

APPENDIX C7:  
Minutes of Meetings

**GRID CONNECTION INFRASTRUCTURE FOR THE  
PROPOSED 100MWac VREDE and 100MWac RONDAVEL  
SOLAR ENERGY FACILITY, BATTERY ENERGY STORAGE  
SYSTEM (BESS) AND ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE  
LOCATED NEAR KROONSTAD, FREE STATE PROVINCE.  
(DFFE Ref. No.: 14/12/16/3/3/1/2405 and  
14/12/16/3/3/1/2406)**

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**MEETING NOTES OF FOCUS GROUP MEETING WITH THE MOQHAKA  
LOCAL MUNICIPALITY AND FEZILE DABI DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY  
HELD ON THURSDAY, 19 AUGUST 2021 at 11:00  
VENUE: MICROSOFT TEAMS, VIRTUAL MEETING**

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**Notes for the Record prepared by:**

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

***Please note that these notes are not verbatim, but a summary of the comments submitted at the meeting.  
Please address any comments to Savannah Environmental at the above address***

**GRID CONNECTION INFRASTRUCTURE FOR THE PROPOSED 100MWac VREDE and 100MWac RONDAVEL SOLAR ENERGY FACILITY, BATTERY ENERGY STORAGE SYSTEM (BESS) AND ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE LOCATED NEAR KROONSTAD, FREE STATE PROVINCE**

**MEETING ATTENDEES**

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<b>Name</b>	<b>Position</b>
<b>Moqhaka Local Municipality</b>	
Andre Kotze	Manager – Spatial Planning
Louis Greef	Manager – Electricity
Masheleni Tshitereke	Town Planner
Rebone Tshesane	Town Planner
<b>Mainstream Renewable Power</b>	
Gesie Theron	Senior Development Manager
<b>Savannah Environmental</b>	
Jo-Anne Thomas	Environmental Assessment Practitioner
Mmakoena Mmola	
Nicolene Venter	Public Participation & Social Consultant
Tumelo Mathulwe	Public Participation Consultant

**APOLOGIES**

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No apologies were tendered.

The Attendance Record is attached as **Appendix A** to the meeting notes.

**WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION**

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Nicolene Venter welcomed the attendees at the Focus Group Meeting (FGM) and thanked them for their attendance.

**PRESENTATION**

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Mmakoena Mmola presented the following:

- project description for the proposed Grid Connection Infrastructure for the proposed 100MWac Vrede and 100MWac Rondavel Solar Photovoltaic (PV) Facilities, Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS) and associated infrastructure;
- the Basic Assessment (BA) and public participation processes followed to date;
- the environmental studies undertaken;
- key summary of the results of the various environmental studies undertaken as documented in the BA Reports;
- summary of the direct, indirect, and cumulative impacts; and
- the way forward after the meeting.

The presentation is attached as **Appendix B** to the meeting notes.

## DISCUSSION SESSION

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Question / Comment	Response
<b>André Kotze</b>	
Informed the project team that the presentation offered sufficient context regarding the proposed projects and if any further information is required, the municipality will access it on the Savannah Environmental website. He added that should any comments arise; these would be submitted in writing during the commenting period.	Nicolene Venter thanked Mr Kotze for the comment and informed the attendees that they would receive a reminder to comment on the projects one week prior to the conclusion of the commenting period.  <b>Post-meeting note:</b> The .KML files for the two projects were sent to Anton Kotze on 20 August 2021
<b>Louis Greef</b>	
Enquired whether Eskom is involved in the project.	Nicolene Venter responded that Eskom is a key stakeholder on the project's database and is part of the consultation process.  Gesie Theron added that prior to commencement of the Basic Assessment (BA) process, a preliminary engineering study was undertaken to obtain a better understanding of the area's electrical grid network capacity and the appointed Engineers did liaise with Eskom as part of the studies scope of work..

## WAY FORWARD AND CLOSURE

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Nicolene Venter informed the attendees that the presentation will be distributed shortly after the FGM was concluded.

She thanked the participants for making time available to attend the FGM and for their valuable comments submitted. The meeting was closed at 12h05.

## LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

BA	Basic Assessment	FGM	Focus Group Meeting
BAR	Basic Assessment Report	PV	Photovoltaic

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### Participants

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Invite someone or dial a number 🔍

🔗 **Share invite**

▾ In this meeting (10) **Mute all**

**TM** Tumelo Mathulwe 📵

**AK** André Kotze (Guest)  
Guest 📵

**GT** Gesie Theron  
Outside your organization 📵

**JT** Jo-Anne Thomas 📵

**LG** Louis Greeff (Guest)  
Guest 📵

**M** Masheleni (Guest)  
Guest 📵

**MM** Mmakoena Mmola 🗣️

**NV** Nicolene Venter 📵

**RT** Rebone Tshesane (Guest)  
Guest 📵

▾ Others invited (4)

**NB** Nondumiso Bulunga  
No response

**SP** Savannah Public Process  
No response

**HM** Hannes Maree

**WN** Willem Naude  
No response

**GRID CONNECTION INFRASTRUCTURE FOR THE  
PROPOSED 100MWac VREDE and 100MWac RONDAVEL  
SOLAR ENERGY FACILITY, BATTERY ENERGY STORAGE  
SYSTEM (BESS) AND ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE  
LOCATED NEAR KROONSTAD, FREE STATE PROVINCE.  
(DFFE Ref. No.: 14/12/16/3/3/1/2405 and  
14/12/16/3/3/1/2406)**

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**MEETING NOTES OF KEY STAKEHOLDER WORKSHOP  
HELD ON THURSDAY, 19 AUGUST 2021 at 14:00  
VENUE: MICROSOFT TEAMS, VIRTUAL MEETING**

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**Notes for the Record prepared by:**

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

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

**GRID CONNECTION INFRASTRUCTURE FOR THE PROPOSED 100MWac VREDE and 100MWac RONDAVEL SOLAR ENERGY FACILITY, BATTERY ENERGY STORAGE SYSTEM (BESS) AND ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE LOCATED NEAR KROONSTAD, FREE STATE PROVINCE**

**MEETING ATTENDEES**

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<b>Name</b>	<b>Position</b>
<b>South African Civil Aviation Authority</b>	
Lizell Stroh	Obstacle Inspector
<b>Department of Forestry Fisheries and the Environment</b>	
Qaphela Ndabankulu	Forestry Department – Free State
<b>South African Heritage Resources Agency</b>	
Sityhilelo Ngcatsha	Free State
<b>Transnet</b>	
Andiswa Njonga	Freight Rail – Free State
<b>Savannah Environmental</b>	
Jo-Anne Thomas	Environmental Assessment Practitioner
Mmakoena Mmola	
Nicolene Venter	Public Participation & Social Consultant
Tumelo Mathulwe	Public Participation Consultant

**APOLOGIES**

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Gesie Theron, Project Manager, South Africa Mainstream Renewable Power Developments (Pty) Ltd tendered her apology.

The Attendance Record is attached as **Appendix A** to the meeting notes.

**WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION**

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Nicolene Venter welcomed the attendees at the Key Stakeholder Workshop (KSW) and thanked them for their attendance.

She informed the attendees that the presentation will be distributed shortly after the KSW was concluded.

**PRESENTATION**

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Mmakoena Mmola presented the following:

- project description for the proposed Grid Connection Infrastructure for the proposed 100MWac Vrede and 100MWac Rondavel Solar Photovoltaic (PVs) Facilities, Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS) and associated infrastructure;
- the Basic Assessment (BA) and public participation processes followed to date;
- the environmental studies undertaken;
- key summary of the results of the various environmental studies undertaken as documented in the BA Reports;

- summary of the direct, indirect, and cumulative impacts; and
- the way forward after the meeting.

The presentation is attached as **Appendix B** to the meeting notes.

## DISCUSSION SESSION

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Question / Comment	Response
<b>Lizell Stroh – Submitted on the Meeting Chat Function</b>	
What is the height of the 132kV pylons?	Jo-Anne Thomas responded that they are up to 32 meters in height.
<b>Lizell Stroh</b>	
Stated that the South African Civil Aviation Authority (SACAA) awaits the obstacle application for this project.	Nicolene Venter responded that the comment will be forwarded to the applicant.  <b><u>Post Meeting Note:</u></b> The application to SACAA was submitted on 5 August 2021 for both projects

## WAY FORWARD AND CLOSURE

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Nicolene Venter thanked the participants for making time available to attend the FGM and for their valuable comments submitted. The meeting was closed at 12h05.

## LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

BA	Basic Assessment	SACAA	South African Civil Aviation Authority
BAR	Basic Assessment Report	PV	Photovoltaic
FGM	Focus Group Meeting		



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### Participants

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Invite someone or dial a number 🔍

🔗 Share invite

▾ In this meeting (8) **Mute all**

- TM** Tumelo Mathulwe 📴
- AP** Andiswa Njonga Transnet Freigh...  
Outside your organization 📴
- JT** Jo-Anne Thomas 📴
- LS** Lizell Stroh  
Outside your organization 📴
- MM** Mmakoena Mmola 📴
- NV** Nicolene Venter 📴
- QN** Qaphela Ndabankulu  
Outside your organization 📴
- SN** Sityhilelo Ngcatsha  
Outside your organization 📴

▸ Others invited (27)

**GRID CONNECTION INFRASTRUCTURE FOR THE  
PROPOSED 100MWac VREDE and 100MWac RONDAVEL  
SOLAR ENERGY FACILITY, BATTERY ENERGY STORAGE  
SYSTEM (BESS) AND ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE  
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**MEETING NOTES OF FOCUS GROUP MEETING WITH THE  
MOQHAKA FOR THE PEOPLE  
HELD ON FRIDAY, 20 AUGUST 2021 at 11:00  
VENUE: MICROSOFT TEAMS, VIRTUAL MEETING**

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**Notes for the Record prepared by:**

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

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**GRID CONNECTION INFRASTRUCTURE FOR THE PROPOSED 100MWac VREDE and 100MWac RONDAVEL SOLAR ENERGY FACILITY, BATTERY ENERGY STORAGE SYSTEM (BESS) AND ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE LOCATED NEAR KROONSTAD, FREE STATE PROVINCE**

**MEETING ATTENDEES**

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<b>Name</b>	<b>Position</b>
<b>Moqhaka for the People</b>	
Braam Visagie	Independent Consultant
Leonard Mafokosi	Member
Spiro Khoury	Chairman
Keke Ramantso	Executive Member
Dawid George	Executive Member
Paul Pie	Executive Member
<b>Savannah Environmental</b>	
Jo-Anne Thomas	Environmental Assessment Practitioner
Mmakoena Mmola	
Nicolene Venter	Public Participation & Social Consultant
Tumelo Mathulwe	Public Participation Consultant

**APOLOGIES**

---

Ms Gesie Theron, Project Manager, South Africa Mainstream Renewable Power Developments (Pty) Ltd.

The Attendance Record is attached as **Appendix A** to the meeting notes.

**WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION**

---

Nicolene Venter welcomed the attendees at the Focus Group Meeting (FGM) and thanked them for their attendance.

**PRESENTATION**

---

Mmakoena Mmola presented the following:

- project description for the proposed Grid Connection Infrastructure for the proposed 100MWac Vrede and 100MWac Rondavel Solar Photovoltaic (PV) Facilities, Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS) and associated infrastructure;
- the Basic Assessment (BA) and public participation processes followed to date;
- the environmental studies undertaken;
- key summary of the results of the various environmental studies undertaken as documented in the BA Reports;
- summary of the direct, indirect, and cumulative impacts; and
- the way forward after the meeting.

The presentation is attached as **Appendix B** to the meeting notes.

**DISCUSSION SESSION**

<b>Question / Comment</b>	<b>Response</b>
<b>Braam Visagie</b>	
<p>Asked for clarification on whether the proposed power lines are intended to connect to the Municipal grid network or the Eskom grid network.</p>	<p>Mmakoena Mmola responded that according to her knowledge, for the Vrede PV, the power line will loop in and loop out into the Kroonstad Municipality – Theseus Switching Station power line and for the Rondavel PV, the power line will loop in and loop out into the Kroonstad Municipality – Kroonstad Switching Station power line, or alternatively connect to the Kroonstad Substation, depending on which alternative is implemented. Mmakoena stated that she could not provide confirmation as to whether the Kroonstad power lines and substation form part of the Municipal or Eskom’s grid network.</p> <p><b>Post-meeting note:</b> It was confirmed that the grid network in and around the Kroonstad area is owned and operated by Eskom.</p>
<b>Spiro Khoury</b>	
<p>Stated that the Moqhaka for the People (MFP) are not opposed to the projects as they will strengthen the electricity to the municipality.</p> <p>He informed the project team that as previously stated, MFP wants the first right of refusal on the power that will be generated by the two PV plants and will purchase the power directly from Mainstream at the same rate that they will be selling to Eskom. MFP stated that they are standing firm by this approach.</p>	<p>Nicolene Venter thanked Mr Khoury for the comment and informed him that it will be included in the submission of the final Basic Assessment Reports (BAR).</p>
<b>Leonard Mafokosi</b>	
<p>Asked whether Mainstream must seek permission from the Moqhaka Local Municipality (MLM) to connect to the Kroonstad Municipal 132kV power lines and substation and whether the MLM is aware of these projects.</p>	<p>Mmakoena Mmola responded that the grid connection would be to the Eskom grid network and that the question as to whether permission for connecting to the grid network is required would be best answered by the Developer.</p> <p>Regarding whether the MLM is aware of the projects, Mmakoena stated that the officials</p>

	from the MLM attended the FGM held on Thursday, 19 August 2021.
Will there be any direct connection to Eskom?	Mmakoena Mmola stated that according to the information at hand, the infrastructure that the proposed power lines will connect to belongs to Eskom.
<b>Braam Visagie</b>	
Stated that the grid infrastructure does not belong to Eskom but to the MLM and that the project team needs to take this fact into consideration.	Nicolene Venter thanked Mr Visage for the information.  <b><u>Post-meeting note:</u></b> It was confirmed that the grid network in and around the Kroonstad area is owned and operated by Eskom.
<b>Spiro Khoury</b>	
Has the municipality approved the use of the grid?	Nicolene Venter responded that seeking approval is not part of the process being undertaken by Savannah Environmental. She added that agreements are between the MLM and Mainstream.  <b><u>Post-meeting note:</u></b> Since it has been confirmed that the Grid around the Kroonstad Area is owned and operated by Eskom, no official approval is required from the MLM.
<b>Braam Visagie</b>	
To place on the record, MFP has the first right of refusal with regard to the usage of the power to be generated from the proposed PV plants. It is important that the primary beneficiary of these projects be the Moqhaka community.  The projects have the blessing of the MFP under the condition that the MLM benefits from the projects before Eskom.	The comment was noted and recorded accordingly.  <b><u>Post-meeting note:</u></b> Gesie Theron stated that there are no agreements in place between Mainstream and MLM in this regard as the electricity will be generated for the national network or as alternatively defined by Mainstream.
<b>Spiro Khoury</b>	
Informed the project team that he reiterates Braam Visagie's comments.	This comment was noted and recorded accordingly.
Stated that Mainstream had previously said that they (Mainstream) are mandated to sell to Eskom, and it needs to be noted that MFP has the right to be governed the way they choose and that informs their stance on the first right of refusal regarding the electricity to be generated by the PV plants.	Jo-Anne Thomas thanked Mr Khoury for the comment and confirmed that it is related to these projects as well as the PV applications and is therefore noted and recorded accordingly.

## **WAY FORWARD AND CLOSURE**

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Nicolene Venter informed the attendees that the presentation will be distributed shortly after the FGM was concluded.

She thanked the participants for making time available to attend the FGM and for their valuable comments submitted. The meeting was closed at 12h00.

### **LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS**

BA	Basic Assessment	MFP	Moqhaka for the People
BAR	Basic Assessment Report	MLM	Moqhaka Local Municipality
BESS	Battery Energy Storage System	PV	Photovoltaic
FGM	Focus Group Meeting		

**FOCUS GROUP MEETING WITH THE  
MOQHAKA FOR THE PEOPLE**

<b>Full Name</b>	<b>Timestamp</b>
Tumelo Mathulwe	8/20/2021, 10:53:24 AM
Nicolene Venter	8/20/2021, 10:53:24 AM
Mmakoena Mmola	8/20/2021, 10:53:39 AM
Braam Visagie	8/20/2021, 10:56:20 AM
Jo-Anne Thomas	8/20/2021, 11:00:26 AM
Leonard Mafokosi (Guest)	8/20/2021, 11:05:09 AM

**Electrical Grid Infrastructure for the 100MW Vrede Solar PV  
Facility, Kroonstad, Free State Province**  
&  
**Electrical Grid Infrastructure for the 100MW Rondavel Solar  
PV Facility, Kroonstad, Free State Province**

Focus Group Meeting  
August 2021



# AGENDA

- Welcome and Introduction
- Meeting Conduct
- Purpose of the Meeting
- Project Description
- Basic Assessment Processes
- Results as Documented in the BA Reports
- Discussion
- Way Forward

# CONDUCT OF THE MEETING

- Recording of the meeting
- Please stay on mute during the presentation
- Register attendance on Chat function (name, surname & affiliation)
- 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 presentation
- Please raise your hand (virtual function) to ask a question

# PURPOSE OF THE MEETING

- Provide stakeholders & I&APs with an overview of the **Vrede & Rondavel Electrical Grid Infrastructure (separate projects)**
- Summary of the **Basic Assessment & Public Participation Process**
- Present summary of the key environmental findings as documented in the respective **Basic Assessment Reports**
- Provide stakeholders the opportunity to seek clarity regarding the projects and their respective environmental studies
- Obtain and record comments for inclusion in the **Final Basic Assessment Reports** to be submitted to the DFFE

# **PROJECT OVERVIEW**

**(Mmakoena Mmola)**

# PROJECT OVERVIEW

- **Applicant** – South Africa Mainstream Renewable Power Developments (Pty) Ltd
- **Project proposal** –
  - Electrical Grid Infrastructure to connect the Vrede Solar PV Facility to the Eskom Kroonstad Municipality - Theseus 1 132kV power line
  - Electrical Grid Infrastructure to connect the Rondavel Solar PV Facility to the Eskom Kroonstad Municipality – Kroonstad Switching Station 1 132kV power line, or the existing Kroonstad Municipality 132kV substation, depending on which grid corridor alternative is implemented
- **Location** – ~7km south-west of Kroonstad (Rondavel EGI) and ~13km south-west of Kroonstad (Vrede EGI) in the Free State Province, within the Fezile Dabi District, in the Moqhaka Local Municipality

# PROJECT OVERVIEW

## Vrede EGI (including a substation and powerline)

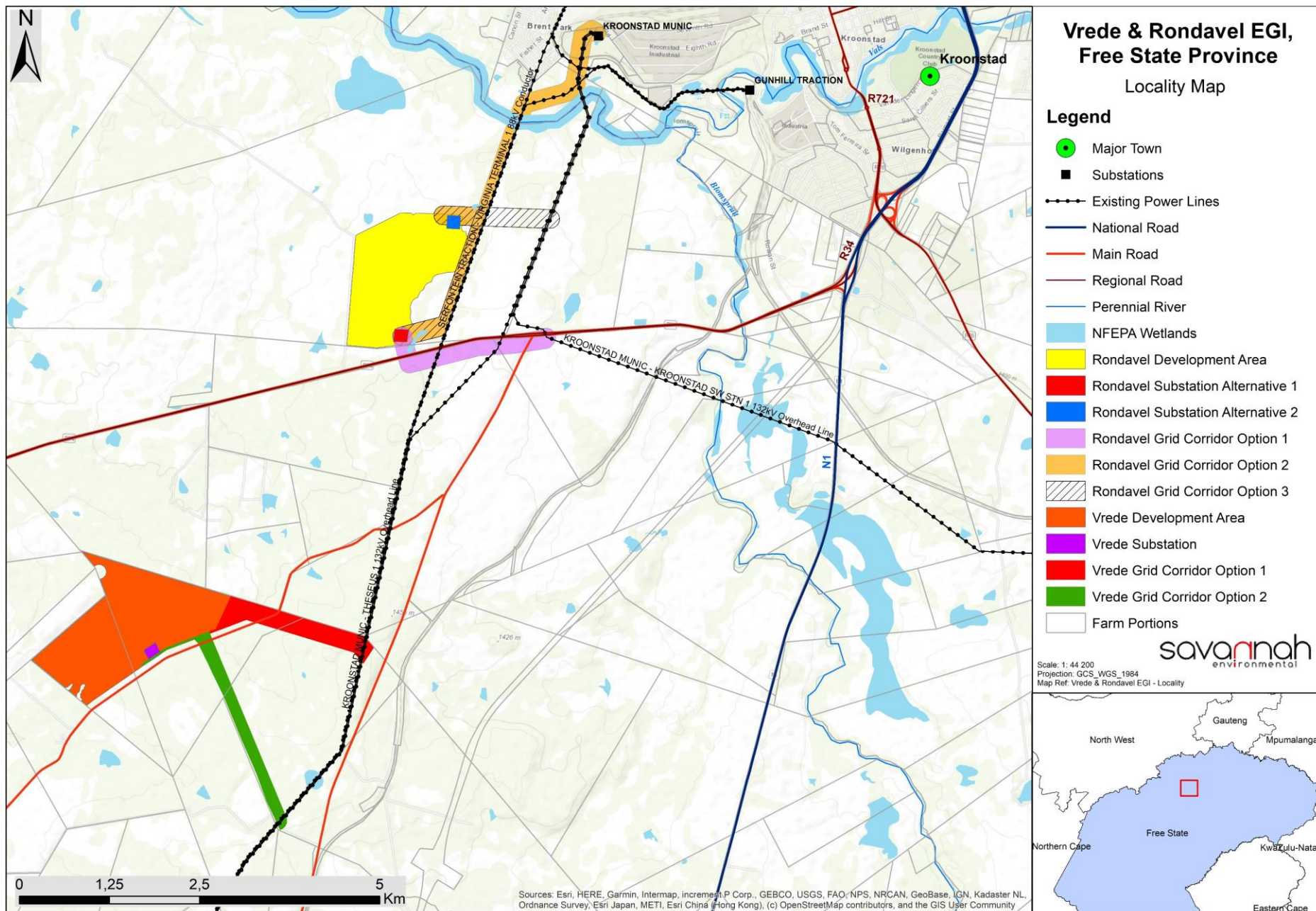
Capacity	Affected Properties	Infrastructure components	Grid Corridor Alternatives
33/132kV	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Remaining extent of the farm Vrede No. 1152</li> <li>Remaining Extent of the farm Gesukkel No. 1153</li> <li>Remaining Extent of the farm Geduld No. 1156</li> </ul>	On-site substation and associated 132kV power line	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Alternative 1: ~ 3.14km</li> <li>Alternative 2 (Preferred): ~ 3.47km</li> </ul>

## Rondavel EGI (including substation and powerline).

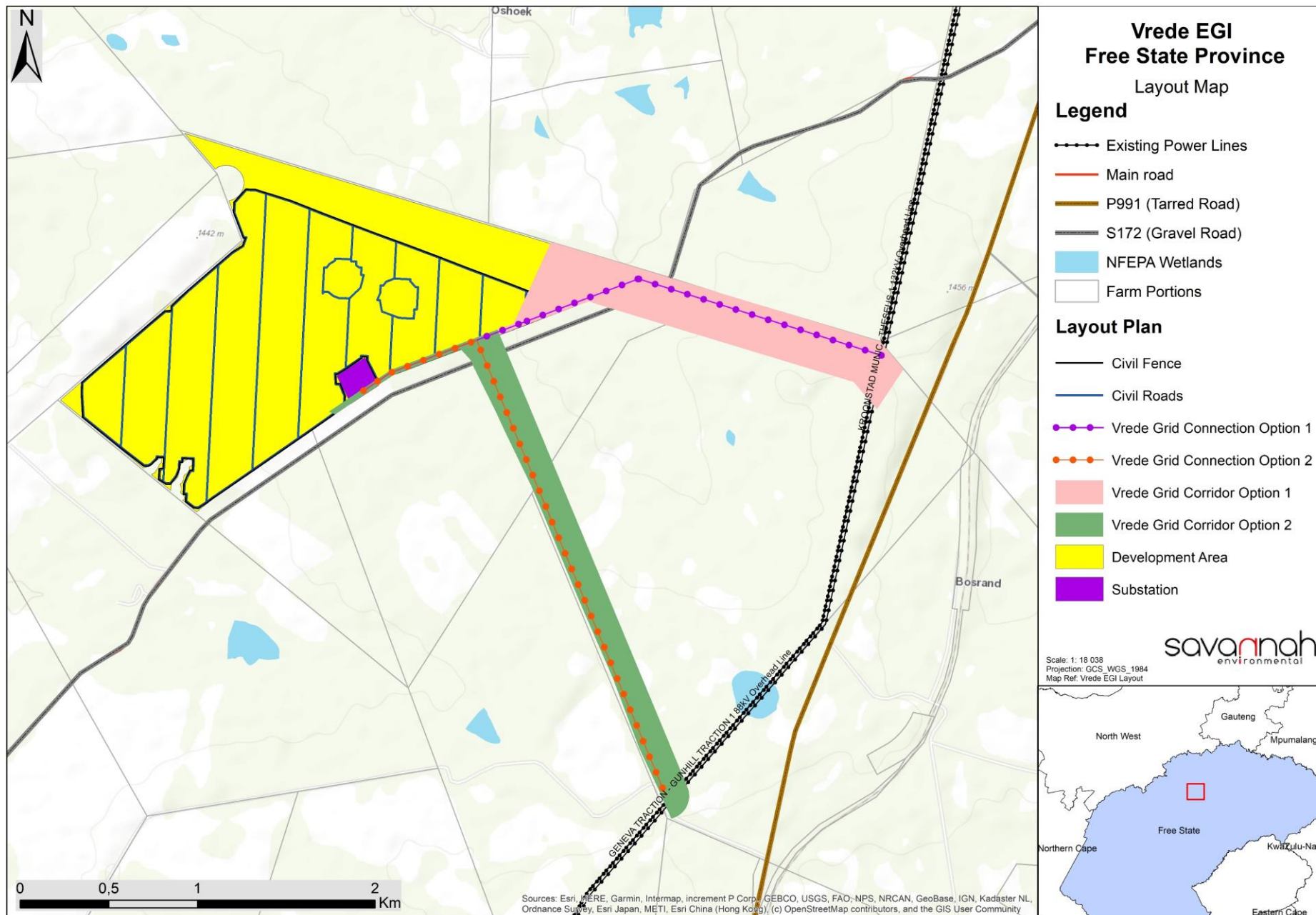
Capacity	Affected Properties	Infrastructure components	Alternatives
33/132kV	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Farm Rondavel No. 627 (Remaining Extent, Portion 1 and Portion 0)</li> <li>Farm Boschplaat No. 330 (Remaining Extent)</li> <li>Farm Salie No. 1837 (Remaining Extent)</li> <li>Farm Rondavel-Noord No. 1475 (Remaining Extent)</li> <li>Farm Naseby Thorns No. 288 (Portion 1)</li> <li>Farm Leeuwkrantz No. 1384 (Portion 0)</li> <li>Farm Dorp Gronden Van Kroonstadt No. 460 (Remaining Extent, Portion 225 and Portion 226)</li> <li>Farm Waterloo No. 1383 (Remaining Extent)</li> </ul>	On-site substation and associated 132kV power line	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Alternative 1 (Preferred): ~2.33km</li> <li>Alternative 2: Alternative 2: ~6.11km long</li> <li>Alternative 3: ~3.68km long.</li> </ul> <p>2 Alternative locations for the on-site substation within the PV facility footprint were also assessed.</p>



# COMBINED LOCALITY MAP

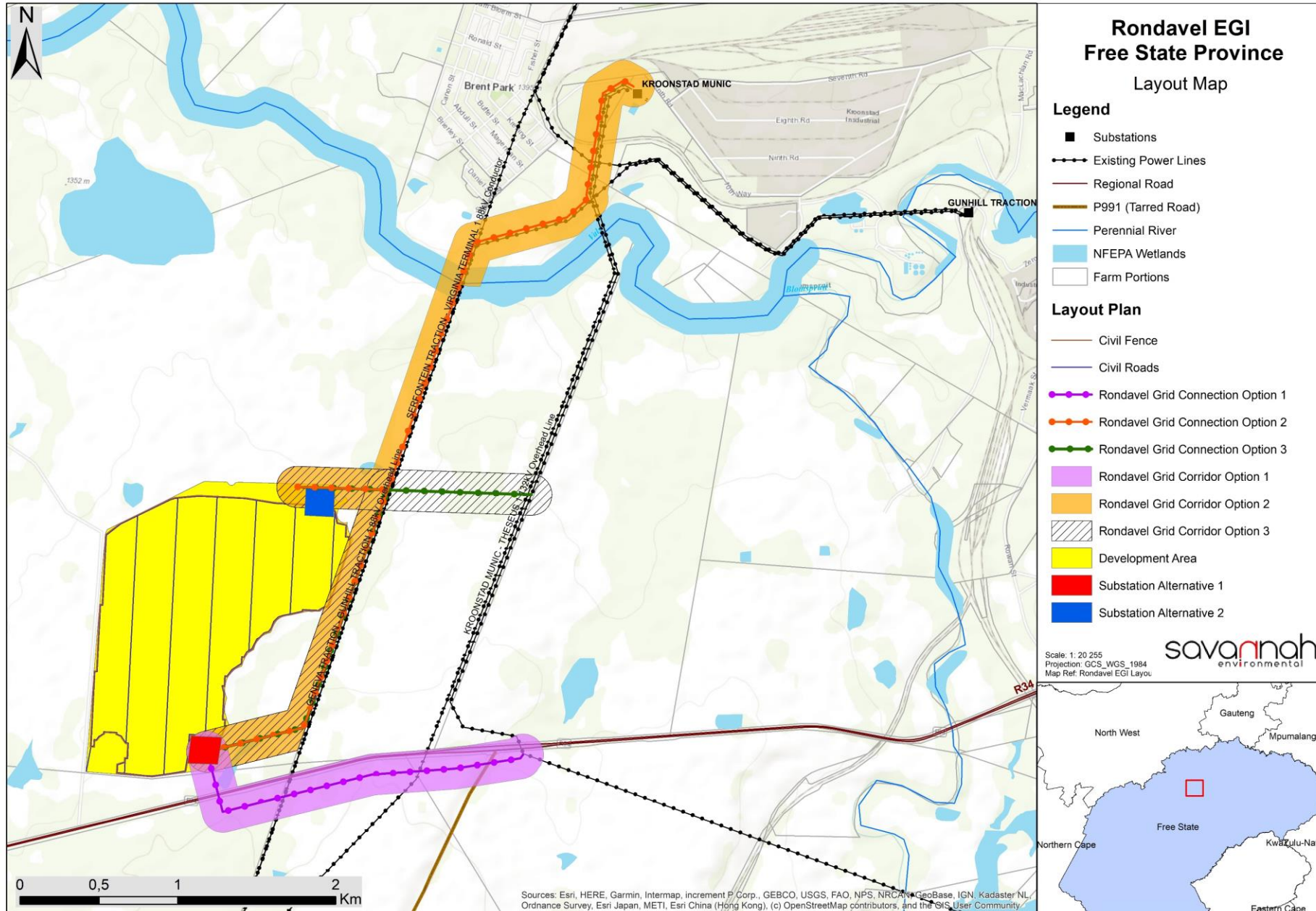


# LAYOUT MAP – VREDE EGI

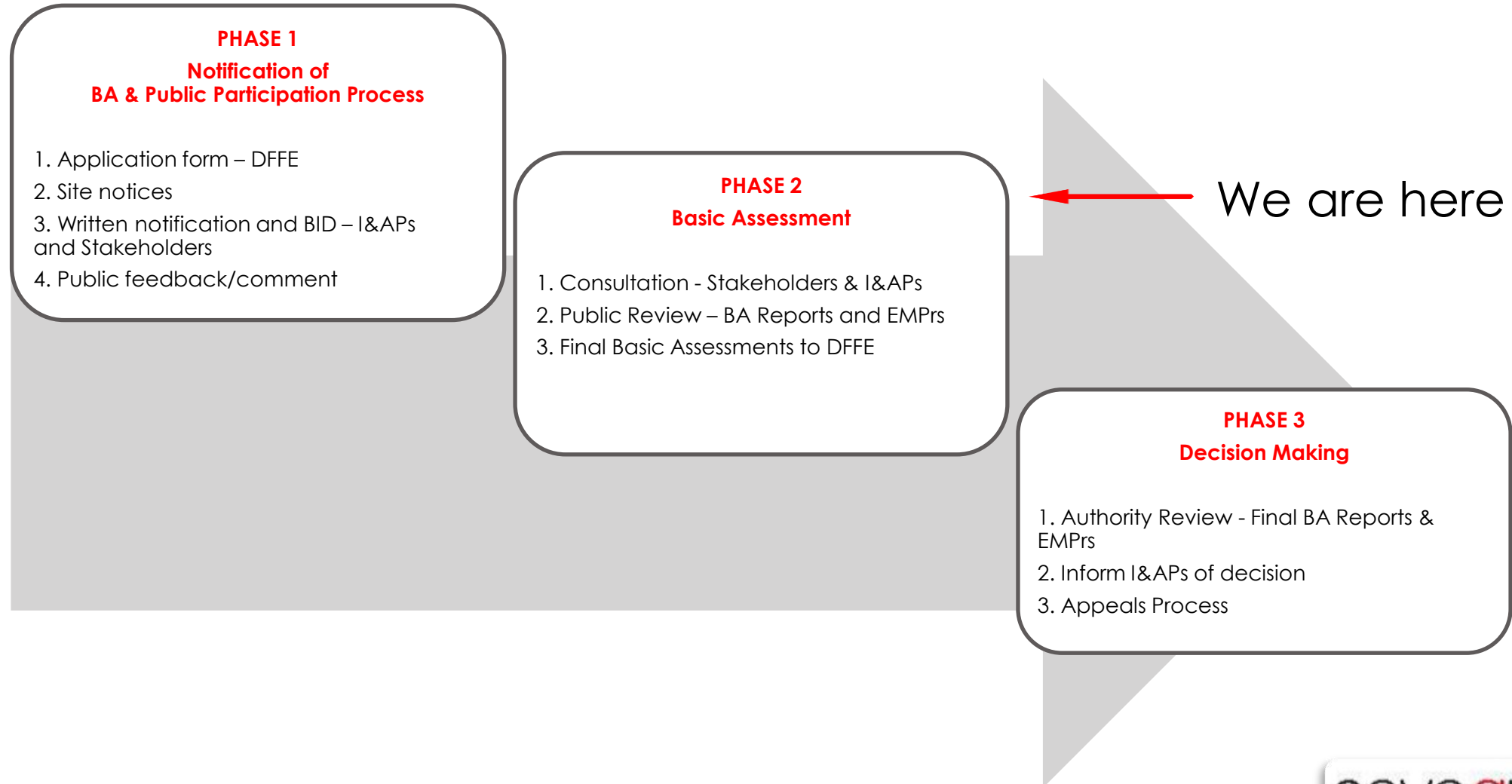




# LAYOUT MAP – RONDAVEL EGI



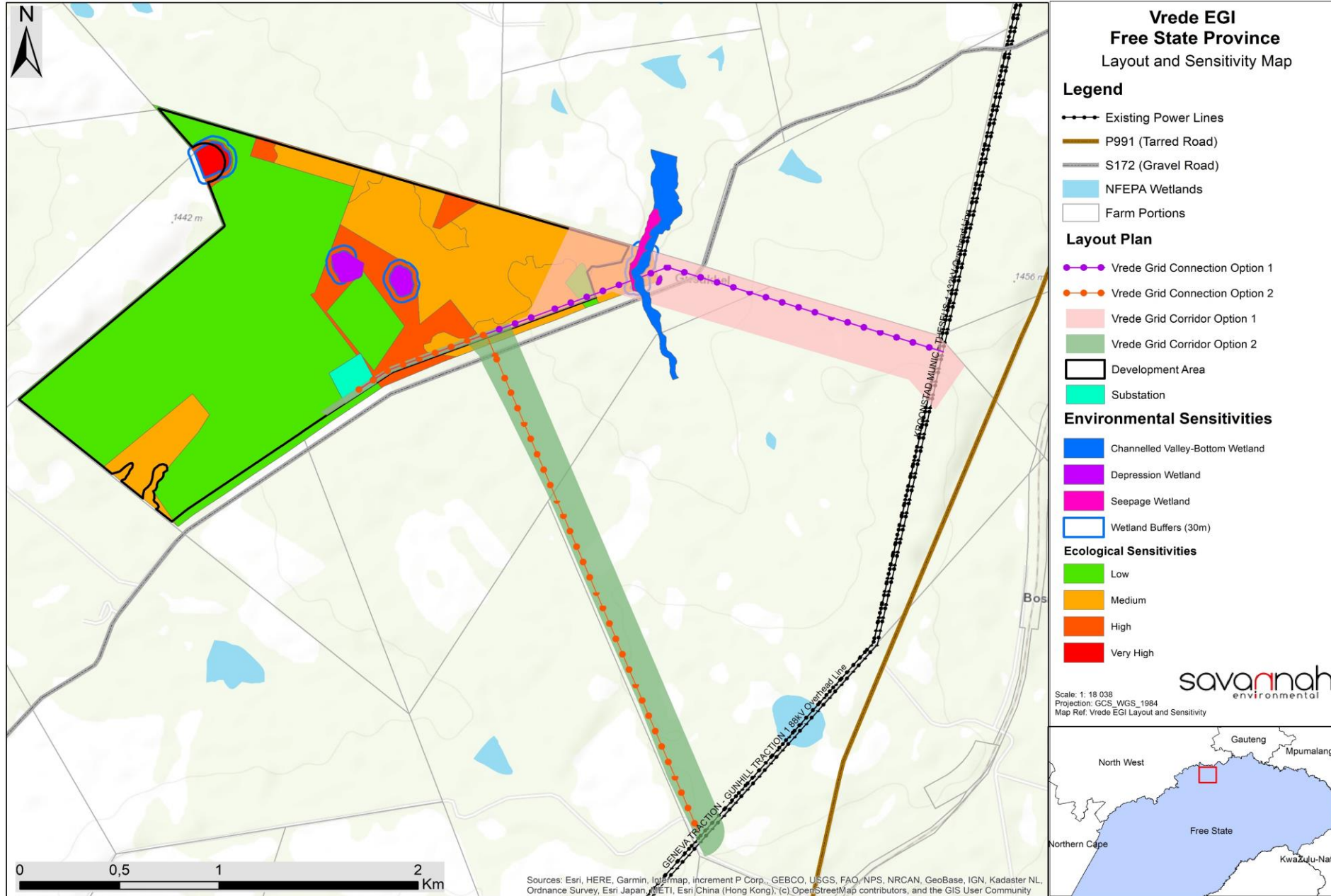
# BA PROCESS AND PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT



# SPECIALIST STUDIES

Specialist	Field of study
Gerhard Botha of Nkurenkuru Biodiversity	Terrestrial Ecology (including fauna and flora) Aquatic and freshwater
Chris van Rooyen of Chris van Rooyen Consulting	Avifauna
Jenna Lavin of Cedar Tower Services	Heritage (including archaeology and palaeontology)
Lourens du Plessis of LOGIS	Visual
Tony Barbour of Tony Barbour Consulting	Social

# OVERVIEW OF SENSITIVITIES - VREDE





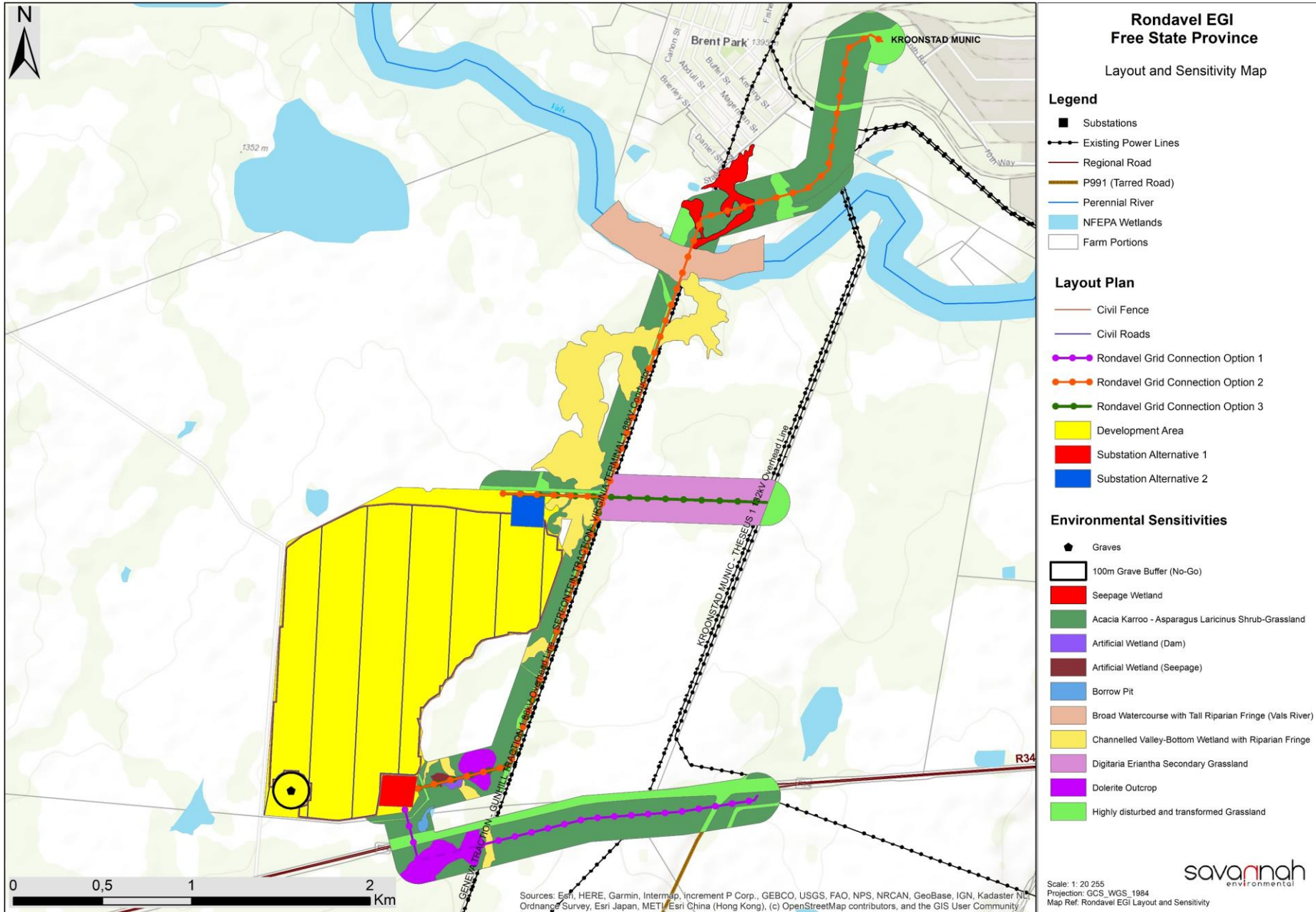
# SPECIALIST FINDINGS-VREDE

Environmental Aspect	Key findings, sensitivities and associated buffers
Ecological and Wetland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• No significant terrestrial ecological fatal flaws were identified.</li><li>• The specialist identified wetlands, which are at risk of impact.</li><li>• All <b>wetland features</b> were deemed very high sensitivity and a 30m no-go buffer around them is recommended.</li><li>• Natural grassland features that are representative of Vaal-Vet Sandy Grassland (Endangered) and which are located within CBA1 regions were also considered very high sensitivity features, although these were not considered no-go areas.</li></ul>
Avifauna	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 37 bird species classified as priority species, could potentially occur within the study area and surrounds, 2 of which are South African Red Data species.</li><li>• <b>Drainage Lines</b> - From an avifaunal perspective, the drainage lines were identified as being of high sensitivity as they are used by birds as flight paths.</li></ul>
Heritage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The development area has low archaeological sensitivity and high to very high palaeontological sensitivity, particularly the portion of the site where the Alternative 1 grid corridor is located.</li><li>• No archaeological and palaeontological resources of significance were recorded within the area proposed for the EGI.</li><li>• All excavations into bedrock are monitored by a suitably qualified palaeontologist.</li></ul>

# SPECIALIST FINDINGS-VREDE

Environmental Aspect	Key findings, sensitivities and associated buffers
Visual	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• No sensitive regions or buffers applicable.</li><li>• Due to the generally remote location of the proposed EGI, there are only a few potential sensitive visual receptors located within a 3km radius of the proposed infrastructure.</li><li>• It is expected that the power line (both alternatives) may theoretically be visible within the 3km visual corridor and potentially highly visible within a 500m radius of the power line structures due to the generally flat terrain it traverses.</li></ul>
Social	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• No sensitive regions or buffers applicable.</li><li>• The EGI and the renewable facility it will cater for will create employment and business opportunities for locals during both the construction and operational phase of the project.</li><li>• Since the proposed development is related to the proposed Vrede Solar PV Facility, it represents an investment in clean, renewable energy infrastructure, which represents a significant positive social benefit for society as a whole.</li></ul>

# OVERVIEW OF SENSITIVITIES - RONDABEL



# SPECIALIST FINDINGS-RONDAVEL

Environmental Aspect	Key findings, sensitivities and associated buffers
Ecological and Wetland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• No significant terrestrial ecological fatal flaws were identified.</li><li>• The specialist identified natural wetlands, which are at risk of impact. 2 artificial wetlands were also identified.</li><li>• All <b>wetland features</b> were deemed very high sensitivity and a 30m no-go buffer around them is recommended.</li><li>• Dolerite outcrops and Acacia karroo – Asparagus laricinus Shrub-Grassland were considered to be of medium sensitivity.</li></ul>
Avifauna	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 37 bird species classified as priority species, could potentially occur within the study area and surrounds, 2 of which are South African Red Data species.</li><li>• <b>Drainage Lines</b> - From an avifaunal perspective, the drainage lines were identified as being of high sensitivity as they are used by birds as flight paths.</li></ul>
Heritage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• No significant heritage resources were identified within any of the proposed grid alignment options. Four heritage resources were however identified within the development area proposed for the Rondavel SEF (including the two on-site substation alternatives), located adjacent to the proposed grid connection corridors, namely RDW001, RDW002, RDW003 and RDW004.</li><li>• RWD002, which has a high sensitivity, comprises a series of possible graves demarcated by piles of stones. A 100m buffer has been recommended around this site.</li><li>• The area proposed for development is underlain by sediments of moderate to very high palaeontological sensitivity</li></ul>



# SPECIALIST FINDINGS-RONDAVEL

Environmental Aspect	Key findings, sensitivities and associated buffers
Visual	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• No sensitive regions or buffers applicable.</li><li>• Due to the generally remote location of the proposed EGI, there are only a few potential sensitive visual receptors located within a 3km radius of the proposed infrastructure.</li><li>• It is expected that the power line (all three alternatives) may theoretically be visible within the 3km visual corridor and potentially highly visible within a 500m radius of the power line structures due to the generally flat terrain it traverses.</li></ul>
Social	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• No sensitive regions or buffers applicable.</li><li>• The EGI and the renewable facility it will cater for will create employment and business opportunities for locals during both the construction and operational phase of the project.</li><li>• Since the proposed development is related to the proposed Vrede Solar PV Facility, it represents an investment in clean, renewable energy infrastructure, which represents a significant positive social benefit for society as a whole.</li></ul>

# DIRECT AND INDIRECT IMPACTS - VREDE

Specialist Field	Impact Significance			
	Construction Phase		Operation Phase	
	Pre-Mitigation	Post-Mitigation/Enhancement	Pre-Mitigation	Post-Mitigation/Enhancement
Ecology	Medium and Low	Low	Medium and Low	Low
Aquatic Ecology (Wetlands)	Medium and Low	Medium and Low, with the majority being Low	Medium and Low	Medium and Low, with the majority being Low
Avifauna	Medium and Low	Medium and Low, with the majority being Low	Medium	Low
Heritage	Medium and Low	Low	No impacts anticipated for the operational phase	
Visual	Low	Low	Medium and Low	Low
Social	Low (Positive)	Low (Positive)	Medium and Low (Positive)	High and Low (Positive)
	Medium and Low (Negative)	Low (Negative)	Medium and Low (Negative)	Medium and Low (Negative)

# DIRECT AND INDIRECT IMPACTS - RONDAVEL

Specialist Field	Impact Significance			
	Construction Phase		Operation Phase	
	Pre-Mitigation	Post-Mitigation/Enhancement	Pre-Mitigation	Post-Mitigation/Enhancement
Ecology	Medium and Low	Low	Medium and Low	Low
Aquatic Ecology (Wetlands)	Medium	Low	Medium	Low
Avifauna	Medium	Low	Medium and Low	Medium and Low
Heritage	High and Medium	Low	No impacts anticipated for the operational phase	
Visual	Medium and Low	Medium and Low	Medium and Low	Medium and Low
Social	Low (Positive)	Low (Positive)	Medium and Low (Positive)	High and Low (Positive)
	Medium and Low (Negative)	Low (Negative)	Medium and Low (Negative)	Medium and Low (Negative)





# CUMULATIVE IMPACTS

- **Cumulative impacts:** Impacts that result from the incremental impact of the proposed activity on a common resource when added to the impacts of other past, present or reasonably foreseeable future activities (e.g. discharges of nutrients and heated water to a river that combine to cause algal bloom and subsequent loss of dissolved oxygen that is greater than the additive impacts of each pollutant).
- Cumulative impacts can occur from the collective impacts of individual minor actions over a period and can include both direct and indirect impacts.



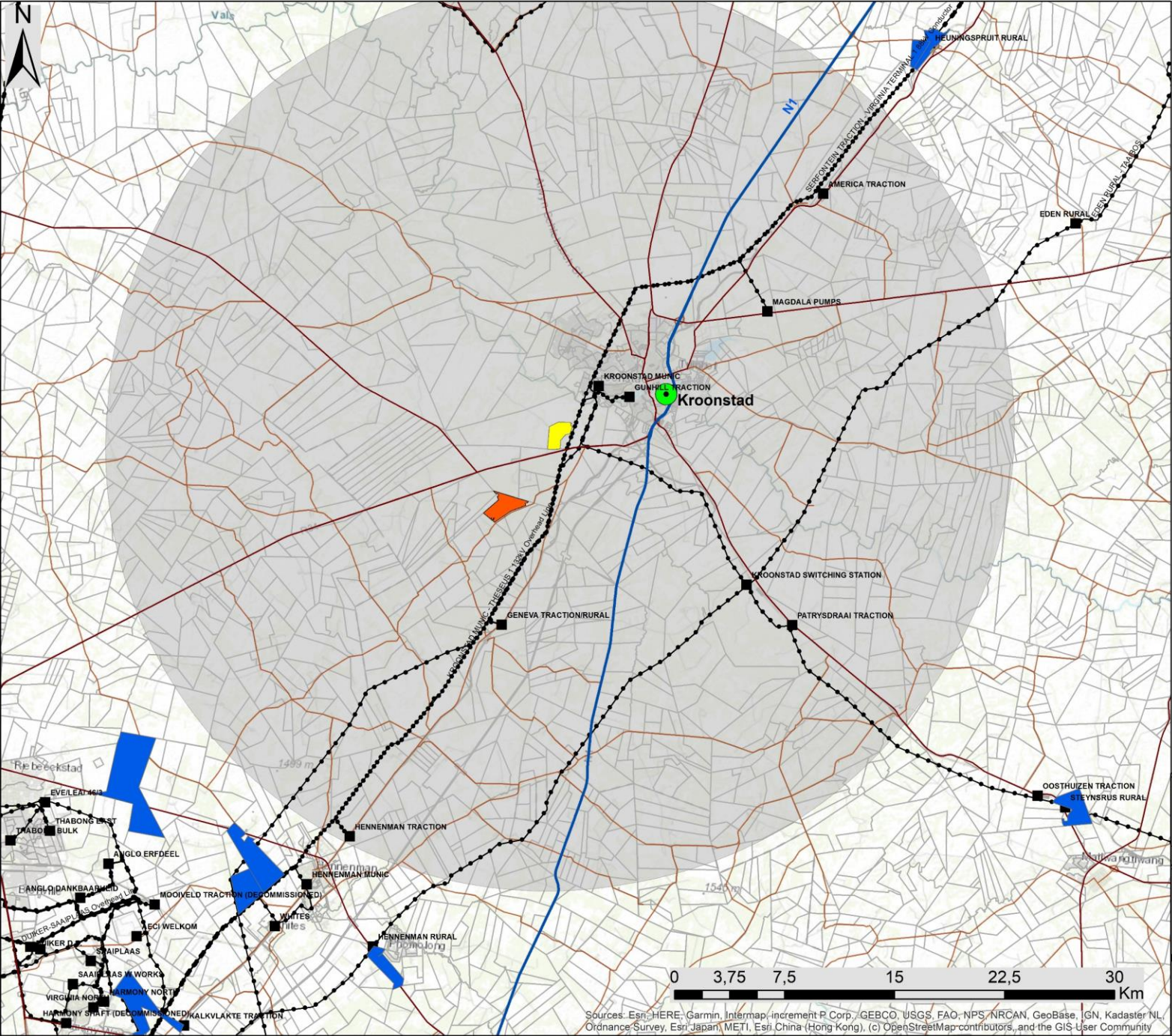
# Rondavel EGI Free State Province Cumulative Map

## Legend

-  Major Town
-  Substations
-  Existing Power Lines
-  National Road
-  Main Road
-  Regional Road
-  Rondavel Development Area
-  30km Radius
-  Farm Portions

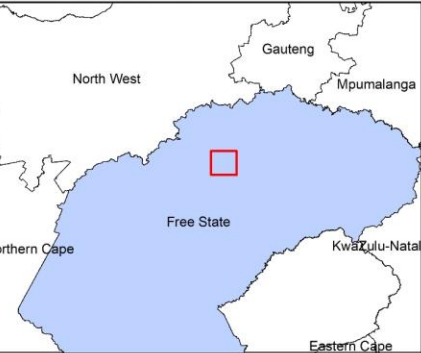
## Other Solar PV Developments:

-  Various Solar PV Facilities
-  Vrede Development Area



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environmental

Scale: 1: 247 810  
Projection: GCS\_WGS\_1984  
Map Ref: Rondavel EGI Cumulative



Sources: Esri, HERE, Garmin, Intermap, increment P Corp., GEBCO, USGS, FAO, NPS, NRCAN, GeoBase, IGN, Kadaster NL, Ordnance Survey, Esri Japan, METI, Esri China (Hong Kong), (c) OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS User Community



# SUMMARY OF CUMULATIVE IMPACTS

Specialist	Assessment of Issues – Vrede and Rondavel
Ecology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Loss of unprotected vegetation types on a cumulative basis from the broader area impacts the country's ability to meet its conservation targets.</li> <li>• Compromise ecological processes of CBAs as well as ecological functioning of important habitats.</li> <li>• Rated <b>Low</b> in isolation and <b>Low</b> when considered within the broader region.</li> </ul>
Aquatics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Transformation of intact freshwater resource habitats could potentially compromise ecological processes as well as ecological functioning of important habitats.</li> <li>• Rated <b>Low</b> in isolation and <b>Low</b> considered when within the broader region.</li> </ul>
Avifauna	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mortality and displacement of priority avifauna due to grid connection and on-site substation.</li> <li>• Rated <b>Low</b> in isolation and <b>Moderate to Low</b> when considered within the broader region.</li> </ul>
Heritage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cumulative impact to the cultural sense of place.</li> <li>• Rated <b>Low</b> in isolation and <b>Low</b> considered when within the broader region.</li> </ul>
Visual	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The potential cumulative visual impact of the grid infrastructure on the visual quality of the landscape.</li> <li>• Rated <b>Moderate to Low</b> in isolation and <b>Moderate</b> when considered within the broader region.</li> </ul>
Social	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Visual impacts associated with the establishment of associated grid infrastructure and the potential impact on the area's rural sense of place and character of the landscape.</li> <li>• The potential cumulative visual impact of the grid infrastructure on the visual quality of the landscape.</li> <li>• Rated <b>Low</b> in isolation and <b>Moderate</b> when considered within the broader region.</li> </ul>



# COMPARATIVE ASSESSMENT OF PROPOSED ALTERNATIVES -RONDABEL

	Grid Corridor Alternative 1	Grid Corridor Alternative 2	Grid Corridor Alternative 3
<b>Ecology</b>	Acceptable	Not Preferred	Preferred
<b>Avifauna</b>	Preferred	Acceptable	Acceptable
<b>Aquatic Resources</b>	Preferred	Not Preferred	Acceptable
<b>Heritage</b>	Acceptable	Acceptable	Acceptable
<b>Visual</b>	Acceptable	Acceptable	Preferred
<b>Social</b>	Acceptable	Acceptable	Preferred

	On-Site Substation Alternative 1	On-Site Substation Alternative 2
<b>Ecology</b>	Acceptable	Preferred
<b>Avifauna</b>	Acceptable	Acceptable
<b>Aquatic Resources</b>	Preferred	Acceptable
<b>Heritage</b>	Acceptable	Acceptable
<b>Visual</b>	Acceptable	Acceptable
<b>Social</b>	Acceptable	Acceptable

Considering the above findings, it can be concluded that Grid Corridor Alternatives 1 and 3 are most favourable, and either option can be authorised. Both on-substation options are considered acceptable. The preferred option will be informed by the final technical preference.

# COMPARATIVE ASSESSMENT OF PROPOSED ALTERNATIVES - VREDE

	Grid Corridor Alternative 1	Grid Corridor Alternative 2
<b>Ecology</b>	Not preferred	Preferred
<b>Avifauna</b>	Preferred	Acceptable
<b>Aquatic Resources</b>	Not preferred	Preferred
<b>Heritage</b>	Acceptable	Preferred
<b>Visual</b>	Acceptable	Preferred
<b>Social</b>	Acceptable	Preferred

Considering the above findings, it can be concluded that grid option 2 is considered preferred. It should however be noted that the final preferred option will be informed by the final technical preference.



# CONCLUSIONS

- Majority of potential impacts are associated with the construction phase
- Impacts range from local to regional/national in extent
- No identified environmental fatal flaws.
- All impacts associated with the proposed projects can be mitigated to acceptable levels or enhanced through the implementation of the recommended mitigation or enhancement measures.
- Cumulative impacts will be of a low to medium significance. Therefore, the development of both projects will not result in unacceptable, high cumulative impacts and will not result in a whole-scale change of the environment and is therefore considered acceptable from a cumulative impact perspective.
- Based on the conclusions of the specialist studies, it is concluded that the development of the projects will not result in unacceptable environmental impacts (subject to the implementation of the recommended mitigation measures).

# WAY FORWARD

# WAY FORWARD

- Basic Assessment Reports review and comment period: **06 August – 06 September** (can be downloaded from the Savannah Environmental website)
- Our Public Participation team is available to answer any questions
- Meeting notes to be distributed
- Final BA Reports to be submitted to DFFE for decision-making

# WHO TO CONTACT FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

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