Please address any comments to Gabriele Wood at the above address.

FOCUS GROUP MEETING:
SALDANHA BAY NETWORK STRENGTHENING PROJECT, WESTERN CAPE PROVINCE

Venue: Department of Transport offices, Dorp Street, Cape Town

Date: 26 September 2016

Time: 10:30

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

Shawn Johnston of Sustainable Futures welcomed all in attendance. John von Mayer of Savannah Environmental provides a brief overview of the project and the current EIA progress.

MEETING ATTENDEES

Name	Organisation & Position
John von Mayer (JvM)	Savannah Environmental EAP
Lerato Mokgwathheng (LM)	Eskom Transmission Project Manager
Shawn Johnston (SJ)	Sustainable Futures ZA – Process Facilitator
Christo Badenhorst (CB)	Eskom
Mark- Peffer (MP)	Eskom
Shakir Dudhia (SD)	Eskom
Owen Peters (OP)	Eskom
Ahmed Hansa (AH)	Eskom
Evan Burger (EB)	Western Cape Department of Transport

APOLOGIES

None

BACKGROUND & TECHNICAL ASPECTS REGARDING THE PROPOSED PROJECT

John von Mayer provided the project background information and explained the status of the current EIA process.

DISCUSSION SESSION

No.	Question / Comment	Response
1.	EB: There is a new interchange being constructed in the project area. You need to speak to Louw Venter at Aecom who are the consulting engineers on the project.	SD: What kind of clearance are we looking at and will there be flyovers?
2.	EB: There is a possibility of flyovers. The clearance requirement is 5.2m with pylons at least 550cm from edge of road. 7.1m is the legislated clearance requirement so there is no issue here.	SJ: Noted. What else is planned for the area?
3.	EB: We also plan to reconstruct the road from Saldanha to Langebaan but that is not affected by this project – it is further north. Royal Haskoning are also busy with some projects in the area but they should not be affected. You could speak to Derek Lawson at RH to find out though.	CB: OK, what about abnormal loads?
4.	EB: Asper Coetzee deals with abnormal loads. If the current system cannot take the load then the abnormal loads engineer will need to sort that out.	SD: One alternative runs parallel to the R27?
5.	EB: The pylons will have to be over 95m from the centre of the road. That is a simple building restriction. Another factor to take into consideration is that there is a 500m radius control access at interchanges until the design is finalized. Once the design is finalized this can be reduced. Once the road network is finalized we can then relax the restrictions. Minor road 5545 and 233 could also be affected. There is usually a 25m building restriction on each side.	SJ: Noted.

WAY FORWARD

John von Mayer stated further written comments could be received at any time during the EIA process and that all I&APs would be notified of the release of the Draft EIA Report. He noted that the comments received would be included in the Final EIA Report to be submitted to DEA for decision-making Shawn Johnston thanked everyone in attendance. The meeting was closed at 11:30.



**ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT
ASSESSMENT PROCESS
SALDANHA BAY STRENGTHENING
PROJECT,
WESTERN CAPE PROVINCE**

EIA PHASE

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCESS

Savannah Environmental (Pty) Ltd

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FOCUS GROUP MEETING

Mulilo Thermal Energy

HELD ON

Monday 26 September 2016

VENUE

CONVENTION TOWERS CAPETOWN

Notes for the Record prepared by:

Savannah Environmental

Please address any comments to Gabriele Wood at the above address.

FOCUS GROUP MEETING:
SALDANHA BAY NETWORK STRENGTHENING PROJECT, WESTERN CAPE PROVINCE

Venue: Mulilo Offices Convention Towers, Cape Town

Date: 26 September 2016

Time: 12:00

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

Shawn Johnston of Sustainable Futures ZA welcomed all in attendance. John von Mayer of Savannah Environmental provides a brief overview of the project and the current EIA progress.

MEETING ATTENDEES

Name	Organisation & Position
John von Mayer (JvM)	Savannah Environmental EAP
Lerato Mokgwatheng (LM)	Eskom Transmission Project Manager
Shawn Johnston (SJ)	Sustainable Futures ZA – Process Facilitator
Christo Badenhorst (CB)	Eskom
Shakir Dudhia (SD)	Eskom
Ahmed Hansa (AH)	Eskom
Jannie Mueller (JM)	Mulilo Thermal

APOLOGIES

None

BACKGROUND & TECHNICAL ASPECTS REGARDING THE PROPOSED PROJECT

John von Mayer provided the project background information and explained the status of the current EIA process. He stated that they were aware that Mulilo had a proposed CCTG plant proposed in the project area.

DISCUSSION SESSION

No.	Question / Comment	Response
1.	JvM: Where exactly is your proposed CCTG site located?	JM: The site is located on farm Uyekraal and is the same site as Transmission substation site A.
2.	SJ: Is it authorized?	JM: It is not authorized, we are in scoping and have a BID document completed. CSIR is doing the EIA.
3.	SJ: There are a number of developments and projects on the same property.	JM: Yes we are aware of other developers including Vortum, Global Ec, Solar Capital and ourselves. There will also be a servitude for our power line.
4.	AH: Site A for the transmission substation does not look very feasible anymore from a technical perspective. SJ: Have you finalized a layout?	JM: We are waiting for a project information memorandum from DoE before finalizing layout parameters. AH: Not yet, only a draft. However, there will eventually be about 10 x 132kV lines running from the transmission substation to the distribution substation. One IPP is fine but many more and we will start having space issues at the substation site.
5.	SJ: What are you doing about water?	JM: We are looking at a desalination option or alternatively a bulk water supply pipeline.
6.	JM: Please add me to the project database.	JvM: We will add you to the project database and keep you updated with current developments on the project as well as let you know when the draft reports are available for review.

WAY FORWARD

John von Mayer stated further written comments could be received at any time during the EIA process and that all I&APs would be notified of the release of the Draft EIA Report. He noted that the comments received would be included in the Final EIA Report to be submitted to DEA for decision-making Shawn Johnston thanked everyone in attendance. The meeting was closed at 12:45.



**ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT
ASSESSMENT PROCESS**

**SALDANHA BAY NETWORK
STRENGTHENING PROJECT,
WESTERN CAPE PROVINCE**

EIA PHASE

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCESS

Savannah Environmental (Pty) Ltd

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FOCUS GROUP MEETING

FRANCOIS TURNER

**HELD ON
MONDAY 26 SEPTEMBER 2016**

**VENUE
DRIEHOEKSFONTEIN**

Notes for the Record prepared by:

Savannah Environmental

Please address any comments to Gabriele Wood at the above address.

FOCUS GROUP MEETING:
SALDANHA BAY NETWORK STRENGTHENING PROJECT, WESTERN CAPE PROVINCE

Venue: Farm Driehoeksfontein

Date: 26 September 2016

Time: 15:10

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

Shawn Johnston of Sustainable Futures ZA welcomed all in attendance. John von Mayer of Savannah Environmental provides a brief overview of the project and the current EIA progress.

MEETING ATTENDEES

Name	Organisation & Position
John von Mayer (JvM)	Savannah Environmental EAP
Lerato Mokgwatheng (LM)	Eskom Transmission Project Manager
Shawn Johnston (SJ)	Sustainable Futures ZA – Process Facilitator
Christo Badenhorst (CB)	Eskom
Shakir Dudhia (SD)	Eskom
Ahmed Hansa (AH)	Eskom
Francois Turner (FT)	Landowner
Wilmarie Turner (WT)	Landowner

APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Mr Turner’s attorney.

BACKGROUND & TECHNICAL ASPECTS REGARDING THE PROPOSED PROJECT

John von Mayer provided the project background information and explained the status of the current EIA process. He stated that the power lines proposed would cross property owned by Francois Turner.

DISCUSSION SESSION

No.	Question / Comment	Response
1.	FT: We are constantly having power cuts on our farm. There is theft of cables. Eskom needs to sort this out. Every month the electricity is off for two days. This is unacceptable. We are here to discuss electricity so let's discuss electricity. I want a name of someone who I can call to get a quick response on cut lines. Every time I call Eskom to get a response I am put on hold and can never speak to anyone who can assist me.	AH: The strengthening project is for future prospects in the area. There is also a difference between Eskom distribution and Eskom transmission. We represent Eskom transmission. The issues with supply are related to distribution which deals with 132kV and lower. I will however get hold of a contact at Eskom who you can speak to regarding these matters.
2.	FT: The Steyn brothers are also against the project.	SJ: This is not correct. They have not raised any major issues from our past meetings with them.
3.	FT: We cannot do anything about a lot of issues but we can do something about this. We are not in support of the project.	SD: Please note that this is theoretical at the moment. This is just an EIA study. JvM: We will still have further public meetings and correspondence.
4.	FT: What about what happened in Durban and Paarl. People steal the nuts and there goes the line. And I heard a story about a power line that fell on someone's house. Why is our planning not world standard?	AH: We can only design with a certain level of security. We try to secure a servitude that is safest for everyone.
5.	FT: These transmission substations are proposed to be located here because the gas is there.	AH: No that is not the reason that is simply an added benefit. The main reason is that the area is growing because of the IDZ. We are planning the 2 new 400kV lines so we don't have to build multiple 132kV lines in the same corridor. It is about planning for the future.
6.	FT: Mines worry me and they have damaged the environment. What seems practical to me is to build a power station, a line and distribute the power. What is the amount of electricity used by Arcelor Mittal?	AH: About 200 – 300MW. They also have their own lines.
7.	FT: What is the purpose of the IDZ?	AH: It is for industry, for whomever wants to set up there.
8.	FT: If I say "yes" to this project the whole area could turn into an industrial area. That is what I am worried about. If this is going to benefit the mines then I want nothing to do with it. If it is for the IDZ then I want Eskom to tell me the usage of the IDZ.	AH: This is to provide new developments in the IDZ with power. The primary reason for this development is not about mines or gas to power plants. It is needed for the load in the area. As planners we need to make sure we are prepared for the IDZ. If we wait until the end to put in our lines then there will not be space.
9.	FT: Where do we stop with all this development? Sooner or later we will destroy everything.	AH: If we do not provide power we stifle economic growth.

No.	Question / Comment	Response
		JvM: The EIA is there to reduce the impact on the environment. Part of that is also the EMP which specifies how Eskom should go about construction, operation and decommissioning in a way that is best for the environment.
10.	FT: The way I see it Eskom just comes and builds what they want. Like the issues we have with the people working on the small lines in the area.	SD: Transmission and distribution are two separate parts of Eskom. People working on wood poles are from distribution and it is a separate branch of the company.
11.	FT: Don't wreck the Western Cape. This whole IDZ is a hoax. The project must be practical.	SJ: Please read the description of the project in the scoping report. All the questions regarding the context for the project are answered in that report.
12.	FT: We are really concerned about what is happening on the West Coast. I am part of the Saldanha Bay Chamber of Commerce. I would like a hard copy of the EIA report.	SJ: A hard copy will be sent to you.

WAY FORWARD

John von Mayer stated further written comments could be received at any time during the EIA process and that all I&APs would be notified of the release of the Draft EIA Report. He noted that the comments received would be included in the Final EIA Report to be submitted to DEA for decision-making Shawn Johnston thanked everyone in attendance. The meeting was closed at 17:00.



**ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT
ASSESSMENT PROCESS**

**SALDANHA BAY NETWORK
STRENGTHENING PROJECT,
WESTERN CAPE PROVINCE**



EIA PHASE

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCESS

Savannah Environmental (Pty) Ltd

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FOCUS GROUP MEETING

LANDOWNERS

**HELD ON
MONDAY 27 SEPTEMBER 2016**

**VENUE
ANYSKOP**

Notes for the Record prepared by:

Savannah Environmental

Please address any comments to Gabriele Wood at the above address.

**FOCUS GROUP MEETING:
SALDANHA BAY NETWORK STRENGTHENING PROJECT, WESTERN CAPE PROVINCE**

Venue: Gavin Stigling Boardroom, Anyskop

Date: 27 September 2016

Time: 09:00

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

Shawn Johnston of Sustainable Futures welcomed all in attendance. John von Mayer of Savannah Environmental provides a brief overview of the project and the current EIA progress.

MEETING ATTENDEES

Name	Organisation & Position
John von Mayer (JvM)	Savannah Environmental - EAP
Lerato Mokgwathheng (LM)	Eskom - Transmission Project Manager
Shawn Johnston (SJ)	Sustainable Futures ZA – Process Facilitator
Christo Badenhorst (CB)	Eskom
Shakir Dudhia (SD)	Eskom
Owen Peters (OP)	Eskom
Ahmed Hansa (AH)	Eskom
Gavin Stigling (GS)	Landowner
Lewellyn Strydom (LS)	Legal Advisor
Lizamarie Tolken (LT)	Landowner
Darryl Hunt (DH)	Consultant

APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Pieterse Barend Trust.

BACKGROUND & TECHNICAL ASPECTS REGARDING THE PROPOSED PROJECT

John von Mayer provided the project background information and explained the status of the current EIA process.

DISCUSSION SESSION

No.	Question / Comment	Response
1.	DH: Has Transmission Site Option E now been removed?	JvM: It was removed. It straddles 2 properties and the removal of this option was also based on feedback from various landowners.
2.	DH: Could the transmission substation be smaller than 600m x 600m?	AH: 600m x 600m is the minimum we ideally want. It can be reduced depending on the site but we usually say 600 m x 600 m.
3.	DH: There are a number of commercial obligations and commitments on these properties.	AH: We need the space provided by the D and F options for the transmission site. Eventually there will be ten 132kV lines connecting the distribution and transmission sites.
4.	DH: Could we look at another site for the Transmission substation site. We have come up with a Site G for the transmission substation.	JvM: We are under tight deadlines in terms of the EIA but we could still consider it.
5.	DH: There is also a bulk water supply pipeline parallel to the R27 road. Is there an offset for that? Is there cathodic protection on that pipeline?	SJ: We need to have a meeting with the Department of Water and Sanitation to clarify. It needs to be studied. SD: There are mitigations we can include if it does become an issue. It is not a fatal flaw.
6.	DH: There is a new road interchange as well: Trunk 85 and the R27. The internal road plan also needs to be developed.	SD: We would need to raise the heights of the infrastructure if required to avoid impacts on the interchanges. SJ: We will correspond with the roads engineers as well.
7.	GS: The Transmission Site F would be our preferred option.	SJ: Noted.
8.	DH: What timeframes are we looking at for this process?	AH: We normally look at 2 years for the EIA, three to five years thereafter for development and construction. We are aiming for commissioning in 2019. The primary reason for the project is for the IDZ loads.
9.	GS: Of the distribution sites Site A is slightly preferred from a technical perspective.	SJ: Comment noted.

WAY FORWARD

John von Mayer stated further written comments could be received at any time during the EIA process and that all I&APs would be notified of the release of the Draft EIA Report. He noted that the comments received would be included in the Final EIA Report to be submitted

to DEA for decision-making. Shawn Johnston thanked everyone in attendance. The meeting was closed at 10.30



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EIA PHASE

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCESS

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FOCUS GROUP MEETING

ARCELOR-MITTAL

**HELD ON
TUESDAY 27 SEPTEMBER 2016**

**VENUE
AMSA OFFICES - ADMINISTRATION BUILDING**

Notes for the Record prepared by:

Savannah Environmental

Please address any comments to Gabriele Wood at the above address.

**FOCUS GROUP MEETING:
SALDANHA BAY NETWORK STRENGTHENING PROJECT, WESTERN CAPE PROVINCE**

Venue: AMSA Offices – Administration Building

Date: 27 September 2016

Time: 11:00

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

Shawn Johnston of Sustainable Futures welcomed all in attendance. John von Mayer of Savannah Environmental provides a brief overview of the project and the current EIA progress.

MEETING ATTENDEES

Name	Organisation & Position
John von Mayer (JvM)	Savannah Environmental EAP
Lerato Mokgwathheng (LM)	Eskom Transmission Project Manager
Shawn Johnston (SJ)	Sustainable Futures
Christo Badenhorst (CB)	Eskom
Shakir Dudhia (SD)	Eskom
Ahmed Hansa (AH)	Eskom
Owen Peters (OP)	Eskom
Reinet van Zyl (RvZ)	AMSA
Gessie Theron (GT)	AMSA
Francois van der Bank (FB)	AMSA
Gerald Vrolick (GV)	AMSA

APOLOGIES

None

BACKGROUND & TECHNICAL ASPECTS REGARDING THE PROPOSED PROJECT

John von Mayer provided the project background information and explained the status of the current EIA process.

DISCUSSION SESSION

No.	Question / Comment	Response
1.	GT: What is the preferred substation site at this point?	JvM: At this point D and F seem to be preferred options for the transmission substation from a technical feasibility perspective, although we cannot rule out any of the options at this point. We will know more once we draft the EIA report.
2.	GT: Options D and F would have the least impact on us.	SJ: Comment noted.
3.	GT: What would the servitude be for the distribution lines	OP: It would be 3 x 31 which would be 93m. The total servitude for the transmission lines would be 2 x 55m which is 110m.
4.	GT: 93m is a substantial impact. The Uyekraal property is earmarked for heavy industrial development. The other property affected is near the R27. That land has been allocated to IPP solar. That is on the west of the R27. To the east of the R27 we don't really have an issue.	SJ: Noted. There are also some CBA areas in the vicinity of the distribution substation which we must be cognisant of.
5.	GT: What is the timing of this?	AH: The power is needed for the IDZ. After the EIA is granted we would make a decision. We might look for commissioning around 2019 but we cannot be sure.
6.	GT: Options D and F are better for us. It connects to the R27 and the area is not earmarked for development in the next few years.	AH: You must also look at it from the other side. If we don't build these lines no development can materialize in the area.
7.	GT: Yes we support that but the best option must be selected for the substation site.	AH: Yes I agree.
8.	GT: Which site is preferred for the distribution substation?	OP: Option A is preferred at this point from a technical perspective.

WAY FORWARD

John von Mayer stated further written comments could be received at any time during the EIA process and that all I&APs would be notified of the release of the Draft EIA Report. He noted that the comments received would be included in the Final EIA Report to be submitted

to DEA for decision-making. Shawn Johnston thanks everyone in attendance. The meeting was closed at 12:00.



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PUBLIC MEETING

**HELD ON
THURSDAY 3 NOVEMBER 2016**

**VENUE
LANGEBAAN AUDITORIUM, CNR. OOSTEWAL STREET
AND BREE STREET, LANGEBAAN**

Notes for the Record prepared by:

Savannah Environmental

Please address any comments to Gabriele Wood at the above address.

FOCUS GROUP MEETING:
SALDANHA BAY NETWORK STRENGTHENING PROJECT, WESTERN CAPE PROVINCE

Venue: Langebaan Auditorium, cnr. Oostewal Street and Bree Street, Langebaan

Date: Thursday 3 November 2016

Time: 14:00

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

Shawn Johnston of Sustainable Futures ZA welcomed all in attendance. He noted that Eskom is proposing the Saldanha Bay Network Strengthening Project and that Savannah Environmental had been appointed to undertake the Environmental Impact Assessment required to obtain environmental authorisation for the project. He said that as part of these environmental studies, a public participation process is being undertaken by Savannah Environmental to provide Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) an opportunity to comment on the proposed project.

Shawn Johnston stated that the purpose of the meeting is to provide attendees with more information regarding the proposed project (including technical details, project process and timeframes etc.), to provide a summary of the findings of the draft EIA Report, to invite comment on the proposed project, and to further discuss possible issues of specific concern which may need to be addressed. He requested the members of the meeting to introduce themselves, refer to attendance register below.

MEETING ATTENDEES

Name	Organisation & Position
Hedwig Slabig (HS)	Botanical Society West Coast - Representative
Keith Harrison (KH)	Cape West Coast Biosphere Reserve - Northern Director
Darryl Hunt (DH)	Interested and Affected Party
Thys van Niekerk (TvN)	Thali Thali Game Lodge - Impacted Landowner
Gavin Stigling (GS)	Farm Anyskop - Impacted Landowner
Lizemarie Tolken (LT)	Farm Ayekraal 1/189 - Impacted Landowner
Barry Ried (BR)	Royal Haskoning DHV - Electrical Engineer
Zoë Palmer (ZP)	Aurecon SA (Pty) Ltd - Environmental Scientist
Michiel Goosen (MG)	Eskom - Project Manager
Shakir Dudhia (SD)	Eskom - Lines Design Engineer (TX)
Owen Peters (OP)	Eskom - Land and Rights Practitioner
Ahmed Hansa (AH)	Eskom - Grid Planning Engineer
Lerato Mokgwathheng (LM)	Eskom - Environmental Advisor
Shawn Johnston (SJ)	Sustainable Futures ZA - Process Facilitator
John von Mayer (JvM)	Savannah Environmental - Environmental Consultant
Gabriele Wood (GW)	Savannah Environmental - Public Participation and Social Consultant

APOLOGIES

An apology was received from Dale Wright of BirdLife South Africa.

BACKGROUND & TECHNICAL ASPECTS REGARDING THE PROPOSED PROJECT

John von Mayer of Savannah Environmental presented the background and introduction to the project and provided an overview of the potential environmental impacts of the project identified in the draft Environmental Impact Assessment Report. (Please refer to the attached presentation).

DISCUSSION SESSION

No.	Question / Comment	Response
1.	GS: I recommend that you consult with Aecom regarding the upgrade of the R27 road interchange as previously mentioned. We are now required to move our access point 1.2 km away from the new interchange on Trunk Road 85.	JvM: Consultations between Savannah Environmental, Aecom and the Western Cape Department of Transport and Public Works were undertaken following the round of public consultation meetings held in September 2016. Aecom has subsequently submitted comments on the project. These comments will be included in the draft EIA Report.
2.	TvN: On one of the slides of the presentation it was noted that there would be damage to habitat. What would the extent of this damage to habitat be?	JvM: Damage to habitat would result from the clearing of vegetation for the footprint of the power line structures. The extent of this damage would be minimal and recommendations to reduce impacts as far as possible are included in the EMPr. No large-scale loss of habitat would occur. These areas will be rehabilitated once construction is complete.
3.	TvN: The existing servitude roads should be used as far as possible to avoid damage to vegetation.	JvM: This recommendation has been included in the EMPr.
4.	TvN: The contractors must be cautious regarding the opening and closing of gates on my farm as it is a game farm.	JvM: Issues pertaining to access control are included in the EMPr.
5.	BR: I understand that the existing Blouwater Substation will be decommissioned. Will the existing three overhead power lines that run into that substation from the Aurora Substation be decommissioned and removed?	AH: The Blouwater Substation will be decommissioned and a new substation will be built to replace it. The supply to the new substation will come from the new transmission substation. Additional distribution lines will supply Saldanha Steel

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		<p>and another distribution substation in the area. Essentially the substation will replace the supply to the distribution network in that area.</p> <p>A portion of the existing power lines will be utilised to supply Saldanha Steel. It is possible that the old power lines could be decommissioned however this has not yet been confirmed by Eskom's Distribution department.</p>
6.	BR: Would there be an opportunity to upgrade the existing 132kV power lines to 400kV lines or decommission the 132kV power lines and build the new power lines in the existing servitude.	AH: These opportunities have not been explored for this project because the existing 132kV power lines are required for the current supply. Eskom would consider rebuilding or recycling the existing power lines only once the new substation has been established.
7.	BR: What key factors lead to the selection of the self-supporting power line structures being selected for the 400kV power lines?	<p>SD: The self-supporting power line structures are preferred by the Western Cape Grid, the ultimate custodians of the grid infrastructure. In addition, the self-supporting structures are better suited for farms as livestock are unlikely to get trapped in these structures.</p> <p>SJ: Through the public participation process, farmers stated that they do not want the structures with the guides as these have an impact on farming activities like ploughing as this has an impact on the turning circles of their tractors.</p>
8.	HS: Did the specialist undertake fieldwork during the flowering season?	JvM: The specialist undertook their field work during the flowering season. This was a requirement which was stipulated by the Western Cape Department of Environment and Development Planning.
9.	HS: It should be noted that CapeNature have updated the Critical Biodiversity Area maps for the region. Has this new information filtered through in your reporting?	JvM: The specialist will be requested to confirm whether the updated CBA maps have been considered in this assessment.
10.	HS: I am involved in an academic group that are studying road reserves and power line servitudes. The aim is to keep these reserves as natural as possible and to develop guidelines for the cutting and mowing of alien vegetation. They would be interested in being involved and provide feedback into the process.	JvM: You are welcome to send through the contact details of these parties.
11.	KH: What will happen to the existing Blouwater Substation since a new one will be built?	AH: The Blouwater Substation will be decommissioned because it is in a poor state primarily due to rust. All existing power lines from or to Blouwater Substation will then be

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		diverted to the new Distribution's Substation.
12.	KH: We would request that you use 100% of local labour for this project. The West Coast Biosphere Reserve (WCBR) has trained approximately 91 people in alien vegetation clearance and rehabilitation. These people have the skills required for this project.	SD: This recommendation will be included in the project's Supplier Development & Localisation SD&L once the project goes into execution.
13.	KH: Has the avifaunal specialist assessed the potential impacts to birds using the flyways in the area, particularly between the Berg River and the Lagoon?	JvM: The specialist will be asked to confirm whether the flyways have been considered in the assessment.
14.	TvN: Can landowners be forced into agreeing to a servitude to accommodate the power lines? Landowners are unlikely to accept market related land related offers on a per hectare basis.	SJ: Eskom's Land Development Department will negotiate with the affected landowners once the environmental authorisation is granted. Expropriation could take place if no agreements can be reached as a last resort. However, this is not an easy process and it can take numerous years to complete.
15.	HS: What would happen if this project does not proceed or if it takes a long time to execute? There are large scale industrial development projects planned for the greater Saldanha region. If these projects are developed in the next five years then the construction of the network infrastructure should be implemented before these industrial projects come online. This project should have happened five years ago to accommodate industry needs.	<p>AH: The announcement of the Industrial Development Zone (IDZ) in Saldanha was made in 2015.</p> <p>Prior to that Eskom had an indication that there is some potential for growth for the area. Eskom initially planned build at 400kV and operate the system at 132kV up until the need for 400kV capacity was triggered.</p> <p>If the IDZ growth accelerates as it was announced, then Eskom will operate a 400kV transmission substation and build a 400kV busbar with two transformers installed. The size of the land required for the substation will still be 600m x 600m. Eskom will decide whether to construct the full scope of the project from the onset in two years.</p>
16.	DR: Could a generation plant be such a trigger to bring forward the implementation of the full scope of the project?	AH: A generation project with a significant generating capacity of amount 1000MW and above would trigger the development of the full scope of the project.
17.	BR: Am I correct in summarising that currently there is no commitment to decommission the existing three 132kV power lines.	AH: That is correct. The existing three 132kV power lines must remain as the existing supply to the Saldanha area. These power lines will only be decommissioned or upgraded at a later stage once the new power lines and substation are constructed.
18.	BR: Why are 2 new 132kV bays being installed at the Aurora Substation? What is their initial purpose?	AH: The initial plan for the area was to establish the substation but run the network at 132kV because the growth that was foreseen for the area was slightly slower and not as

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		exaggerated as it is now. Eskom initially planned to build the lines at 400kV but operate them at 132kV. Therefore, two bays at the Aurora Substation are required to accommodate the new lines. The 2 new 132kV bays will remain as open spare bays once the system is operated at 400kV.
19.	<p>BR: What structures will be used for the 132kV power lines between the new transmission and the new distribution substations? Surely these details would have to be included in the EIA. The type of structures would impact the studies undertaking.</p> <p>We need to ensure that the specialists have had a good look at those subtle differences which could have a meaningful impact to a significant development.</p>	<p>JvM: The type of tower structure would not make a difference in terms of the environmental impact. A corridor has been evaluated in the EIA process. The power lines can be constructed anywhere within the corridor which was assessed. The DEA authorises the activity, namely, the development of the 132kV double circuit power line within the assessed corridor, not the power line structures. There would be subtle differences between the structures in terms of environmental impacts but the specialists assess these impacts on a worst-case scenario.</p> <p>AH: The types of towers which would be used could be a combination from monopole structures and a lattice structure which are smaller than the 400kV structures.</p>
20.	BR: What is the programme for the implementation of this project?	<p>MG: It is assumed that the land negotiations with property owners would take approximately 1 year to complete. Construction is likely to commence in 2019 and the power lines are planned to be commissioned in 2022.</p> <p>This programme excludes the construction of the transmission substation which will be built at a later stage and as need arises.</p>
21.	KB: Are you aware that there is a solar energy facility planned to be developed on the property opposite the Engen One Stop on the R27.	JvM: This project is planned on property owned by Arcelor Mittal.
22.	GS: Who do we negotiate with regarding costs in terms of upgrading our access?	SJ: Commercial discussions of this nature should take place with the project developers.
23.	DS: Have you spoken with Barend Pieterse Trust.	GW: We have attempted to meet with the representatives of the Barend Pieterse Trust and have invited them to attend this meeting; however, no responses to our requests were received. A copy of the draft EIA Report will be sent to the Trust's representatives.

WAY FORWARD

Shawn Johnston stated further written comments could be received at any time during the EIA process and that all I&APs would be notified of the release of the Draft EIA Report. He noted that the comments received would be included in the Final EIA Report to be submitted to DEA for decision-making. He thanked everyone for availing themselves for the meeting. The meeting was closed at 15:30.