

FINAL BASIC ASSESSMENT REPORT FOR THE PROPOSED PROSPECTING IN SEA CONCESSION AREA 7C BY TRANS ATLANTIC DIAMONDS (PTY) LTD

Trans Atlantic Diamonds (Pty) Ltd
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TRANS ATLANTIC
DIAMONDS

Appendix 17: Comments & Response Table

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APPENDIX 1.7 COMMENTS AND RESPONSES TABLE

Comments and response Table for Prospecting 7C			
Name	Date	Comment	Response
Written comments received throughout the Process			
Stakeholder 1	06/06/2022	Thank you for the notification. Kindly provide us with the shapefiles of the application area so that we can establish which petroleum exploration rights overlap with the application area in question.	This was sent to the stakeholder.
Stakeholder 2	06/06/2022	Please can you kindly register me as an interested and affected party in the application by Trans-Atlantic Diamonds for Block 7C	This stakeholder was included as an interested and affected party.
Stakeholder 3	22/06/2022	<p>SUBJECT: COMMENTS ON THE BACKGROUND INFORMATION DOCUMENT ON THE APPLICATION FOR PROSPECTING RIGHTS AND ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION TO PROSPECT IN THE OFFSHORE SEA CONCESSION AREA 7C.</p> <p>The Branch Oceans & Coasts (O&C) of the Department of Forestry, Fisheries, and the Environment (DFFE) appreciates the opportunity granted to comment on the Background Information Document on the Application for Prospecting Rights and Environmental Authorisation to Prospect in The Offshore Sea Concession Area 7C.</p> <p>The Branch O&C has provided recommendations in terms of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998), (“NEMA”) and the National Environmental Management: Integrated Coastal Management Act, 2008 (Act No. 24 of 2008) (“ICM Act”).</p> <p>The Branch O&C has the mandate to ensure the holistic management of the coast and estuarine areas as an integrated system and promote coordinated coastal management. It ensures that the ecological integrity, natural character, and economic, social, and aesthetic value of the coastal zone are maintained, and that people, properties, and economic activities are guarded against dynamic coastal processes.</p> <p>Guided by the principles of integrated coastal management, the Branch O&C continues to strive for social equity and promote the sustainable use of coastal resources. The Branch O&C will provide detailed comments and recommendations based on the assessment of the adequacy of proposed mitigation measures in the Marine Ecology Impact Assessment, Fisheries Impact Assessment, Socioeconomic Impact Assessment, and Climate Change and Air Emissions Impact Assessment.</p> <p>Please note the following recommendations for your considerations:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The report outlines that Trans-Atlantic Diamonds Pty Ltd (The Applicant) has applied for the right to prospect for diamonds and other gemstones and precious metals and ferrous and base metals such as rare earth in Sea Concession Area 7C. 	Thank you for the informative comment. Specialists studies as recommended have been conducted and studies circulated to the public for comment.

This area covers 200 246 ha and extends from 12km south of Hondeklipbaai (southern boundary) to 19km north of Hondeklipbaai (northern boundary) (Figure 1). The boundary closest to the shore starts approximately 5 km (2.7 nautical miles) west of the high-water mark at a water depth of 70 m. The concession extends 65 – 100 km westwards (at its furthest point) from this point to 200 m water depths.

2. The report further elaborates that sampling will be undertaken in four phases and includes a combination of non-invasive (acoustic survey, data acquisition, and analysis) and invasive activities (Van Veen grab, core, and drill samples). It is further detailed that sampling will be done at 20–50 sites where core samples will be collected at 100–200 sites, disturbing a total surface area of 5 square meters (m²) and a total volume of 1.5 cubic meters (m³) in which acoustic equipment will be used to send out sound towards the seabed to determine the presence of minerals. Consequently, impacts on marine ecology – potential disturbance of fauna (invertebrates, fish, mammals, seabirds, and turtles), the impact of fine sediment plumes on surrounding benthos and water column; damage to the seafloor, impact on benthic habitat communities, seabird features noise, shipping activities, waste discharges during vessel operations; and impacts on fisheries and the livelihoods of fishing communities due to exclusion from fishing grounds and disturbance of target fish species, impact on commercial and small-scale fisheries and/or fishing activities, tourism, noise, disturbance, and socio-economic impact on fisheries are anticipated.

3. While the EAP has embarked upon listing potential mitigation measures to inform assessment and report on the necessary mitigation measures to reduce impact, this recommends the following specialist studies to be undertaken to provide expert advice on each of the impacts, including recommended mitigation measures to inform decision-making:

- Marine Ecology Impact Assessment - to assess the impacts of proposed well drilling activities on the biophysical and ecological integrity of the seabed including impacts on; marine fauna and flora, the planned and future use of the adjacent coastal area, and whether this is in alignment and whether this proposal will augment/support the planned socio-economic development for the South- West coastline.

- Aquatic Biodiversity Impact Assessment- to assess the impact on aquatic biodiversity. A combination of environmental concerns relating to the proposed well drilling of the seabed necessitates that the merits of each proposal can be carefully weighed against the externalities to inform whether this proposal is socially responsible, economically justifiable, and ecologically sustainable.

- Fisheries Impact Assessment - to assess the long-term cumulative and unintended impact of the proposal on small-scale fishers, and fisheries research, sediment plume impact on fish stock recruitment during all project phases.

Cumulative Impact Assessment- Past assessment of similar applications has revealed that there is adequate consideration of cumulative impacts. The scope of cumulative

impacts is often limited to direct impacts (project-related activities) and the scope often fails to consider long-term, unintended impacts resulting from similar activities within one area of interest (other seismic surveys/exploration, drilling expeditions, oil, and gas activities). The aspect that is often unacknowledged is that all the anticipated impacts of the drilling, sampling, and/or surveying, are taking place together at the same locations.

This Branch would like the assessment reviewer and appointed specialist to take cognisance of this and report on the significance of these impacts in the next report.

4. The Branch O&C will provide detailed comments and recommendations during the next public process when specialist studies have been conducted and more information is available.

5. The Branch O&C requests to be registered as an I&AP.

Kindly note that the Department reserves the right to revise its comments and request further information based on any additional information that might be received. All future correspondence and documentation (hard copy and an electronic copy) must be submitted to our office via OCEIA@dffe.gov.za / or Physical

Address: Department of Forestry, Fisheries & the Environment (DFFE), Branch: Oceans and Coast, 2 East Pier Building, East Pier Road, Victoria and Alfred Waterfront, Cape Town, 8001.

Stakeholder 5

23/06/2022

RE: Trans Atlantic Diamonds (Pty) Ltd APPLICATION: PROSPECTING RIGHTS AND ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION TO PROSPECT IN THE OFFSHORE SEA CONCESSION AREA 7C.

SANParks is hereby registering as Interested and Affected Party for the above project. SANParks takes note of the proposed project, as described below.

Trans Atlantic Diamonds Pty Ltd (The Applicant) has applied for the right to prospect for diamonds and other gemstones and precious metals and ferrous and base metals such as rare earths in Sea Concession Area 7C. This area covers 200 246 ha and extends from 12km south of Hondeklipbaai (southern boundary) to 19km north of Hondeklipbaai (northern boundary) (Figure 1). The boundary closest to the shore starts approximately 5 km(2.7 nautical miles) west of the high-water mark at a water depth of 70 m. The concession extends 65 – 100 km westwards (at its furthest point) from this point to 200 m water depth (Figure 2 below).

SANParks also takes note that only prospecting activities have been applied for in the current application and will consist of: Geophysical/Acoustic Surveys: Acoustic equipment is used to send out sound towards the seabed. The sound energy is reflected from the seabed and travels back to the receiver.

Van Veen Grab sampling: Sampling will be done at 20–50 sites, disturb a total surface area of 5 square meters (m2) and a total volume of 1.5 cubic meters (m3).

Core sampling: Core samples will be collected at 100–200 sites. The core samples will disturb a total surface area of 1.57 m2 and collect a total volume of 4.71 m3.

Drilling: Target areas will be sampled using a drill with a surface area of 5m2. In total, 1 500 samples will be collected and will cover a surface area of 7 500 m2. A total surface area of 7 507 m2 (0.75 ha) will be disturbed during all phases

Thank you for the informative comments. Please note that all information as requested has been detailed in the Basic Assessment Report.

	<p>in a biodiversity important area;</p> <p>impact of fine sediment plumes on surrounding benthos and water column, impacting fishing areas and MPA ecosystems;</p> <p>Improper waste discharges during vessel operations;</p> <p>Impacts on fisheries and the livelihoods of fishing communities due to exclusion from fishing grounds and disturbance of target fish species. SANParks remains concerned about the future impact on livelihood and biodiversity impacts.</p>	
<p>Stakeholder 6</p>	<p>RE: APPLICATION FOR PROSPECTING RIGHTS AND ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION TO PROSPECT IN THE OFFSHORE SEA CONCESSION AREA 7C, IN HONDEKLIP BAY.</p> <p>The Directorate: Sustainable Aquaculture Management of the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment ("DFFE") has reviewed the Background Information Document for the proposed prospecting in the offshore sea concession area 7C by Trans Atlantic Diamonds (Pty) Ltd. The comments of the DFFE are as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1.The DFFE, Branch: Fisheries Management has a mandate in the development and management of aquaculture in South Africa, please register the Directorate: Sustainable Aquaculture Management as an Interested and Affected Party (I&AP). 2.The proposed Trans Atlantic Diamonds prospecting right within the concession 7C area falls within the Northern Cape sea-based aquaculture ranching concession area. 3.Diamond Coast Abalone (Pty) Ltd has a valid ranching abalone ranching right and permit issued by the Department. The ranching concession area, NC 4 has the following coordinates [-30.102264 °; 17.185564° (Land side), -30.101241°; 17.154059° (Sea side), -30.432294°; 17.334842° (Land side), -30.432047°; 17.303689° (Sea side)] and has been seeded with abalone. 4.Diamond Coast Aquaculture is a land based facility (location: -30 19' 04.18"; 17 16' 22.19"), abstracting and discharging sea water in the proposed prospecting area. The operator of this facility needs to be consulted to ensure that access is not denied to the coast for servicing their pipes and other operations. Please do ensure that Diamond Coast Abalone is included as and I&AP. <p>The Environmental Impact Assessment process for the proposed prospecting in concession area 7C should consider the already approved and seeded aquaculture ranching concession areas for the Northern Cape. The application should consider the necessary specialist studies, such as but not limited to Dispersion Modelling and Marine Ecological Assessments, to assess the impacts of proposed mining application might pose to the seeded abalone ranching concession areas and the aquaculture operations in the area.</p>	<p>Thank you for the informative comments. We will make sure to consider the listed concerns and suggestion in the final BAR.</p>
	<p>23/06/2022</p>	

	<p>of heavy metal accumulation and resuspension from the sediments emanating from the mining activity located near the ranching site, which have the potential to impact ranched abalone by accumulating heavy metals in the flesh of the animal.</p> <p>7. It is noted that on pages 8-9 of the document reference is made to the fisheries sector, please consider the above-mentioned comments regarding the aquaculture operations in the area as they may be affected by the proposed activity and would need to be considered.</p> <p>Please note that the Directorate Sustainable Aquaculture Management reserves the right to review and/or provide additional comments in future. Enquiries may be directed to the contact provided at the top of this correspondence</p>	
<p>Thank you for the informative comments. We will make sure to consider the listed concerns and suggestion in the final BAR.</p>	<p>Interim Comment</p> <p>In terms of Section 38(8) of the National Heritage Resources Act (Act 25 of 1999) Attention: Anchor Environmental Consultants (Pty) Ltd Trans Atlantic Diamonds Pty Ltd has applied for the right to prospect for diamonds and other gemstones and precious metals and ferrous and base metals such as rare earths in Sea Concession Area 7C. This area covers 200 246 ha and extends from 12km south of Hondeklipbaai (southern boundary) to 19km north of Hondeklipbaai (northern boundary).</p> <p>The South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA) would like to thank you for submitting the Background Information Document (BID) for the proposed Prospecting Rights and Environmental Authorisation to Prospect in the Offshore Sea Concession Area 7C.</p> <p>As part of the Environmental Authorisation process a Basic Assessment Report and Environmental Management Plan must be completed. SAHRA is pleased to note that the BID has already identified that there may be impacts to Heritage during the proposed project and as such has outlined possible mitigation measures on page 10 of the document. Furthermore, as part of the assessment of the possible impact on heritage, SAHRA requires that a Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) must be undertaken as part of the project including an evaluation of the likelihood for any shipwrecks being present in the proposed prospecting area. The HIA must include a specialist study of maritime and underwater cultural heritage to be undertaken by a suitably qualified Maritime Archaeologist. In terms of the National Heritage Resources Act, No 25 of 1999 (NHRA), Sections 2 and 35 stipulates that any wreck, being any vessel or aircraft or any part thereof older than 60 years in South Africa's territorial waters or maritime cultural zone is protected and falls under the jurisdiction of SAHRA's Maritime and Underwater Cultural Heritage Unit. These heritage sites or objects may not be disturbed without a permit from the relevant heritage resources authority. Should anything of archaeological or paleontological significance be exposed during the proposed project, work must cease immediately and SAHRA must be informed of its discovery without delay. In this event, work may not commence</p>	

Stakeholder 8	01/07/2022	<p>Dear Sir/Madam</p> <p>Please note, you did not provide us with the access link for this project and note that; if you do not provide the access link on time. Then, you will receive your comments late.</p>	<p>until feedback has been received from SAHRA</p>	<p>Good day, I apologise that you did not receive the link. Please find the BID here: https://anchorenvironmental.co.za/node/581. Please note that this is still the pre-consultation process and that no specialist studies have been conducted, nor has a BAR been compiled yet. This is simply to provide initial comment on the proposed project.</p>
Stakeholder 9	29/09/2022	<p>Final Comment</p> <p>In terms of Section 38(8) of the National Heritage Resources Act (Act 25 of 1999)</p> <p>Attention: Anchor Environmental Consultants (Pty) Ltd</p> <p>Trans Atlantic Diamonds Pty Ltd has applied for the right to prospect for diamonds and other gemstones and precious metals and ferrous and base metals such as rare earths in Sea Concession Area 7C. This area covers 200 246 ha and extends from 12km south of Hondeklipbaai (southern boundary) to 19km north of Hondeklipbaai (northern boundary).</p> <p>The South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA) would like to thank you for submitting the Draft Basic Assessment Report (DBAR) for the proposed prospecting in Sea Concession 7C by Trans Atlantic Diamonds (Pty) Ltd.</p> <p>In terms of the National Heritage Resources Act, No 25 of 1999 (NHRA), Sections 2 and 35 stipulates that any wreck, being any vessel or aircraft or any part thereof older than 60 years old lying in South Africa's territorial waters or maritime cultural zone is protected and falls under the jurisdiction of SAHRA's Maritime and Underwater Cultural Heritage Unit. These heritage sites or objects may not be disturbed without a permit from the relevant heritage resources authority.</p> <p>The prospecting activities described in the report are a geophysical/acoustic survey, grab sampling, core sampling and drilling. The geophysical survey is non-invasive and will use ship mounted acoustic equipment. The core sampling is invasive and will disturb a total surface area of approx. 1.57m. The grab sampling will take between 20-50 samples and will disturb a total surface area of approx. 5m². The most invasive sampling technique will be undertaken during the drilling phase of the work when a total of 1500 samples will be collected and will cover a surface area of 7500m². A total</p>	<p>Thank you for your comment. We have ensured that all mitigation measures as listed in the Draft EMPr have also been included in the Final EMPr.</p>	

surface area of 7,507m² (0.75 ha) of seabed will be disturbed during all phases of the proposed prospecting.

A maritime heritage study has already been undertaken as part of the application process and is included in the DBAR. The specialist study was informed by desktop research and has identified that the potential for disturbing maritime cultural heritage is very low. Records indicate that one wreck, the Shanger (1878), is

possibly located within the concession area, as it is recorded as wrecking in 1878. As it is more than 60 years Trans Atlantic Diamonds (Pty) Ltd to Prospect in the Offshore Sea Concession Area 7C old, it is considered a heritage resource and is therefore protected by the National Heritage Resources Act (NHRA). However, its exact wrecking location is unknown as records show that the wreck caught alight and was abandoned offshore where it is believed to have founded. The heritage study has concluded that the potential risk to heritage resources is very low however, essential mitigation measures have been included within the report. The mitigation measures listed in both Sections 1.5.3 and 8.8.3 of the DBAR are:

The contractor must be notified that archaeological sites could be exposed during sampling activities, as well as the procedure to follow should archaeological material be encountered during sampling. Reporting of sites to the heritage practitioner for assessment and evaluation. Retain samples of the coarser fraction (i.e. gravel and stone (20 mm +) of sorted seabed sediment from each grab sample for assessment by an archaeologist for the presence of important material.

Any core and drill sample sections which contain alluvial material, particularly where organic remains are present, are retained and are subject to paleo-environmental assessment. Any fossils such as petrified bone, teeth and shell casts, usually phosphatic, found during the processing of cores must have the details of context recorded, must be kept for identification by an appropriate specialist and, if significant, be deposited in an appropriate institution such as the IZIKO SA Museum.

If shipwreck material is encountered during the course of sampling in any of the concession areas, the following mitigation measure should be applied:

Cease work in the directly affected area to avoid damage to the wreck until the South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA) has been notified and the contractor has complied with any additional mitigation as specified by SAHRA; and where possible, take photographs of them, noting the date, time, location, and types of artefacts found. Under no circumstances may any artefacts be removed, destroyed, or interfered on the site, unless under permit from SAHRA. The study has also recommended that the onboard Trans Atlantic representative must undergo a short induction on archaeological site and artefact recognition, as well as the procedure to follow should archaeological material be encountered during sampling.

The HIA further emphasises that although unlikely, it is possible that the wreck of the

Shanger is located within the concession area. It therefore recommends in Section 8 Conclusions and Recommendations, that analysis of geophysical data collected prior to and during the seabed sampling programme be undertaken as this should indicate whether the wreck of the Shanger is in the concession area. If wreck material is found to be present in the concession area, archaeological advice must be sought before prospecting commences. Buffers

zones around such material may be required and will need to be agreed with the archaeologist and SAHRA. This mitigation measure is not included in the DBAR but must be added to the final BAR.

The recommendations and mitigation measures in the DBAR and HIA are supported by SAHRA and must be included in the final reports. While there are no known shipwreck sites within the proposed prospecting areas there is always the potential for unknown wrecks or shipwreck material to be uncovered during the works. Should anything of archaeological or paleontological significance be exposed during the proposed project, work must cease immediately and SAHRA must be informed of its discovery without delay. In this event, work may not commence until feedback has been received from SAHRA.

Please note that all updates and/or changes to the project, supporting documentation, correspondence, reports, or any other work relating to the project must be uploaded to the case on SAHRIS to provide SAHRA with the opportunity to comment. SAHRA does not accept emailed documents or hard-copy documents received via post

Stakeholder 10

RE: APPLICATION FOR PROSPECTING RIGHTS AND ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORIZATION TO PROSPECT IN THE OFFSHORE SEA CONCESSION AREA 7C, IN HONDEKLIP BAY.

The Directorate: Sustainable Aquaculture Management of the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment ("DFFE") has reviewed the Draft Basic Assessment Report (BAR) for the proposed prospecting in the offshore sea concession area 7C by Trans Atlantic Diamonds (Pty) Ltd. The following comments are to be considered in the application:

1. The DFFE, Branch: Fisheries Management has a mandate in the development and management of aquaculture in South Africa, please register the Directorate: Sustainable Aquaculture Management as an Interested and Affected Party (I&AP).
2. The Department notes that aquaculture is not covered in the DBAR, reference is made to the Department's comments relating to the Background Information Document submitted on the 23'd June 2022 for consideration. Please indicate as to why aquaculture was not included in the scope of the project.
3. As stated in the initial comment letter, the proposed Trans Atlantic Diamonds prospecting right within concession area 7C falls within the Northern Cape sea-based

Concession area 7C does not overlap with the abalone ranching facility. The marine specialist report does consider potential impacts on the abalone farm and proposed ranching programme. Due to all drill sampling proposed for water deeper than 70m depth and some more than 5 km west of the farm and ranching sites, significant negative impacts on this sector are therefore not anticipated. Given the small volume of sediment that will be disturbed in the prospecting phase, and the method of sampling (with a drill, at discrete points), 5 km away from the shore, it is not expected that there will be any impacts of elevated TSS on the nearshore

<p>environment. A dispersion model is therefore not required for the prospecting phase, but will be recommended to assess mining phase activities.</p>	<p>aquaculture ranching concession area.</p> <p>4. Diamond Coast Abalone (Pty) Ltd has a valid ranching abalone ranching right and permit issued by the Department. The ranching concession area NC 4 has the following coordinates (-30.102264°; 17.185564° (Land side), -30.101241°; 17.154059° (Sea side), -30.432294°; 17.334842° (Land side), -30.432047°; 17.303689 o (Sea side)] and has been seeded with abalone. It is important to note that ranching areas extend to about 5km from shore to the offshore.</p> <p>The Department's comments suggested that the BAR process for the proposed prospecting in concession area 7C should consider the already approved and seeded aquaculture ranching concession areas for the Northern Cape. Specialist studies, such as, but not limited to, Dispersion Modelling and Marine Ecological Assessments, are needed in order to assess the impact that proposed mining application might pose to the seeded abalone ranching concession areas and the aquaculture operations in the area. It is noted that impact on abalone ranching was discussed in the DBAR (page 67 and 95) but was scoped out due to the proposed activities taking place 5 km offshore and at a depth of more than 20m. Please confirm if it is the understanding that the impact of blasting and drilling exercises will not affect the abalone in the ranching area of the Northern Cape.</p> <p>6. The Department also requested that the impact studies investigate the potential impact of heavy metal accumulation and resuspension from the sediments emanating from the mining activity located near the ranching site, which have the potential to impact ranched abalone by accumulating heavy metals in the flesh of the animal.</p> <p>7. Page 95 states that there are three ranching sites in the Northern Cape with a new site in Doringbaai. A correction to this text as it should be noted that there are 4 ranching concession areas in the Northern Cape and the prospecting right application falls within concession area NC4.</p>	
<p>Stakeholder 11</p>	<p>Thank you for the opportunity to comment on Prospecting Rights Application 7C (NC 30/5/1/1/2/13061 PR</p> <p>Cognisance must be taken by the general Duty of Care, as stated in Section 28 of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998:</p> <p>“Every person who causes, has caused, or may cause significant pollution or degradation of the environment must take reasonable measures to prevent such pollution or degradation from occurring, continuing, or recurring, or, in so far as such harm cannot reasonably be avoided or stopped, to minimize and rectify such pollution or degradation of the environment” With reference to the content of the Draft Basic Assessment Report the following comments as requested.</p> <p>Due to a lack of resources and capacity within this office this office only the following</p>	<p>21/10/22</p>

concentrated and pointed out studies and resources are referred to however there are quite a few other studies and resources within this regard.

Studies as being mentioned below has shown also that seismic disturbance may have in the water may have a huge impact on marine animals as they are very sensitive to sound disturbances in the water as is indicated by this study By Robert C. Jones Jr. 01-03-2019

“Marine mammals use sound to communicate, navigate, and hunt for prey,” said Jill Richardson, program director and senior lecturer in the Department of Marine Ecosystems and Society at the University of Miami Rosenstiel School of Marine and Atmospheric Science. “Evolutionarily, they capitalized on the effective propagation of sound underwater, but this also makes them very susceptible to noise pollution. Airgun noise can be so pervasive, spatially, and temporally, that it can be debilitating.”

Changes in diving and surfacing patterns, displacement from important feeding habitats, disorientation, stress, and either temporary or permanent shifts in hearing thresholds are some of the known impacts to marine mammals, according to Richardson. “And since sound is so important to their survival, the fact that they may not be able to hear each other is extremely concerning and may lead to impacts at the population level,” she said. “Imagine trying to raise a baby or communicate with friends while navigating in a concert hall where the band, essentially, never stops.”

According to Richardson, the sounds generated by airguns can travel more than 4,000 kilometres from the source. “We are only starting to understand the impact of stress on marine mammal health, but it likely contributes to immune function disruption,” she said. “This, when layered on top of the menagerie of other emergent threats, such as exposure to contaminants and biotoxins and the loss of habitat, can lead to devastating effects on marine mammals.

This office is not aware of any studies or sources that consider the impact of the proposed activities impact on the environment to be positive.

Research have also shown the Southern Right and Humpback whales pass through the West Coast in groups of 8-10 between June and December. Bryde’s whales, common dolphins, Heaviside dolphins and dusky dolphins is also spotted during the year. The southern right whale (*Eubalaena australis*) is the most spotted whale along the West Coast in the cool season between May and November. Courting pairs breach and lobtail or slap the water with their flippers while the mothers can be seen escorting their newly born calves around sheltered bays.

Considering the above research seismic activity in the application could potentially cause great harm to the Marine Ecology and fisheries should the approval of prospecting activities leads to mining activities over a long period of time.

The West Coast is also traditionally known for its small fishing communities which relies on fish catches from the sea for a livelihood. Taking the above research

	Coast.	The Municipality reserves the right to request further information and revise initial comments based on any additional information that might be received.
General comments and questions during pre-consultation meetings		
Community members	8 June 2022	<p>These comments have been noted and all of these were either answered during the meeting, or have been included in the Basic Assessment Report.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prospecting, particularly drilling will produce mud, which will have an impact on the area's fish resources, and the community strongly suggests that another method be utilized to avoid water quality deterioration. • The community is dissatisfied with the mining industry since previous mining companies made promises to the community of Hondeklip Bay, only to break those pledges and abandon the community after the mining companies had left. As a result, the community has been misled by companies such as Transhex and the De Beers group, and they do not want to be misled again, so they are requesting transparency of all processes involved from the project application to the final decision process, and request that all promises must be recorded and followed through. • Several community members of the community have stated their opposition to the prospecting. • The community requested that all future notices must be erected at the at the municipal hall (service point) as opposed to the police station where they saw the current pre-consultation meeting notice. • A community member suggested that TAD and the community could form a 50/50 partnership, , adding that they would need insurance and that the proposed activities would benefit the community. • The community is concerned about the community's socioeconomic status after the TAD has left the area and completed their activities (i.e., a maintenance plan after they have completed their activities). • The mines benefit the community in no way and create no known opportunities for the community and the opportunities available does not allow their workforce to be employed. • The area's fish resources are already depleted in the area, and mining and exploration activities will exacerbate the problem. • Before any activity is to begin, the community would need to see the results (i.e., benefits/investment for the local community). • The community has a strong cultural connection to the ocean, and the ocean's resources support their livelihoods • Trans Atlantic Diamond has been asked by the community to clarify which

		<p>company is asking for prospecting rights. They inquired as to whether the company that was founded in 2017 or 2021 will be applying as these two different companies have different owners.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Several members of the community expressed worries about the meeting registrations, expressing fears that Anchor might alter the register and lie, as other companies have done in the past. As a result, they're also asking for transparency and legality in all communications and during the public participation processes. • The drilling will scare away the local fish population. • The community is already having trouble obtaining permits, and they are fearful that when mining begins, the problem will become even worse. • The community want to know what the impact is if the community opposes the application, and what the guarantee is if the community objects to the activity. • The community is concerned about the impact of water quality on human health as a result of prospecting-related drilling activities • The community requests that TAD provide a video of all activities that will take place during the operational phase. This request will aid in the community understanding what the project entail and potential environmental and socio-economic impacts. For example, a video must be provided of the benthic environment before the activities commences and after which include the prospecting tools that will be used. <p>In summary, three primary concerns were highlighted by the community.</p> <p>First, the community is particularly concerned about the potential impact of the proposed prospecting activities on the area's water quality.</p> <p>Second, before the proprietor of Trans Atlantic Diamonds comes to Hondeklip Bay, the community members do not allow any prospecting activity to take place.</p> <p>Third, the notice and participation periods are too short, and the application and stakeholder processes need to be prolonged due to a lack of time for information to reach the entire community, and the processes need to be adjusted even before consulting firms are involved</p>	
<p>General comments and questions during pre-consultation meetings</p>			
<p>Community members Hondeklipbaai</p>	<p>11 October 2022</p>	<p>Community members had general comments regarding the project, especially in terms of job opportunities. They asked that TAD please invest in the community and consider its members when commencing with the project, especially since there are so many unemployed youth members.</p> <p>No objections towards the project were received.</p>	<p>General remark: Fourteen community members attended the meeting. These comments have been noted and all of these were either answered during the meeting, or have been included in the Basic</p>

<p>Community members Koingnaas</p>		<p>12 October 2022</p>	<p>The community member that attended the meeting is also involved in the mining sector. He was interested in the projected and what it entailed. There might also be opportunity for collaboration.</p> <p>No objections towards the project were received.</p>	<p>Assessment Report.</p>	<p>General remark: Only one person attended the official public participation meeting. We were told that the community is not interested in attending the meeting. These comments have been noted and all of these were either answered during the meeting, or have been included in the Basic Assessment Report.</p>
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