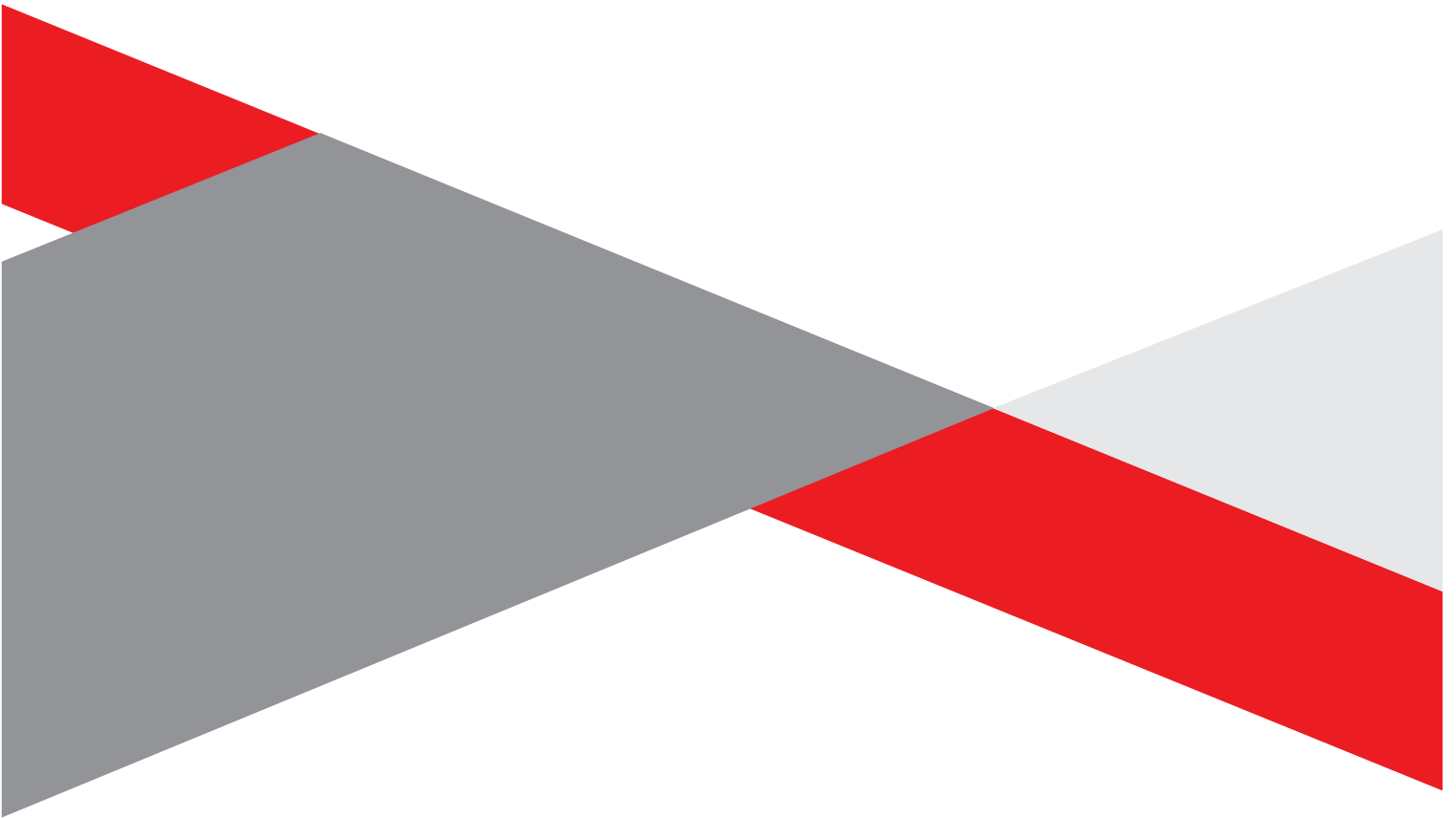


**APPENDIX C7**  
**MEETING NOTES**



Meeting Notes to be included in the  
Final EIAr

# **SCOPING PHASE**

## **XHARIEP EXPORT PROGRAMME (XEP)**

# **AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT AND ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE**

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**MEETING NOTES OF THE FOCUSED GROUP MEETING  
HELD ON MONDAY, 04 JULY 2022 AT 10H00  
VENUE: MICROSOFT TEAMS, VIRTUAL MEETING**

---

Notes for the Record prepared by:

**Nondumiso Bulunga**

**Savannah Environmental (Pty) Ltd**

**E-mail: [publicprocess@savannahsa.com](mailto:publicprocess@savannahsa.com)**

*Please address any comments to Savannah Environmental at the above address*

## MEETING ATTENDEES

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Name	Organisation	Position
Mzwandile January	SAFCO Group Investment	Managing Director
Lehlogonolo Chuene	Savannah Environmental	Environmental Assessment Practitioner
Nondumiso Bulunga	Savannah Environmental	Lead Consultant

## WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

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**Nondumiso Bulunga** welcomed the Technical Presenter and developer and requested that for a 15-minute wait to see whether there will be any stakeholders which will be joining the session. After waiting until 10h15, no participants joined and was subsequently decided that a follow up email will further be shared to grant stakeholders the opportunity to share their comments and/or clarify any aspects for the proposed Xhariep Export Programme (XEP) Agricultural Development and associated Infrastructure located within the Letsemeng Local Municipality and Xhariep District Municipality in the Free State Province.

The project presentation was not relayed as no external stakeholders were present at the meeting.

## APOLOGIES

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Ratau Sputnik from the Department of Water Sanitation

## POST MEETING NOTES

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A reminder email on the available project report and the public review and commenting period has been sent to all stakeholders on the database.

A copy of the virtual participants' attendance register is attached as **Appendix A** to the meeting notes.

## WAY FORWARD AND CLOSURE

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Further project information will be relayed accordingly. It was noted by all attendees that no further comments needed to be raised at this time.

The meeting was closed at 10h20.

## LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

PV	Photovoltaic
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**JN VENTER BELEGGINGS TRUST  
AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT AND ASSOCIATED  
INFRASTRUCTURE, FREE STATE PROVINCE**

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**MEETING NOTES OF THE FOCUSED GROUP MEETING  
HELD ON MONDAY, 20 JUNE 2022 AT 10H00  
VENUE: MICROSOFT TEAMS, VIRTUAL MEETING**

---

Notes for the Record prepared by:

**Nondumiso Bulunga**

**Savannah Environmental (Pty) Ltd**  
**E-mail: [publicprocess@savannahsa.com](mailto:publicprocess@savannahsa.com)**

*Please address any comments to Savannah Environmental at the above address*

## MEETING ATTENDEES

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Name	Organisation	Position
Portia Mancoe	Xhariep District Municipality	Environmental Health Practitioner
Bonolo Mocwaledi	Letsemeng Local Municipality	Mayor
Siphiwe Phithi	Letsemeng Local Municipality	LED Manager
Lehlogonolo Chuene	Savannah Environmental	Environmental Assessment Practitioner
Nondumiso Bulunga	Savannah Environmental	Lead Consultant

## WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

---

**Nondumiso Bulunga** welcomed the attendees at the Focused Group Meeting (FGM) for the JN Venter Beleggings Trust Agricultural Development.

The agenda was provided, and the purpose of the meeting was presented by **Nondumiso Bulunga**.

## APOLOGIES

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No apologies were rendered.

## BACKGROUND & TECHNICAL ASPECTS REGARDING THE PROPOSED PROJECT

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**Lehlogonolo Chuene** provided an overview of the proposed JN Venter Beleggings Trust Agricultural Development project located within the Free State Province, as well as a summary of the findings of the Scoping process undertaken. **Lehlogonolo Chuene** presented the following key information:

- Project overview for Agricultural Development project;
- Scoping and Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Process;
- key findings and aspects to be noted as presented in the Scoping Report; and
- summary of the environmental impacts identified.

A copy of the virtual participants' attendance is attached as **Appendix A** and the presentation is attached as **Appendix B** to the meeting notes.

## DISCUSSION SESSION

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Raised by	Question / Comment	Response
Mayor Mocwaledi	Please tell us who is this Venter? (i.e applicant)	Nondumiso Bulunga responded that it's a private person named Mr Nico Venter proposing to develop the project. He owns some of the properties that the proposed project is happening

Raised by	Question / Comment	Response
		on, he is a private business owner who is wanting to develop this project. It is a private organization that is developing this project.
	It would be important to understand what other projects he is developing in the area.	Nondumiso Bulunga responded that the applicant will join the call and respond to this query.  <b>Post Meeting Notes:</b> The applicant was asked what other projects are being developed in the area.
	I don't see how this project is going to benefit us as Letsemeng. What percentage are we going to get for Local Economic Development, (LED) particularly young people and women? These are already established from farms around our area where only our people are only working on the lands as mere workers only. We have had municipality meetings and Integrated Development Plan (IDP) meetings, but the applicant/farmers did not come to those meetings for their input.	Nondumiso Bulunga responded that will be included in the update of the socio-economic impact as part of the EIA phase. Consultations with the District will be undertaken as part of the socio -economic assessment.
Siphiwe Phithi	I am the person to speak to for LED related information that you may require.	Nondumiso Bulunga thanked Siphiwe and confirmed consultation will be done with Siphiwes' office.

**WAY FORWARD AND CLOSURE**

**Nondumiso Bulunga** asked whether there were any other environmental-related concerns or comments. It was noted by all attendees that no further comments needed to be raised at this time.

The meeting was closed at 10h44.

**LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS**



EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment	IDP	Integrated Development Plan
LED	Local Economic Development		

Meeting Summary

Total Number of Participants

Meeting Title

Meeting Start Time

Meeting End Time

Meeting Id

Invitation to Focus Group for the proposed Agricultural Development and associated infrastructure, southwest of Luckhoff & Koffiesfontein

6/20/2022, 9:57:23 AM

6/20/2022, 10:44:11 AM

5bb627f7-1eb3-4d4a-b953-a6776b667cec

Full Name

Lehlogonolo Chuene

Lehlogonolo Chuene

Siphiwe Phithi

Nondumiso Bulunga

Portia XDM

Clir Bonolo Mocwaledi (Guest)

Portia Mancoe XDM (Guest)

Nico Venter

Portia XDM (Guest)

Join Time

6/20/2022, 9:57:23 AM

6/20/2022, 10:11:49 AM

6/20/2022, 10:00:59 AM

6/20/2022, 10:05:10 AM

6/20/2022, 10:06:32 AM

6/20/2022, 10:11:53 AM

6/20/2022, 10:18:43 AM

6/20/2022, 10:27:33 AM

6/20/2022, 10:34:41 AM

8

Leave Time	Duration	Email	Role	Participant ID (UPN)
6/20/2022, 9m 29s		lehlogonol	Presenter	lehlogonolo.c@savannahsa.com
6/20/2022, 29m 10s		lehlogonol	Presenter	lehlogonolo.c@savannahsa.com
6/20/2022, 39m 37s		admin@Le	Attendee	admin@LetsemengLocalMunicipali987.onmicrosoft.com
6/20/2022, 35m 43s		Nondumis	Organizer	Nondumiso@savannahsa.com
6/20/2022, 6m 53s			Attendee	
6/20/2022, 28m 31s			Attendee	
6/20/2022, 12m 18s			Attendee	
6/20/2022, 16m 1s			Attendee	
6/20/2022, 9m 29s			Attendee	

# **JN VENTER BELEGGINGS TRUST AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT AND ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE**

Focused Group Meeting

Monday, 04 July 2022

# AGENDA

- Welcome and Introduction
- Meeting Conduct
- Purpose of the Meeting
- Project Overview
- Scoping and Environmental Impact Assessment Process
- Key Environmental Findings
- Way Forward
- Discussions

# MEETING CONDUCT

- Recording and Transcribe of the meeting
- Please stay on mute during the presentation
- Register attendance on chat function (name, surname, affiliation & email address)
- Equal opportunity
- Questions and comments can be submitted on the chat function during the presentation – team will respond after presentation
- Please hold all verbal questions until after the presentation
- Please raise your hand (virtual function) to ask a question and state your name

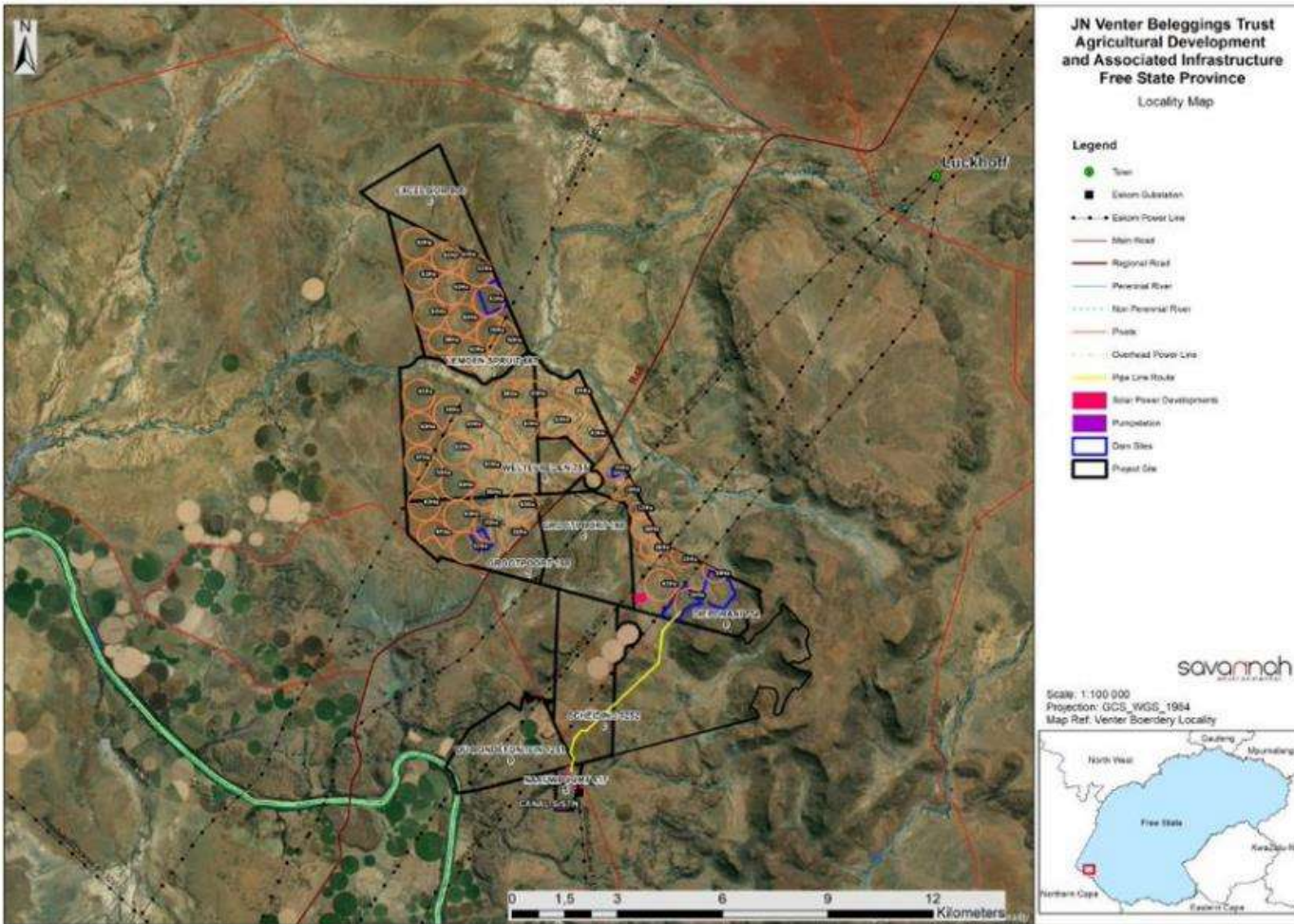
# PURPOSE OF THE MEETING

- Provide stakeholders & I&APs with an overview of the **JN Venter Beleggings Trust Agricultural Development**
- Summary of the **Scoping & Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) & Public Participation** being undertaken
- Present a summary of the key environmental findings as documented in the respective **Scoping Reports**
- Provide stakeholders the opportunity to seek clarity regarding the projects and their respective environmental studies, as well as the opportunity to provide valuable input into/to inform the EIA process
- Obtain and record comments for inclusion in the submissions to DESTEA

# PROJECT OVERVIEW

(Lehlogonolo Chuene)

# LOCALITY MAP



**NBO** JN Veneter Beleggings Trusts is proposing agricultural development and associated infrastructure located on a site approximately 7km south-west of Luckhoff within the Letsemeng Local Municipality of Xhariep District Municipality in the Free State Province.

- The proposed development will take an area of ~2690ha extent across 3 properties owned by the Applicant and will be developed in phases.
- The development area will affect the following properties: **Farm Diepdraai 754, Farm Weltevreden 755 and Farm Lemoen- spruit 667**



## Slide 6

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**NB0** Pls re-insert its not read-able - ask RR she knows how to do it correctly  
Nondumiso Bulunga, 2022-06-20T03:46:53.027

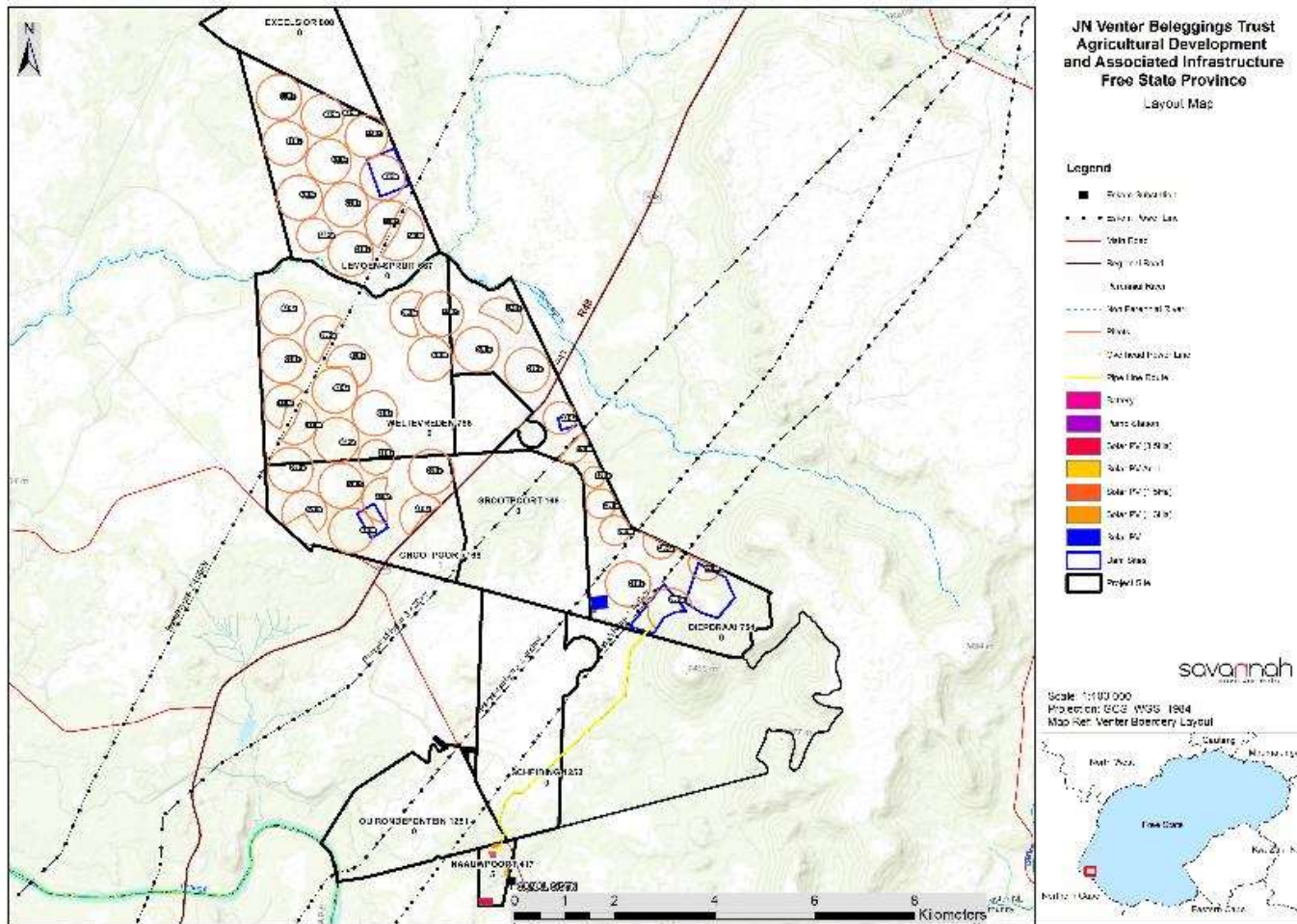
**NB1** Rather will be an area than take an area - what do you think?  
Nondumiso Bulunga, 2022-06-20T03:47:55.995

## COMPONENTS OF THE JN VENTER BELEGGINGS AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT

### Agricultural Development Components

- » Development of centre pivot areas (cultivation and irrigation) which is planned to take approximately 2154ha or more within the project site.
- » Construction of two bulk water pipelines following the same pipeline route of approximately 5.93km from the canal to the proposed two irrigation dams.
- » Two irrigation water storage dams, each with a surface area ranging from 7ha to 46ha.
- » Establishment of an irrigation pipeline network from the irrigation dams to the centre pivot areas.
- » A new pump station taking a total surface area of 549m<sup>2</sup>.
- » A 5MW solar PV facility occupying an area of 9ha, and an associated overhead power line of ~6.9km in length.
- » A Battery Energy Storage System covering a surface area of 0.36ha.

# Layout Map



NBO

## Slide 8

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**NBO**

Re-insert , ask RR

Nondumiso Bulunga, 2022-06-20T03:48:21

# SCOPING & EIA PROCESS & PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT



# APPROACH TO SCOPING

- Identification of issues – social and biophysical environment
- Potential sensitive areas identified through specialist desktop and in-field studies
- Design of appropriate facility layout to be informed by sensitive areas identified through the scoping process. The facility layout will be presented and considered in the EIA Phase
- An approach of the mitigation hierarchy (i.e., avoid, minimise and mitigate)
- Any further micro-siting required to facility layout will be addressed in EIA Phase
- Prepare a Plan of Study for the EIA Phase

NB0

**Slide 10**

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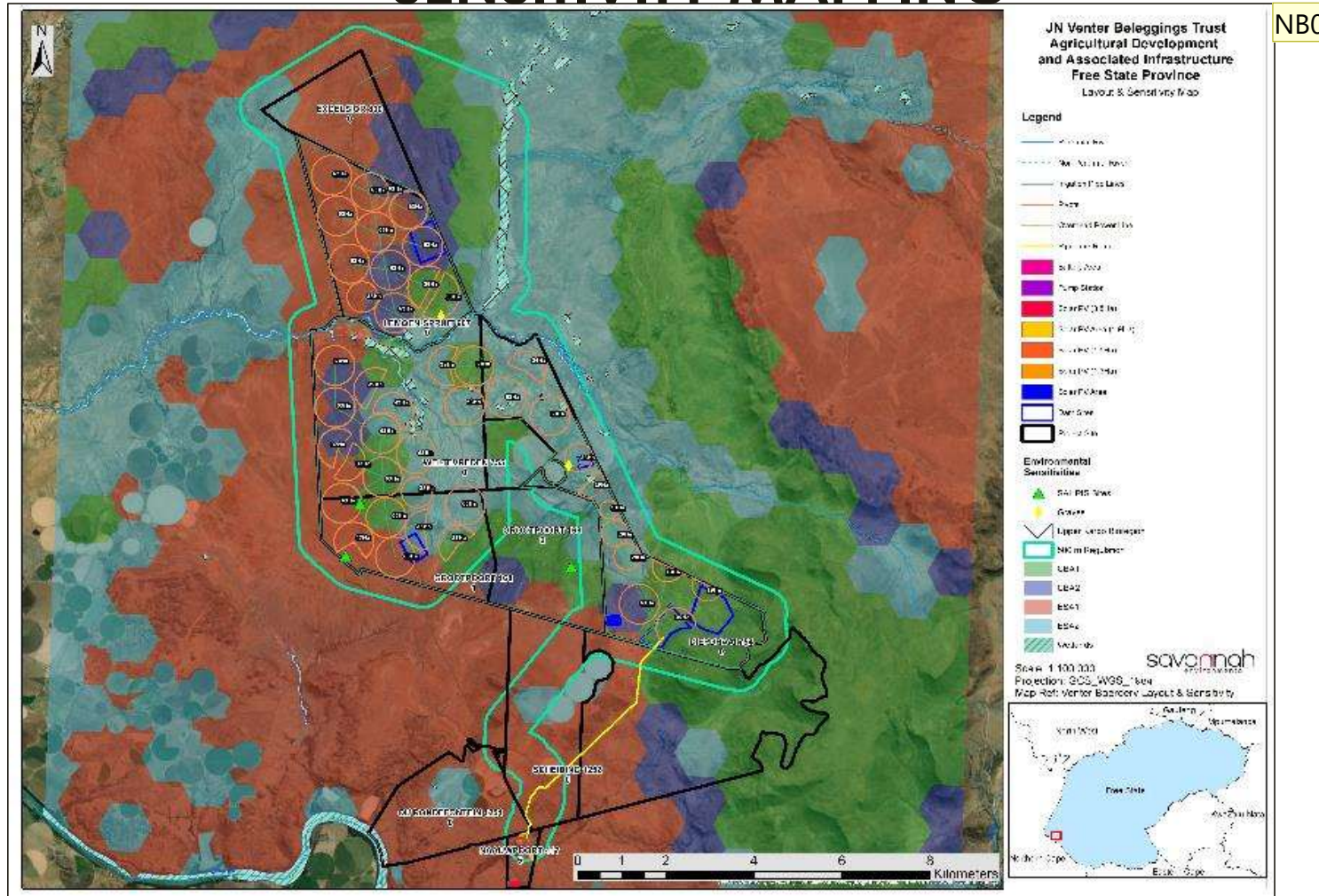
**NBO** We need to ensure this will be so, if not remove pls  
Nondumiso Bulunga, 2022-06-20T03:48:48.595

# SPECIALIST STUDIES

Specialist	Area of Expertise
Andrew Husted and Jan Jacobs of The Biodiversity Company	Ecology (Flora, Fauna and Freshwater), Soils and Agricultural Potential
Nondumiso Bulunga of Savannah Environmental and peer reviewed by Dr Neville Bews of Dr Neville Bews & Associates.	Social Impact Assessment
Jenna Lavin of CTS Heritage	Heritage (including Archaeology and Palaeontology)



# SENSITIVITY MAPPING



**Slide 12**

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**NBO** Re-insert one cannot see anything here, legend is blurred  
Nondumiso Bulunga, 2022-06-20T03:49:16.043

# ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS IDENTIFIED

	Scoping of Issues	NB0
Impacts on Ecology (fauna & flora)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Destruction, fragmentation and degradation of habitats and ecosystems</li> <li>• Spread or establishment of alien and/or invasive species</li> <li>• Soil erosion and associated degradation of ecosystems</li> <li>• Direct mortality of fauna</li> <li>• Environmental pollution due to water runoff and spills from vehicles</li> </ul>	
Impacts on Freshwater Features	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increased loss of soil.</li> <li>• Loss of sensitive wetland habitats.</li> <li>• Reduction in water quality in wetlands.</li> </ul>	
Impacts on Agricultural Potential and Soils	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The primary impact on soils expected to be associated with the proposed developments is compaction/soil stripping/transformation of land use, which leads to loss of land capability.</li> </ul>	
Impacts on Heritage (Archaeology and Palaeontology)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Based on the known archaeological sensitivity of the broader arerewell as known heritage resources located within the development area, it is likely that significant archaeological heritage will be impacted by the proposed development if recommended mitigation measures are not adhered to.</li> </ul>	

NB1

## Slide 13

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- NB0** Move full stop  
Nondumiso Bulunga, 2022-06-20T03:49:36.749
- NB1** Too rather to?  
Nondumiso Bulunga, 2022-06-20T03:49:58.506

# PLAN OF STUDY FOR THE EIA PHASE


- The Plan of Study for EIA is intended to provide a summary of the key findings of the Scoping Phase and to describe the activities to be undertaken in the EIA Phase of the EIA process.
- **Based on the findings of the Scoping assessment, the following further investigations within the EIA Phase are required:**
  - Ecological Impact Assessment (including flora, fauna and freshwater)
  - Soils and Agricultural Potential Impact Assessment
  - Social Impact Assessment
  - Heritage Impact Assessment (including archaeology and palaeontology)

# **WAY FORWARD AND CLOSURE**

**(Nondumiso Bulunga)**



# WAY FORWARD

- Scoping Report review period: **03 June 2022 – 04 July 2022** (can be downloaded from the Savannah Environmental website – [www.savannahsa.com](http://www.savannahsa.com))
  - Final Scoping Report to be submitted to DESTEA– July 2022
  - EIA & EMPr for review – envisaged September 2022 (TBC)
  - Our Public Participation team is available to answer any questions on the development and register you as an I&AP so that you can receive important project information as it becomes available.
- 

# WHO TO CONTACT FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

**Savannah Environmental (Pty) Ltd**

Nondumiso Bulunga

Email: [publicprocess@savannahsa.com](mailto:publicprocess@savannahsa.com)

PO Box 148, Sunninghill, 2157

Tel: 011 656 3237

Mobile: 060 978 8396 (*including "please call me"*)

Fax: 086 684 0547

[www.savannahSA.com](http://www.savannahSA.com)

