

23 August 2021

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Dear Interested and Affected Party

NOTIFICATION: APPLICATION FOR ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION, WATER USE AUTHORISATION AND ASSOCIATED PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCESS FOR THE PROPOSED SQUARE KILOMETRE ARRAY (SKA) FIBRE OPTIC CABLE BETWEEN BEAUFORT WEST AND CARNARVON, IN THE NORTHERN CAPE AND WESTERN CAPE PROVINCES

Environmental Authorisation Reference Number: To be assigned.
Water Use General Authorisation Reference Number: WU18079.

Notice is hereby given that the South African National Research Network (SANReN), the Project Applicant, is proposing to install a high-speed fibre optic internet cable between Beaufort West and Carnarvon. The proposed fibre optic cable is required in order to facilitate a connection between the Square Kilometre Array (SKA) core site in the Northern Cape (NC) and an existing data processing facility in Cape Town in the Western Cape (WC). Fibre optic infrastructure already exists between the SKA core site and Carnarvon, and between Beaufort West and the existing data processing facility in Cape Town.

The proposed route for the new fibre optic cable will follow the N1, R381 and R63 roads for a length of approximately 183 km, from Beaufort West, via Loxton, to Carnarvon. The proposed project spans the WC and NC Provinces, and is located within the Beaufort West Local Municipality (Central Karoo District, WC), and the Ubuntu and Kareeberg Local Municipalities (Pixley ka Seme District, NC).

The fibre optic cabling will predominantly be installed underground in the road reserves of the N1, R381 and R63 roads:

Beaufort West: 2nd Ave. → Park Ave. → Kerk Str. → New Str. → Donkin Str. (N1 / N12) →
Beaufort West to Loxton: R381 →
Loxton: Fraserburg Str. → Auret Str. / R381 →
Loxton to Carnarvon: R63 →
Carnarvon: Biblioteek Str. → Zahn Str. → Van Riebeeck Str. → Stasieweg Str.

Geagte Belanghebbende en Geaffekteerde Party

KENNISGEWING: AANSOEK VIR OMGEWINGSMAGTIGING, WATERVERBUIK MAGTIGING EN VERWANTE PUBLIEKE DEELNAME PROSES VIR DIE VOORGESTELDE "SQUARE KILOMETRE ARRAY" (SKA) OPTIESE VESEL KABEL TUSSEN BEAUFORT WES EN CARNARVON, IN DIE WESKAAP EN NOORDKAAP PROVINSIES.

Omgewingsmagtigings Verwysings Nommer: Moet steeds toegewys word.
Waterverbuik-magtiging Verwysings Nommer: WU18079.

U word hiermee in kennis gestel dat die "South African National Research Network" (SANReN), die Aansoeker, voorstel om 'n hoë-spoed optiese vesel internet kabel tussen Beaufort West en Carnarvon te installeer. Die optiese vesel kabel word benodig om die konneksie tussen die "Square Kilometre Array" (SKA) radioteleskoop in die Noordkaap en 'n bestaande dataverwerkingsfasiliteit in Kaapstad, in die Weskaap, te voltooi. Optiese vesel infrastruktuur bestaan reeds tussen die SKA en Carnarvon, en tussen Beauort Wes en Kaapstad.

Die voorgestelde roete vir die nuwe optiese vesel kable sal die N1, R381 en R63 paaie volg vir 'n afstand van ongeveer 183 km vanaf Beaufort Wes, via Loxton, tot in Carnarvon. Die projek is dus geleë in die Beaufort Wes munisipaliteit (Sentrale Karoo Distrik, Weskaap), en die Ubuntu en Kareeberg munisipaliteite (Pixley ka Seme Distrik, Noodkaap).

The kabel sal hoosaaklik ondergrond en binne die pad reserwes van die N1, R381 and R63 paaie installeer word:

Beaufort West: 2nd Ave. → Park Ave. → Kerk Str. → New Str. → Donkin Str. (N1 / N12) →
Beaufort West na Loxton: R381 →
Loxton: Fraserburg Str. → Auret Str. / R381 →
Loxton na Carnarvon: R63 →
Carnarvon: Biblioteek Str. → Zahn Str. → Van Riebeeck Str. → Stasieweg Str.

Where underground installation of the cable is unfeasible (i.e. Molteno, Blounek and Rosedene passes) the cabling will be installed on poles 7.5 – 9 m tall, potentially just outside the road reserve on the following properties:

Molteno Pass:

- Erf 3545, Beaufort West region [C00900010000354500000] (Karoo National Park).
- Erf 1707, Beaufort West region [C00900010000170700000] (Karoo National Park).
- Portion 9 of the Farm Alwins Gate 186 [C00900000000018600009] (Karoo National Park).
- Portion 1 of the farm Matjes Valie 103 [C00900000000010300001].
- Road reserve of R 381, as far as possible.

Blounek Pass:

- Remainder of the Farm Waterval 97 [C00900000000009700000].
- Remainder of the Farm Middle Kraal 98 [C00900000000009800000].
- Road reserve of R 381, as far as possible.

Roseberg Pass:

- Within road reserve of the R381.

The proposed project triggers Listed Activities that require a **Basic Assessment (BA) process** in terms of the National Environmental Management Act (Act 107 of 1998, as amended) (NEMA) and the 2014 NEMA Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations (as amended, 2017). An Application for Environmental Authorisation (EA) will be submitted to the Competent Authority for the EA, the National Department of Environment, Forestry and Fisheries (DEFF).

Furthermore, the proposed fibre optic cable may cross multiple watercourses (including rivers and drainage lines) which require water use authorization in terms of the National Water Act (Act 36 of 1998, as amended). A **water use General Authorisation (GA)**, as per GN 509 of the NWA, has been issued by the Competent Authority for the water use authorisation, Regional Department of, Water and Sanitation (DWS) of the Lower Orange Water Management Area (WMA).

Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) Environmental Management Services has been appointed as the independent Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP) to undertake and manage the BA and GA processes for the proposed project on behalf of the Project Applicant. However, since CSIR is the parent organisation of SANReN (i.e. the Applicant and the EAP are both associated with the CSIR), an independent peer review EAP (from SLR Consulting SA) has been appointed.

Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) are hereby notified of the release of the draft BA Report for the proposed project for a 30-day review period from 30 August to 30 September 2021.

Waar dit onprakties is om die kabel te begrawe (bv. die Molteno, Blounek en Rosedene passe) sal die kabel op pale, tussen 7.5 – 9 m hoog, installeer word, moontlik nêr buite die padreserwe op die volgende eiendomme:

Molteno Pas:

- Erf 3545, Beaufort West steek [C00900010000354500000] (Karoo Nasionale Park).
- Erf 1707, Beaufort West streek [C00900010000170700000] (Karoo Nasionale Park).
- Porsie 9 van Alwins Gate 186 [C00900000000018600009] (Karoo Nasionale Park).
- Porsie 1 van Matjes Valie 103 [C00900000000010300001].
- Padreseerwe van die R 381, sover moontlik.

Blounek Pas:

- Restant van Waterval 97 [C00900000000009700000].
- Restant van Middle Kraal 98 [C00900000000009800000].
- Padreseerwe van die R381, sover moontlik.

Roseberg Pas:

- Padreseerwe van die R381.

Die voorgestelde projek sluit aktiwiteite in wat 'n **Basiese Assessering (BA)** proses in terme van die "National Environmental Management Act" (Wet 107 van 1998, soos gewysig) (NEMA) en die 2014 NEMA "Environmental Impact Assessment" (EIA) Regulasies (soos gewysig, 2017) benodig. 'n Aansoek vir Omgewingsmagtiging (OM / "EA") sal aan die Bevoegde Owerheid – die Nasionale Departement van Omgewing, Bosbou en Visserie – ingedien word.

Verder, die voorgestelde kabel gaan verskeie riviere en dreineringslyne deursoek. Hierdie riverkruisings vereis watergebruik-magtiging in terme van die "National Water Act" (Wet 36 of 1998, soos gewysig). 'n **Algemene Magtiging (AM / "GA")** vir watergebruik is uitgereik deur die Bevoegde Owerheid – die Streeksdepartement vir Water en Sanisasie in beheer vir die Laer Oranje waterbestuursarea.

Die Wetenskaplike en Nywerheid Navorsingsraad (WNNR / "CSIR") se "Environmental Management Services" is aangestel as die onafhanklike Omgewingsassessering Praktisyn (OAP / "EAP") om die BA en AM prosesse te onderneem. Die WNNR is egter die voorgesorgde organisasie van SANReN, en dus is 'n addisionele onafhanklike en eksterne hersiener (van "SLR Consulting SA") aangestel.

'Belanghebbende en Geaffekteerde Partye (B&GPs) word hiermee in kennis gestel van die vrystelling van die konsep BA Verslag) vir die voorgestelde projek vir 30 dae vanaf 30 Augustus tot 30 September 2021.

The draft BA Report is available online at: <https://www.csir.co.za/environmental-impact-assessment> or <http://bit.ly/SKAfibre-PPP>.

Hard copies of the BAR summary are available at the following locations during the 30-day commenting period on the draft BAR:

- Beaufort West: Klein Karoo Agri (80 Donkin Str.).
- Loxton: Loxton Library / Municipality (Corner of Margaretha Prinsloo Str. and Probart Str.).
- Carnarvon: SARA0 Visitors Centre (Corner of Victoria and Hanau Street).

All comments received from I&APs and stakeholders during the review of the draft BA Report will be considered and included in the final BA Reports. The final BA report will then be submitted to the Competent Authority, the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE) for decision-making in line with Regulation 19 (1) (a) of the National Environmental Management Act (NEMA) Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations (2014, as amended).

Should you have any questions, wish to register as an I&AP and / or to provide comments on the proposed project, you are kindly requested to e-mail, fax or post your details and comments to:

Attention: Luanita Snyman-Van der Walt.
Reference: SKA fibre.
Email: ems@csir.co.za (preferred).
PO Box 320, Stellenbosch, 7599.
Tel: 021 888 2400.
Fax: 021 888 2693.

I&APs can also complete an online Registration and Comment form here: <http://bit.ly/SKAfibre-IAP>.

Public participation is conducted in accordance with the NEMA and the Protection of Personal Information Act (<https://www.csir.co.za/csir-privacy-notice>).

Thank you in advance for your participation in this project. Should you have any queries or require additional information please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned using the contact details provided above.

Kind regards,



Luanita Snyman-Van der Walt (Pr.Sci.Nat. 400128/16)
Project Manager and EAP | Projekbestuurder en EAP
CSIR | WNNR Environmental Management Services

Die konsep BA Verslag is aanlyn beskikbaar by: <https://www.csir.co.za/environmental-impact-assessment> of <http://bit.ly/SKAfibre-PPP>.

Harde kopieë van die BA Verslag opsomming is beskikbaar gedurende die 30-dae kommentaar tydperk by die volgende ligginge:

- Beaufort West: Klein Karoo Agri (80 Donkin Str.).
- Loxton: Loxton Biblioteek / Munisipale gebou (hoek van Margaretha Prinsloo Str. en Probart Str.).
- Carnarvon: SARA0 Besoekersentrum (hoek van Victoria and Hanau Str.).

Kommentaar ontvang van G&BPs gedurende die hersieningsperiode sal in ag geneem word, en in die finale BA Verslag ingesluit word. Die finale BA Verslag sal dan aan die Bevoegde Owerheid, die Departement van Omgewingsake / "Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment" (DFFE), ingedien word vir besluitneming volgens Regulasie 19 (1) (a) van die "National Environmental Management Act" (NEMA) "Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulasies (2014, soos gewysig).

Indien u enige vrae het, wil registreer as 'n G&BP, en / of will kommentaar op die voorgestelde optiese vesel kabel projek will lewer, kan u gerus 'n epos, fax, of pos stuur aan:

Aandag: Luanita Snyman-Van der Walt.
Verwysing: SKA fibre.
Epos: ems@csir.co.za (verkies).
Posbus 320, Stellenbosch, 7599.
Tel: 021 888 2400.
Faks: 021 888 2693.

G&BPs kan ook 'n aanlyn Registrasie en Kommentaar form hier voltooi: <http://bit.ly/SKAfibre-IAP>.

Publieke deelname word uitgevoer per die vereistes van die NEMA en die "Protection of Personal Information Act" (<https://www.csir.co.za/csir-privacy-notice>).

Byvoorbaat dankie vir u deelname in hierdie projek. Indien u enige navrae het of addisionele inligting benodig, kontak gerus die ondergetekende by die bogenoemde besonderhede.

Vriendelike groete,