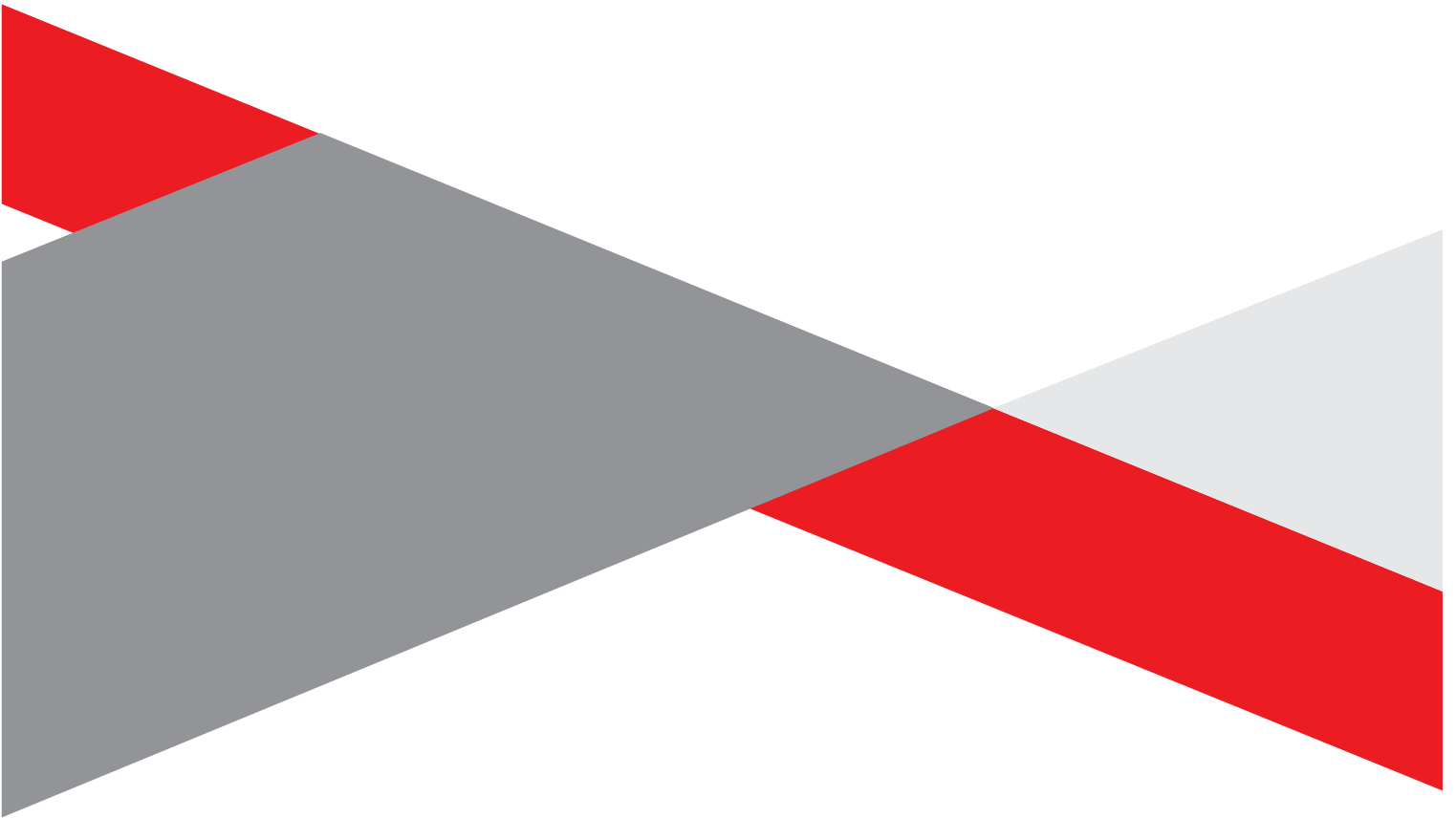


APPENDIX B
Authority Consultation





forestry, fisheries & the environment

Department:
Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

PRE-APPLICATION MEETING REQUEST

Request for a pre-application meeting in terms of Regulation 8 of the National Environmental Management Act, Act No. 107 of 1998, as amended and the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations, 2014, as amended (the Regulations)

PROJECT TITLE

Houthaalboomen Grid Connection Infrastructure, North West Province

Kindly note the following:

1. This form must always be used for pre-application meeting requests where this Department is the Competent Authority.
2. This application form is current as of **April 2021**. It is the responsibility of the Applicant / Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP) to ascertain whether subsequent versions of the form have been published or produced by the Competent Authority. The latest available Departmental templates are available at <https://www.environment.gov.za/documents/forms>.
3. The onus on Applicant/EAP to determine all applicable listed activities that would require Environmental Authorisation prior to the commencement of the construction activities. Should any revision of your development comprise any other activities that constitute a listed activity/ies as defined in GN R983, R984 and R98 of 04 December 2014, as amended, it must also form part of the Application for Environmental Authorisation.
4. Be reminded that it is not compulsory in terms of the EIA Regulations that a pre-application meeting must take place prior to an application being lodged with the Department.
5. This form must be lodged with the Department at least **one (1) month** prior to the requested meeting date.
6. Please note that the proposed date and time will be confirmed prior to the meeting.
7. A detailed motivation and agenda must be appended to this meeting request.
8. This form must be marked **“for Attention: Chief Director: Integrated Environmental Authorisations”** and submitted to the Department via email.
9. All fields are compulsory.
10. The required information must be typed within the spaces provided in the form. The sizes of the spaces provided are not necessarily indicative of the amount of information to be provided. Spaces are provided in tabular format and will extend automatically when each space is filled with typing. A legible font type and size must be used when completing the form. The font size should not be smaller than 10pt (e.g. Arial 10).
11. **Note that the EAP is required to submit minutes of the meeting to the Department for approval as per the timeframes agreed to in the meeting.**
12. The Department reserves the right to refuse the pre-application meeting based on the information provided in this request.

Departmental Details

Online Submission: EIAApplications@environment.gov.za
Please read the process for uploading files to determine how files are to submitted to this Department
Physical address: Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment Attention: Chief Director: Integrated Environmental Authorisations Environment House 473 Steve Biko Road Arcadia
Queries must be directed to the Directorate: Coordination, Strategic Planning and Support at: Email: EIAAdmin@environment.gov.za

1. APPLICANT CONTACT DETAILS

Name of the Applicant:	Houthaalboomen Grid (Pty) Ltd		
RSA Identity/ Passport Number:	N/A		
Name of contact person for applicant (if other):	David Peinke		
RSA Identity/ Passport Number:	8301155047081		
Responsible position, e.g. Director, CEO, etc.:	Director		
Company/ Trading name (if any):	N/A		
Company Registration Number:	2021/801427/07		
BBBEE status:	N/A		
Physical address:	101, Block A, West Quay Building 7 West Quay Road, Waterfront Cape Town, 8001		
Postal address:	PO Box 51060 Waterfront		
Postal code:	8002	Cell:	084 401 9015
Telephone:	021 418 2596	Fax:	
E-mail:	david@atlanticep.com		

2. ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT PRACTITIONER CONTACT DETAILS

Company of Environmental Assessment Practitioner:	Savannah Environmental (Pty) Ltd			
B-BBEE	Contribution level (indicate 1 to 8 or non-compliant)	2	Percentage Procurement recognition	125%
EAP name:	Rendani Rasivhetshele			
EAP Qualifications:	BSc (Hons) Environmental Management			

Professional affiliation/registration:	Environmental Assessment Practitioners Association of South Africa (EAPASA) – 2019/1729		
Physical address:	First floor, Block 2 5 Woodlands Drive Office Park C/o Woodlands Drive & Western Service Road Woodmead Johannesburg 2191		
Postal address:	PO Box 148 Sunninghill		
Postal code:	2157	Cell:	072 721 4835
Telephone:	011 656 3237	Fax:	086 684 0547
E-mail:	rendani@savannahsa.com		

3. COMPETENT AUTHORITY

Identified Competent Authority to consider the application:

Reason(s) in terms of S24C of NEMA:

Department of Forestry, Fisheries, and the Environment (DFFE)
Government Notice 779 of 1 July 2016 identifies the Minister of Environment, Forestry and Fisheries as the Competent Authority for activities in terms of section 24(2)(a), which may not commence without environmental authorisation, and which relates to the Integrated Resources Plan (IRP) 2010-2030 and any updates thereto. As this application for environmental authorisation relates to the proposed grid connection infrastructure for Houthaalboomen PV Cluster, which is related to the IRP, the Minister of Environment, Forestry and Fisheries (i.e. DFFE) is the Competent Authority

4. MEETING DETAILS

Purpose of the meeting request	<i>A pre-application meeting is not specifically required for the project</i> , the request is submitted in order to provide the DFFE details of the proposed Houthaalboomen Grid Connection, and for approval of the Public Participation Plan.		
Any advice requested before from the Department on this project i.e. from IQ or via email (attached response received)		No	
Applicant Category	Application by Parastatal		
	Organ of State		
	Private Individual/Parties	X	
Application type	Application for EA	X	
	Application for Integrated EA		
	Application for Amendment EA		
Proposed meeting date and time-slot. Provide three alternative dates and time-slots (<i>note that the Department requires at least a month due to logistical arrangements</i>)			
Date	Time-slot		
	Start time	End time	
N/A	N/A	N/A	
Duration of the meeting	N/A		
Estimated number of people attending meeting	N/A		
Meeting not specifically required as indicated above			

Please attach a proposed agenda as **APPENDIX 1**. If the Applicant or EAP intends to discuss several projects in one meeting, separate agendas must be drafted for each proposed project and the project details for each project. Please note that a detailed agenda is required.

5. PROJECT DETAILS

Project description	<p>The Applicant, Houthaalboomen Grid (Pty) Ltd, is proposing the development of grid connection infrastructure for Houthaalboomen PV Cluster and includes a collector substation (Houthaalboomen Collector Substation) and a 132kV power line to the existing Watershed MTS.</p> <p>In order to enable the evacuation of the generated power from the three (3) onsite facility substations for the Houthaalboomen PV Cluster (i.e., Barleria PV DFFE Ref: 14/12/16/3/3/2/2107, Dicoma PV DFFE Ref: 14/12/16/3/3/2/2108, Setaria PV DFFE Ref: 14/12/16/3/3/2/2106) to the collector substation to the existing Watershed MTS, two alternative grid connection solutions (within a 200m wide corridor) have been assessed and includes:</p> <p>Grid Connection Alternative 1: Houthaalboomen Collector Substation, centrally positioned on the southern boundary of Portion 1 of the Farm Houthaalboomen 31, and a 132kV power line connecting into the existing Watershed MTS. The grid connection infrastructure is located within a 6km long and 200m wide grid connection corridor</p> <p>Grid Connection Alternative 2: Houthaalboomen Collector Substation, positioned on the south-eastern corner of Portion 1 of the Farm Houthaalboomen 31, and a 132kV power line connecting into the existing Watershed MTS. The grid connection infrastructure is located within a 4.5km long and 200m wide grid connection corridor</p> <p>The grid connection infrastructure is situated within the Ditsobotla Local Municipality within the Ngaka Modiri Molema District Municipality.</p>
Indicate if any screening has taken place on site	Yes, the DEA Screening Reports is attached as Appendix 4
Physical Address where the development will take place	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Portion 1 of the Farm Houthaalboomen 31 » Portion 0 of Farm Talene 25 » Portion 39 of Farm Elandsfontein 34- » Portion 93 of Farm Elandsfontein 34 » Portion 41 of Farm Elandsfontein 34 » Portion 0 of Farm Priem 30 » Portion 25 of Farm Houthaalboomen 31 » Portion 1 of Farm Lichtenburg Town and Townlands, No 27
Farm name(s)/ Erf No	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Portion 1 of the Farm Houthaalboomen 31 » Portion 0 of Farm Talene 25 » Portion 39 of Farm Elandsfontein 34- » Portion 93 of Farm Elandsfontein 34 » Portion 41 of Farm Elandsfontein 34 » Portion 0 of Farm Priem 30 » Portion 25 of Farm Houthaalboomen 31 » Portion 1 of Farm Lichtenburg Town and Townlands, No 27
Local Municipality	Ditsobotla Local Municipality
District Municipality	Ngaka Modiri Molema District Municipality
Locality map:	A locality map must be attached to the application form, as APPENDIX 2 . The scale of the locality map must be at least 1:50 000. For linear activities of more than 25 kilometres, a smaller scale e.g. 1:250 000 can be used. The scale must be indicated on the map. The map must include the following:

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • an accurate indication of the project site position as well as the positions of the alternative sites, if any; • road names or numbers of all the major roads as well as the roads that provide access to the site(s) • a north arrow; • a legend; • the prevailing wind direction; • site sensitivities, including but not limited to vegetation, wetlands, watercourses, heritage sites, critical biodiversity area/s, World Heritage Site, etc. and it must be overlaid by the study area; and • GPS co-ordinates (Indicate the position of the proposed activity with the latitude and longitude at the centre point for each alternative site. • The co-ordinates should be in degrees and decimal minutes. The minutes should be to at least three decimal places. The projection that must be used in all cases is the WGS-84 spheroid in a national or local projection)
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6. ACTIVITIES APPLIED FOR

For an application for authorisation that involves more than one listed activity that, together, make up one development proposal, all the listed activities pertaining to this application must be provided below.

Activity No(s):	Provide the relevant Basic Assessment Activity(ies) as set out in Listing Notice 1 of the EIA Regulations, 2014 as amended.	Describe the portion of the proposed project to which the applicable listed activity relates.
GNR 327 (LN1), Activity No. 11(i)	The development of facilities or infrastructure for the transmission and distribution of electricity— (i) outside urban areas or industrial complexes with a capacity of more than 33 but less than 275 kilovolts.	The site is currently zoned as agriculture and falls outside the urban area. A collector substation (Houthaalboomen Collector Substation) and 132kV power line are proposed to connect the Houthaalboomen PV cluster to the Eskom electricity grid
GNR 327 (LN1), Activity No. 14	The development and related operation of facilities or infrastructure, for the storage, or for the storage and handling, of a dangerous good, where such storage occurs in containers with a combined capacity of 80 cubic metres or more but not exceeding 500 cubic metres.	The development of the collector substation will require the construction and operation of facilities and infrastructure for the storage and handling of dangerous goods (combustible and flammable liquids, such as oils, lubricants, solvents) such storage will occur inside containers with a combined capacity exceeding 80 cubic meters but not exceeding 500 cubic meters.
Activity No(s):	Provide the relevant Basic Assessment Activity(ies) as set out in Listing Notice 3 of the EIA Regulations, 2014 as amended.	Describe the portion of the proposed project to which the applicable listed activity relates.
GNR 324 (LN3), Activity No. 10(iv)	The development and related operation of facilities or infrastructure for the storage, or storage and handling of a dangerous good where such storage occurs in containers with a combined capacity of 30 but not exceeding 80 cubic metres h. North West (iv) Critical biodiversity areas as identified in systematic biodiversity plans adopted by the competent authority or in bioregional plans;	The development of the collector substation will require the storage and handling of a dangerous good with a capacity of 80 cubic meters within CBA areas.

GNR 324 (LN3), Activity No. 12(iv)	The clearance of an area of 300 square metres or more of indigenous vegetation h. North West iv. Within critical biodiversity areas identified in systematic biodiversity plan adopted by the competent authority	The development of collector substation will require the clearance of more than 300 square meters of indigenous vegetation within areas classified as CBA.
Activity No(s):	Provide the relevant Scoping and EIR Activity(ies) as set out in Listing Notice 2 of the EIA Regulations, 2014 as amended.	Describe the portion of the proposed project to which the applicable listed activity relates.
N/A		

Be reminded that the onus is on the applicant to ensure that all applicable listed activities are included in the application. Environmental Authorisation must be obtained prior to commencement with each applicable listed activity.

7. ADDITIONAL INFO, IF ANY

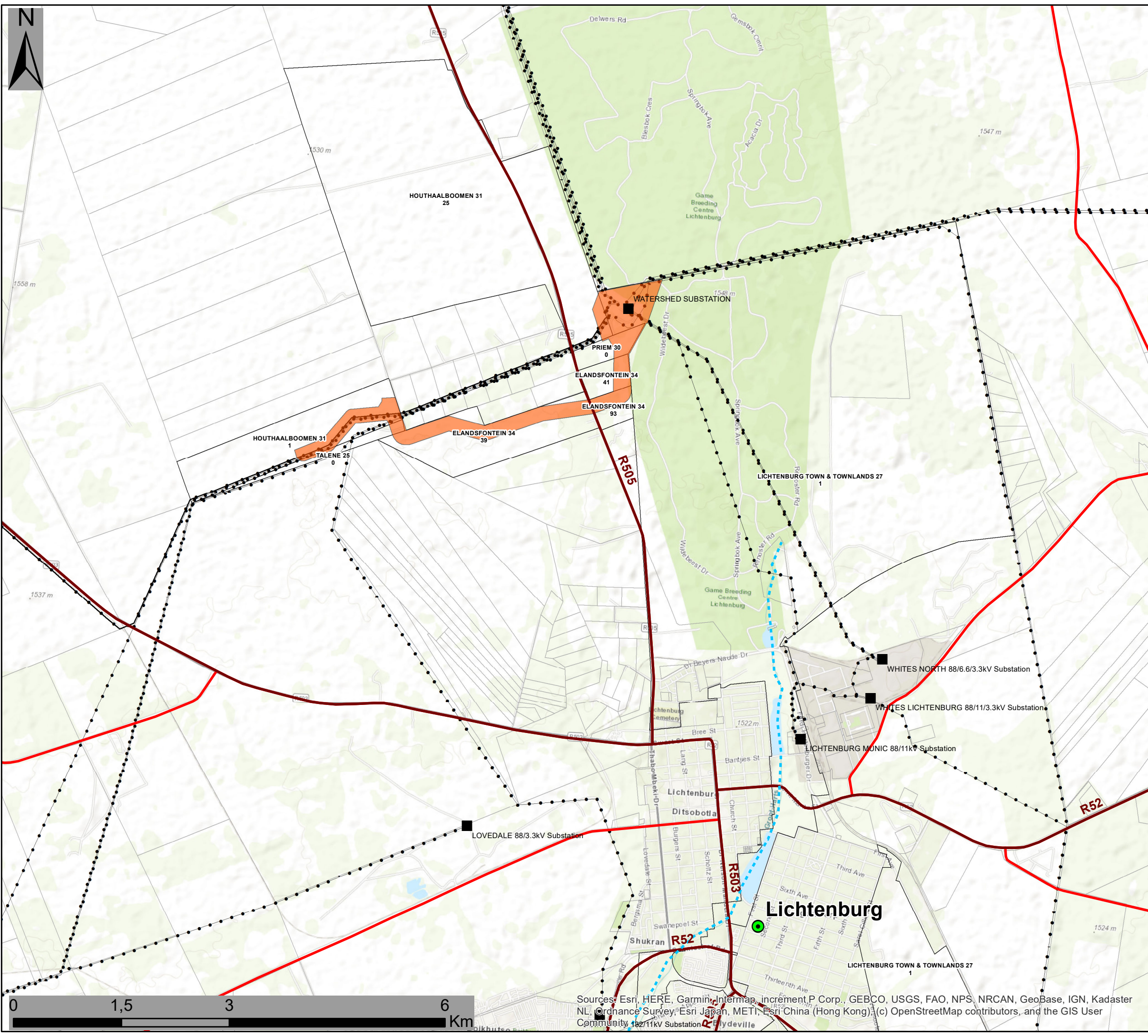
Please attach any additional information as **APPENDIX 3**.

8. LIST OF APPENDICES

		SUBMITTED	
		YES	NO
APPENDIX 1	Proposed Agenda		
APPENDIX 2	Locality map	YES	
APPENDIX 3	Additional info: DFFE Screening Tool	YES	
APPENDIX 4	Additional info: PP Plan	YES	

APPENDIX 1
PRE-APPLICATION MEETING AGENDA- MEETING NOT REQUIRED

**APPENDIX 2
LOCALITY MAP**

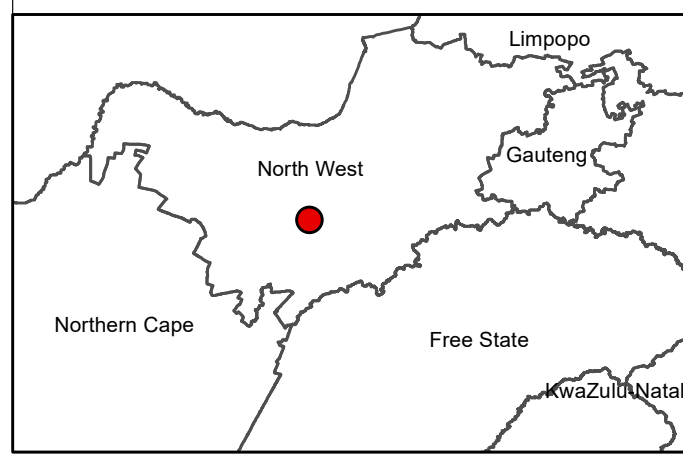


Houthaalboomen Grid Connection Infrastructure, North West Province

Locality Map

- Legend**
- Town
 - Eskom Substation
 - - - - Non-Perennial River
 - Perennial River
 - Regional Road
 - Main Road
 - · - · - Existing Power Lines
 - Farm Portions
 - Affected Properties
 - Houthaalboomen Grid Connection Corridor (200m wide)

Scale: 50 000
 Projection: LO19
 Map Ref: Grid Locality Map



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

**APPENDIX 3
DFFE SCREENING TOOL**

**SCREENING REPORT FOR AN ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORIZATION AS
REQUIRED BY THE 2014 EIA REGULATIONS – PROPOSED SITE
ENVIRONMENTAL SENSITIVITY**

EIA Reference number: TBC

Project name: Houthaalboomen

Project title: Grid Connection Infrastructure

Date screening report generated: 19/04/2022 14:04:48

Applicant: Houthaalboomen Grid (Pty) Ltd

Compiler: Savannah Environmental

Compiler signature:
.....

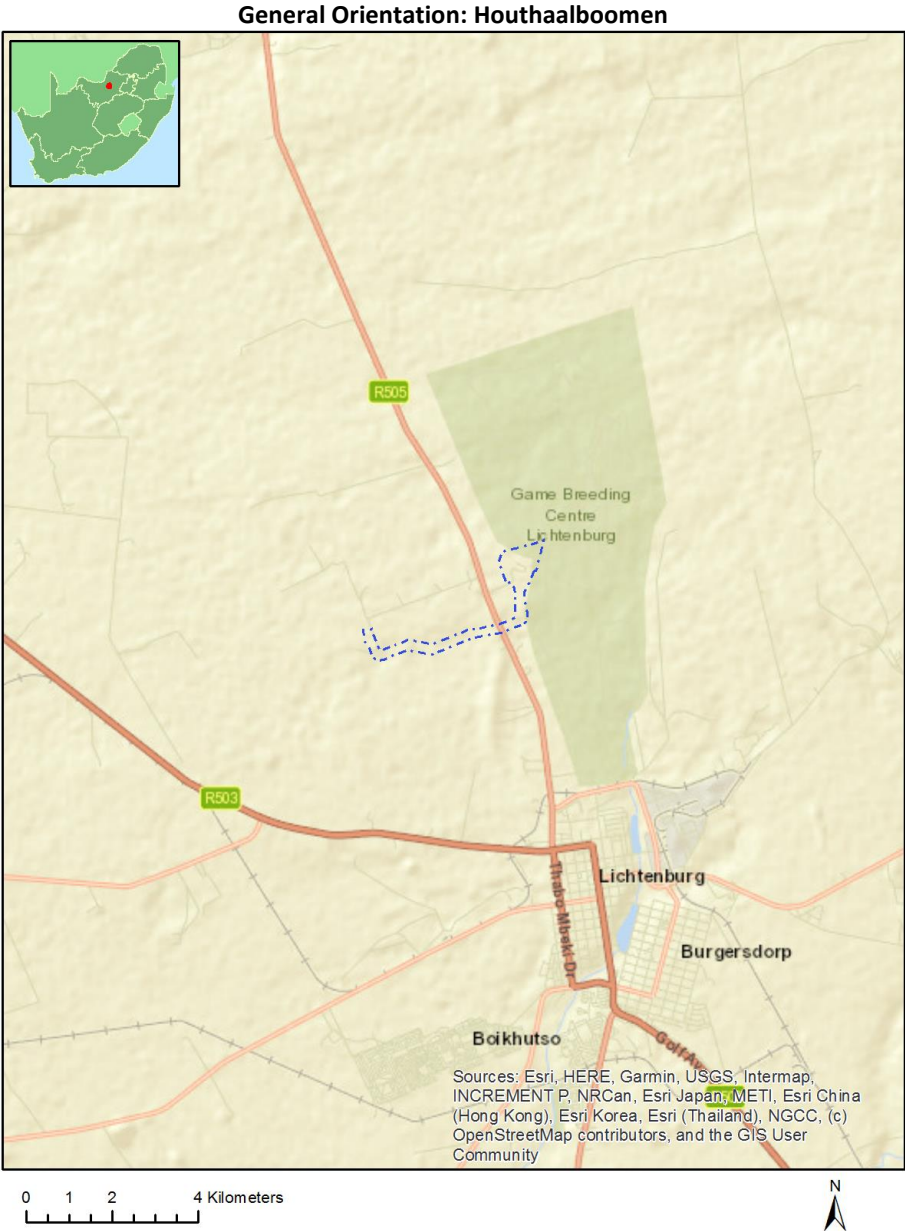
Application Category: Utilities Infrastructure | Electricity | Distribution and Transmission | Powerline

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Proposed Project Location

Orientation map 1: General location



Map of proposed site and relevant area(s)



Cadastral details of the proposed site

Property details:

No	Farm Name	Farm/ Erf No	Portion	Latitude	Longitude	Property Type
1	PRIEM	30	0	26°5'44.09S	26°8'30.64E	Farm
2	TALENE	25	0	26°5'52.47S	26°7'20.23E	Farm
3	HOUTHAALBOOMEN	31	0	26°4'34.25S	26°6'14.24E	Farm
4	LICHTENBURG TOWN AND TOWNLANDS	27	0	26°6'15.75S	26°10'28.1E	Farm
5	ELANDSFONTEIN	34	0	26°8'29.08S	26°7'9.32E	Farm
6	TALENE	25	0	26°6'36.65S	26°6'17.64E	Farm Portion
7	ELANDSFONTEIN	34	41	26°5'56.71S	26°8'31.46E	Farm Portion
8	HOUTHAALBOOMEN	31	25	26°4'40.52S	26°7'2.91E	Farm Portion
9	ELANDSFONTEIN	34	119	26°6'10.99S	26°8'24.43E	Farm Portion
10	LICHTENBURG TOWN AND TOWNLANDS	27	1	26°7'0.8S	26°10'10.63E	Farm Portion
11	ELANDSFONTEIN	34	121	26°6'6.74S	26°8'23.23E	Farm Portion
12	HOUTHAALBOOMEN	31	1	26°6'33.09S	26°5'55.85E	Farm Portion
13	TALENE	25	5	26°6'12.92S	26°6'53.18E	Farm Portion
14	PRIEM	30	0	26°5'44.09S	26°8'30.64E	Farm Portion
15	ELANDSFONTEIN	34	39	26°6'25.65S	26°7'36.87E	Farm Portion
16	ELANDSFONTEIN	34	93	26°6'10.31S	26°8'35.75E	Farm Portion

Development footprint¹ vertices:

¹ "development footprint", means the area within the site on which the development will take place and includes all ancillary developments for example roads, power lines, boundary walls, paving etc. which require vegetation clearance or which will be disturbed and for which the application has been submitted.

No development footprint(s) specified.

Wind and Solar developments with an approved Environmental Authorisation or applications under consideration within 30 km of the proposed area

No	EIA Reference No	Classification	Status of application	Distance from proposed area (km)
1	12/12/20/2149	Solar PV	Approved	13.8
2	14/12/16/3/3/2/974	Solar PV	Approved	0
3	14/12/16/3/3/2/1093	Solar PV	Approved	0
4	14/12/16/3/3/2/975	Solar PV	Approved	0
5	14/12/16/3/3/2/1062	Solar PV	Approved	13.7
6	14/12/16/3/3/2/1092	Solar PV	Approved	4.1
7	14/12/16/3/3/2/1091	Solar PV	Approved	0

Environmental Management Frameworks relevant to the application

No intersections with EMF areas found.

Environmental screening results and assessment outcomes

The following sections contain a summary of any development incentives, restrictions, exclusions or prohibitions that apply to the proposed development site as well as the most environmental sensitive features on the site based on the site sensitivity screening results for the application classification that was selected. The application classification selected for this report is:

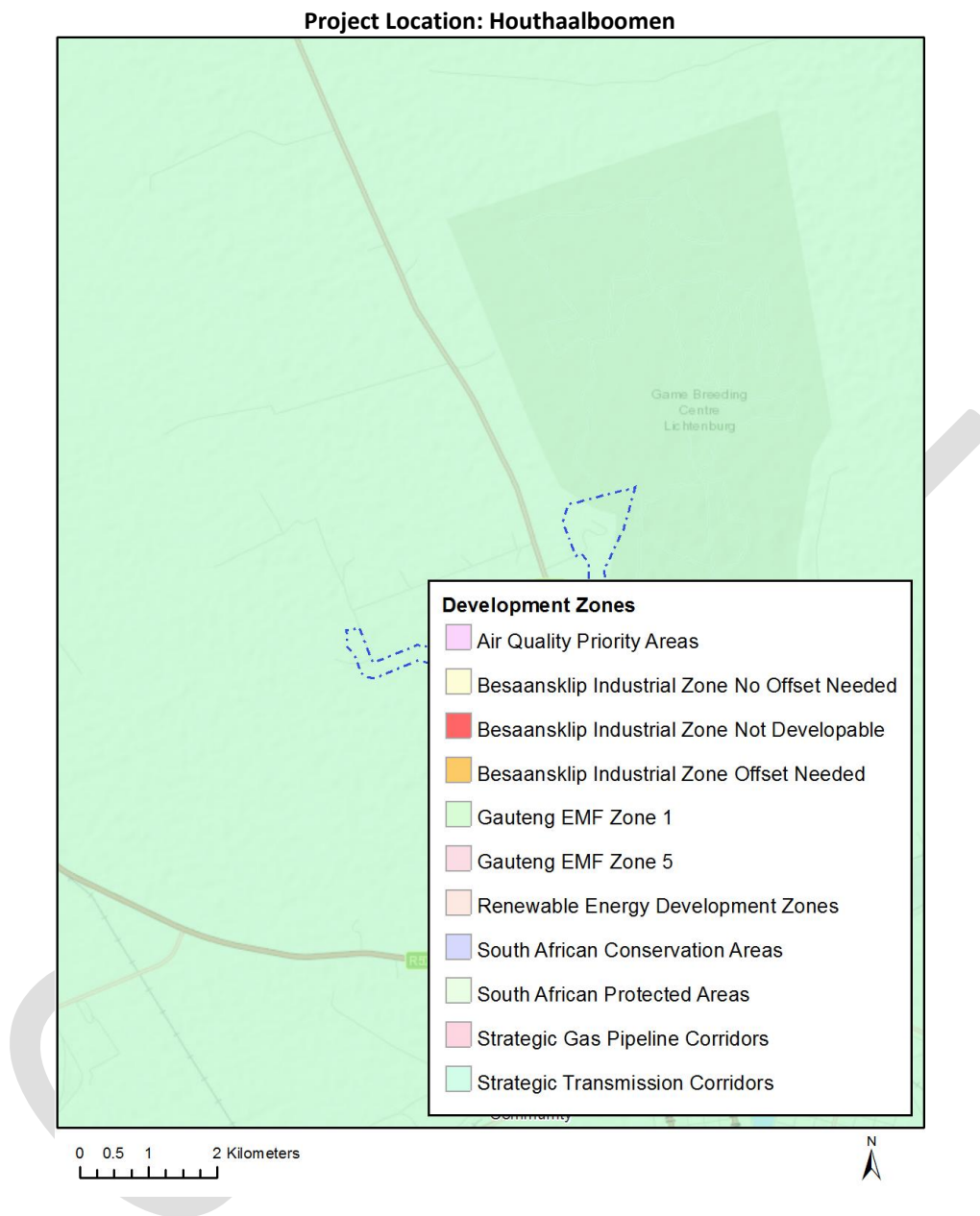
Utilities Infrastructure | Electricity | Distribution and Transmission | Powerline.

Relevant development incentives, restrictions, exclusions or prohibitions

The following development incentives, restrictions, exclusions or prohibitions and their implications that apply to this site are indicated below.

Incentive, restriction or prohibition	Implication
Strategic Transmission Corridor-Northern corridor	https://screening.environment.gov.za/ScreeningDownloads/DevelopmentZones/Combined_EGI.pdf

Map indicating proposed development footprint within applicable development incentive, restriction, exclusion or prohibition zones



Proposed Development Area Environmental Sensitivity

The following summary of the development site environmental sensitivities is identified. Only the highest environmental sensitivity is indicated. The footprint environmental sensitivities for the proposed development footprint as identified, are indicative only and must be verified on site by a suitably qualified person before the specialist assessments identified below can be confirmed.

Theme	Very High sensitivity	High sensitivity	Medium sensitivity	Low sensitivity
Agriculture Theme		X		
Animal Species Theme				X

Aquatic Biodiversity Theme	X			
Archaeological and Cultural Heritage Theme				X
Civil Aviation Theme		X		
Defence Theme				X
Paleontology Theme	X			
Plant Species Theme			X	
Terrestrial Biodiversity Theme	X			

Specialist assessments identified

Based on the selected classification, and the environmental sensitivities of the proposed development footprint, the following list of specialist assessments have been identified for inclusion in the assessment report. It is the responsibility of the EAP to confirm this list and to motivate in the assessment report, the reason for not including any of the identified specialist study including the provision of photographic evidence of the site situation.

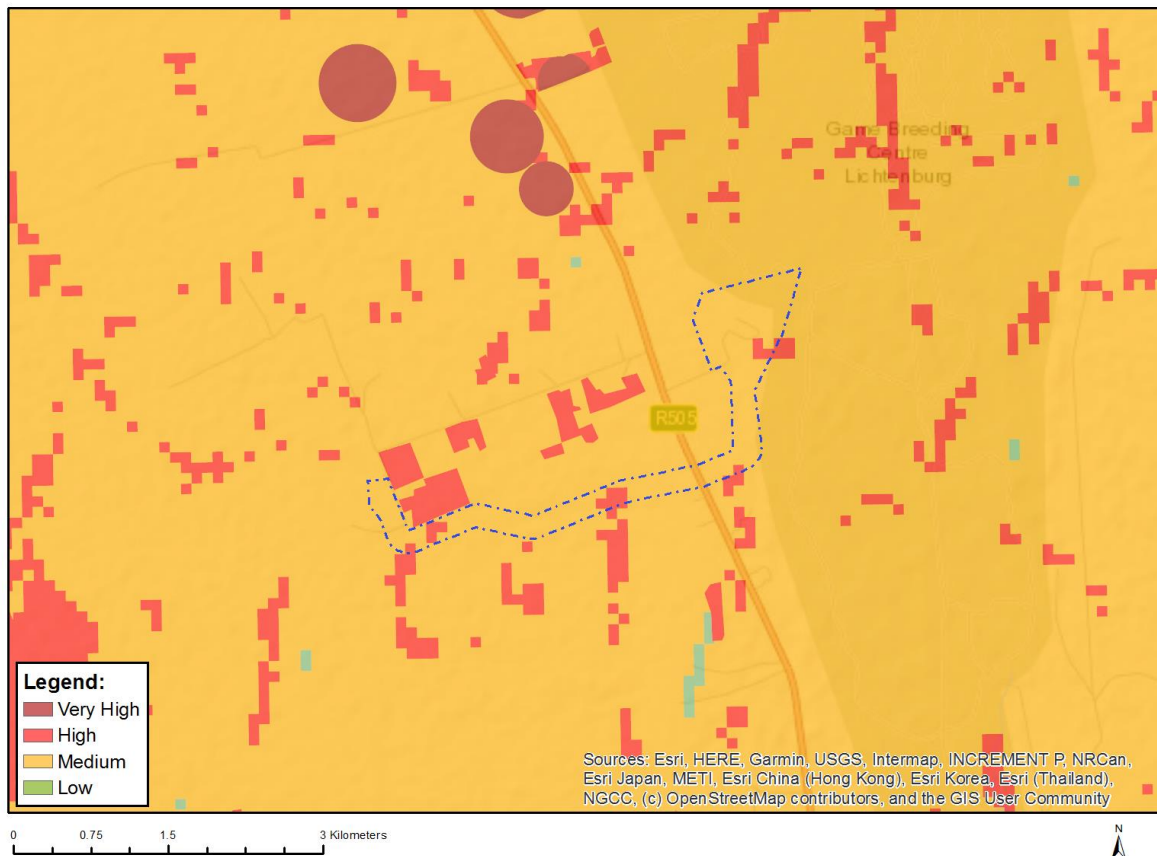
N o	Specialist assessment	Assessment Protocol
1	Agricultural Impact Assessment	https://screening.environment.gov.za/ScreeningDownloads/AssessmentProtocols/Gazetted_General_Agriculture_Assessment_Protocols.pdf
2	Landscape/Visual Impact Assessment	https://screening.environment.gov.za/ScreeningDownloads/AssessmentProtocols/Gazetted_General_Requirement_Assessment_Protocols.pdf
3	Archaeological and Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment	https://screening.environment.gov.za/ScreeningDownloads/AssessmentProtocols/Gazetted_General_Requirement_Assessment_Protocols.pdf
4	Palaeontology Impact Assessment	https://screening.environment.gov.za/ScreeningDownloads/AssessmentProtocols/Gazetted_General_Requirement_Assessment_Protocols.pdf
5	Terrestrial Biodiversity Impact Assessment	https://screening.environment.gov.za/ScreeningDownloads/AssessmentProtocols/Gazetted_Terrestrial_Biodiversity_Assessment_Protocols.pdf
6	Aquatic Biodiversity Impact Assessment	https://screening.environment.gov.za/ScreeningDownloads/AssessmentProtocols/Gazetted_Aquatic_Biodiversity_Assessment_Protocols.pdf

7	Avian Impact Assessment	https://screening.environment.gov.za/ScreeningDownloads/AssessmentProtocols/Gazetted_Avifauna_Assessment_Protocols.pdf
8	Civil Aviation Assessment	https://screening.environment.gov.za/ScreeningDownloads/AssessmentProtocols/Gazetted_Civil_Aviation_Installations_Assessment_Protocols.pdf
9	RFI Assessment	https://screening.environment.gov.za/ScreeningDownloads/AssessmentProtocols/Gazetted_General_Requirement_Assessment_Protocols.pdf
10	Geotechnical Assessment	https://screening.environment.gov.za/ScreeningDownloads/AssessmentProtocols/Gazetted_General_Requirement_Assessment_Protocols.pdf
11	Plant Species Assessment	https://screening.environment.gov.za/ScreeningDownloads/AssessmentProtocols/Gazetted_Plant_Species_Assessment_Protocols.pdf
12	Animal Species Assessment	https://screening.environment.gov.za/ScreeningDownloads/AssessmentProtocols/Gazetted_Animal_Species_Assessment_Protocols.pdf

Results of the environmental sensitivity of the proposed area.

The following section represents the results of the screening for environmental sensitivity of the proposed site for relevant environmental themes associated with the project classification. It is the duty of the EAP to ensure that the environmental themes provided by the screening tool are comprehensive and complete for the project. Refer to the disclaimer.

MAP OF RELATIVE AGRICULTURE THEME SENSITIVITY



Very High sensitivity	High sensitivity	Medium sensitivity	Low sensitivity
	X		

Sensitivity Features:

Sensitivity	Feature(s)
High	Land capability;09. Moderate-High/10. Moderate-High
High	Small Holdings;Land capability;06. Low-Moderate/07. Low-Moderate/08. Moderate
Medium	Land capability;06. Low-Moderate/07. Low-Moderate/08. Moderate

MAP OF RELATIVE ANIMAL SPECIES THEME SENSITIVITY



Where only a sensitive plant unique number or sensitive animal unique number is provided in the screening report and an assessment is required, the environmental assessment practitioner (EAP) or specialist is required to email SANBI at eiadatarequests@sanbi.org.za listing all sensitive species with their unique identifiers for which information is required. The name has been withheld as the species may be prone to illegal harvesting and must be protected. SANBI will release the actual species name after the details of the EAP or specialist have been documented.

Very High sensitivity	High sensitivity	Medium sensitivity	Low sensitivity
			X

Sensitivity Features:

Sensitivity	Feature(s)
Low	Low sensitivity

MAP OF RELATIVE AQUATIC BIODIVERSITY THEME SENSITIVITY

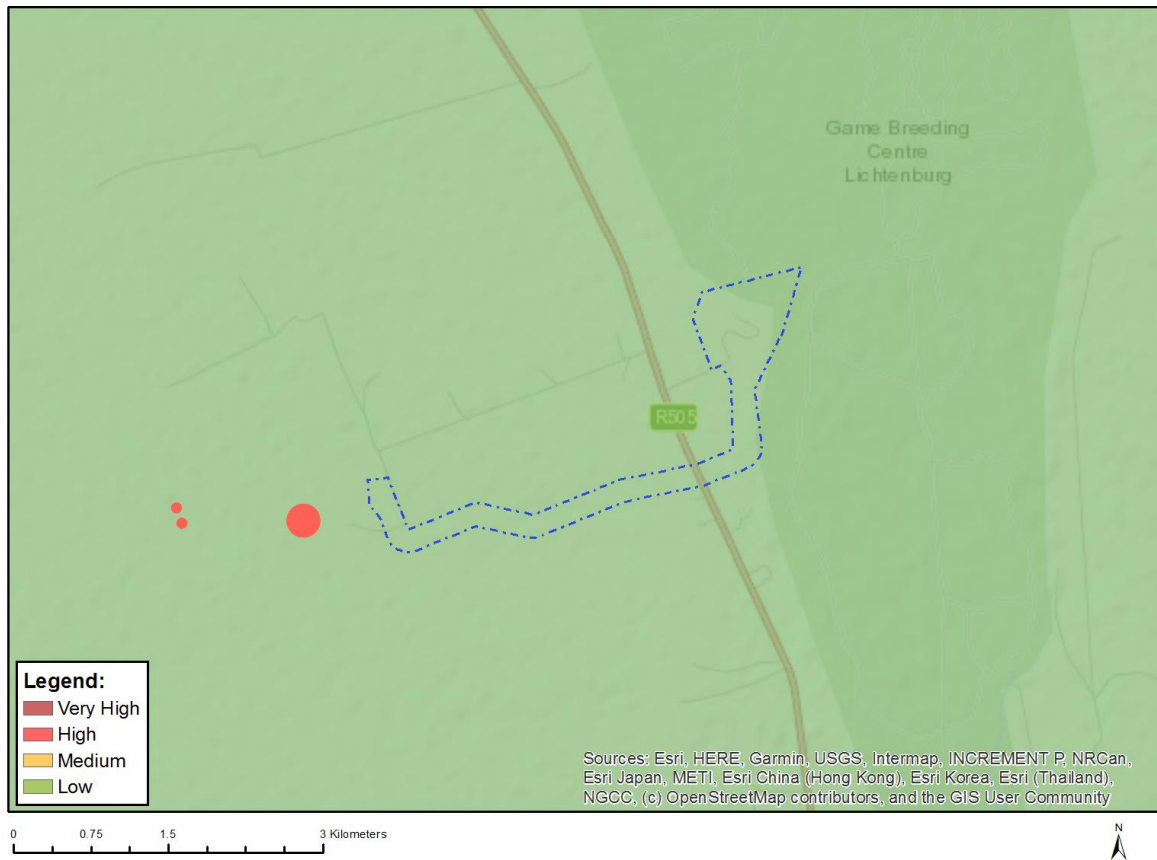


Very High sensitivity	High sensitivity	Medium sensitivity	Low sensitivity
X			

Sensitivity Features:

Sensitivity	Feature(s)
Very High	Aquatic CBAs
Very High	Strategic water source area
Very High	Wetlands and Estuaries

MAP OF RELATIVE ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND CULTURAL HERITAGE THEME SENSITIVITY

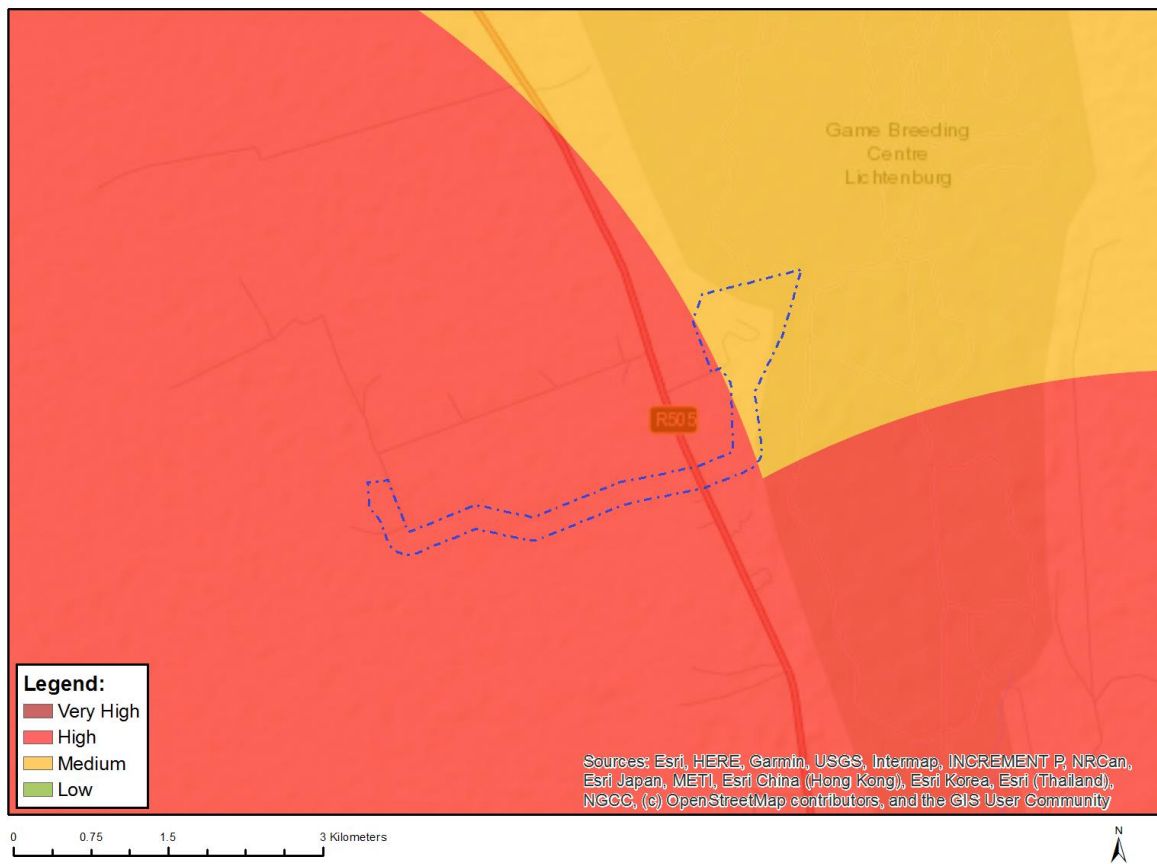


Very High sensitivity	High sensitivity	Medium sensitivity	Low sensitivity
			X

Sensitivity Features:

Sensitivity	Feature(s)
Low	Low sensitivity

MAP OF RELATIVE CIVIL AVIATION THEME SENSITIVITY



Very High sensitivity	High sensitivity	Medium sensitivity	Low sensitivity
	X		

Sensitivity Features:

Sensitivity	Feature(s)
High	Within 8 km of other civil aviation aerodrome
Medium	Between 8 and 15 km of other civil aviation aerodrome

MAP OF RELATIVE DEFENCE THEME SENSITIVITY



Very High sensitivity	High sensitivity	Medium sensitivity	Low sensitivity
			X

Sensitivity Features:

Sensitivity	Feature(s)
Low	Low Sensitivity

MAP OF RELATIVE PALEONTOLOGY THEME SENSITIVITY

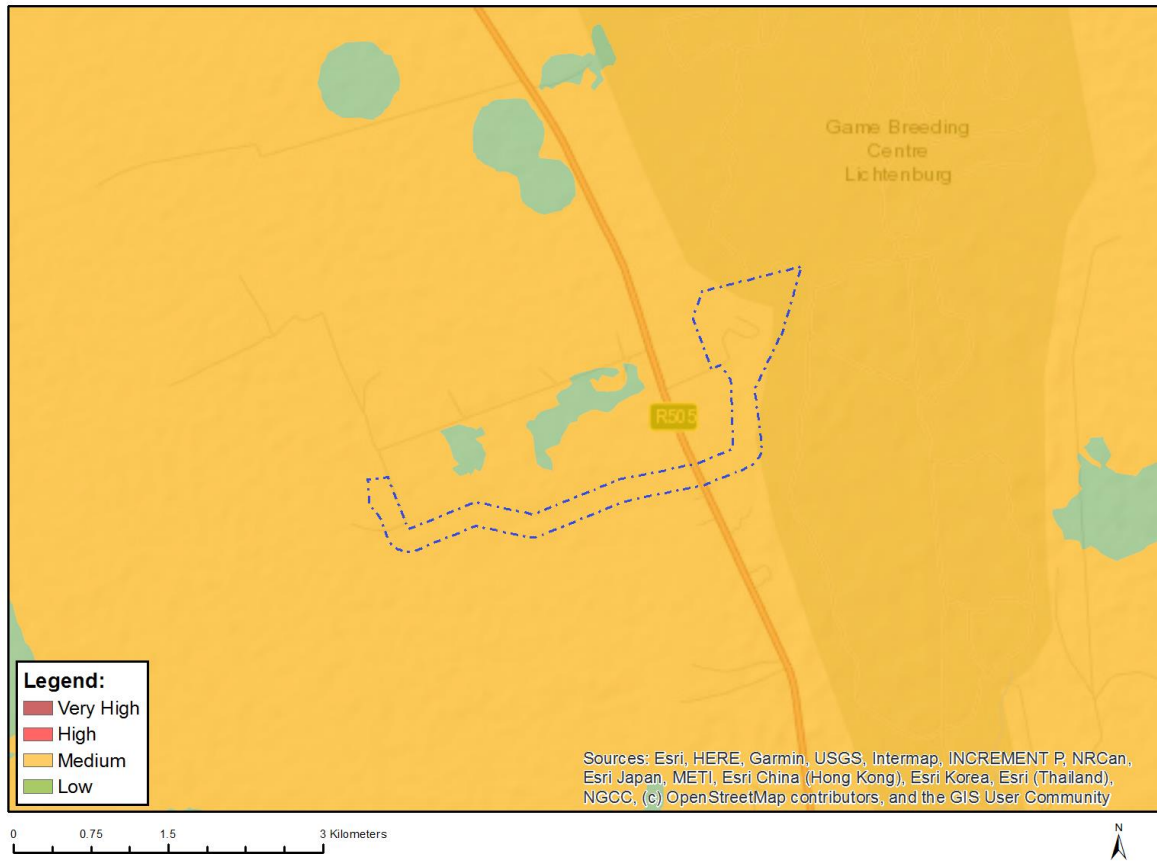


Very High sensitivity	High sensitivity	Medium sensitivity	Low sensitivity
X			

Sensitivity Features:

Sensitivity	Feature(s)
Medium	Features with a Medium paleontological sensitivity
Very High	Features with a Very High paleontological sensitivity

MAP OF RELATIVE PLANT SPECIES THEME SENSITIVITY



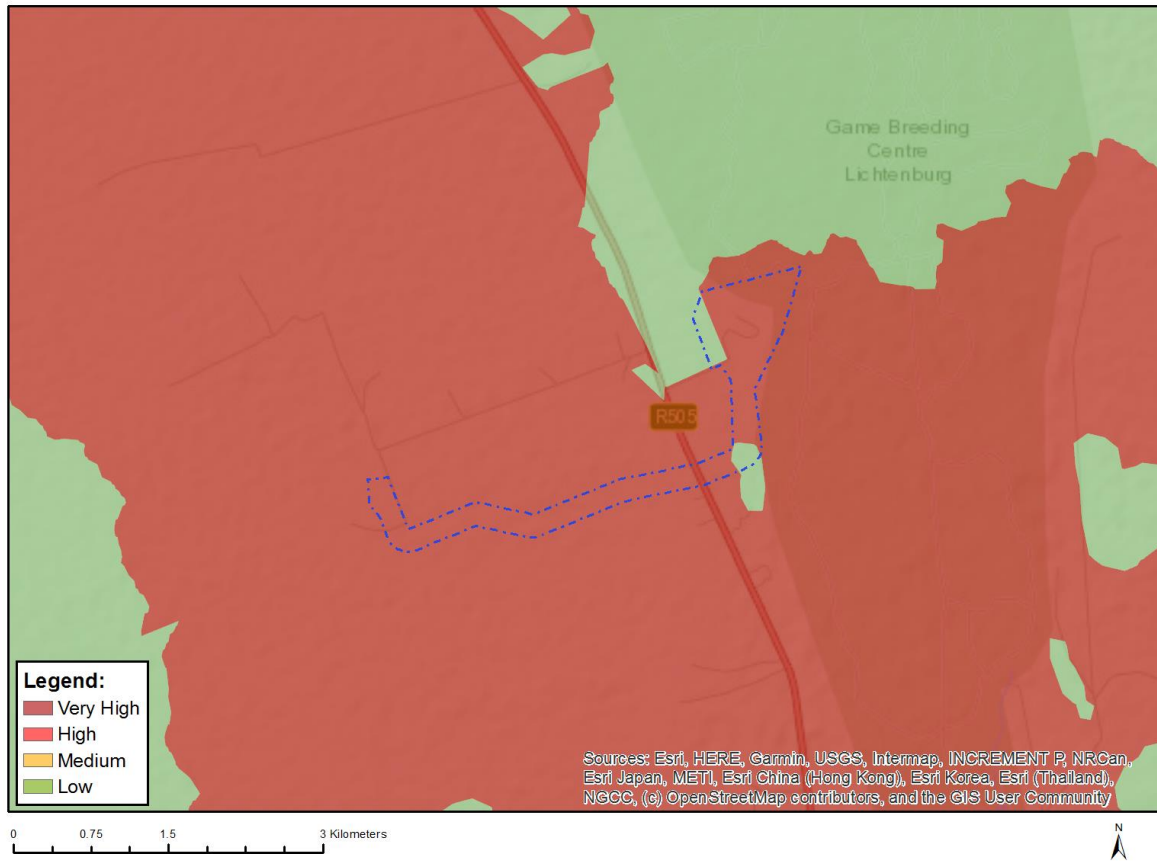
Where only a sensitive plant unique number or sensitive animal unique number is provided in the screening report and an assessment is required, the environmental assessment practitioner (EAP) or specialist is required to email SANBI at eiadatarequests@sanbi.org.za listing all sensitive species with their unique identifiers for which information is required. The name has been withheld as the species may be prone to illegal harvesting and must be protected. SANBI will release the actual species name after the details of the EAP or specialist have been documented.

Very High sensitivity	High sensitivity	Medium sensitivity	Low sensitivity
		X	

Sensitivity Features:

Sensitivity	Feature(s)
Low	Low Sensitivity
Medium	Sensitive species 1261

MAP OF RELATIVE TERRESTRIAL BIODIVERSITY THEME SENSITIVITY



Very High sensitivity	High sensitivity	Medium sensitivity	Low sensitivity
X			

Sensitivity Features:

Sensitivity	Feature(s)
Low	Low Sensitivity
Very High	Critical biodiversity area 2
Very High	Ecological support area 1
Very High	Ecological support area 2
Very High	Protected Areas Expansion Strategy

**APPENDIX 4
PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PLAN**

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PLAN
IN TERMS OF THE DIRECTIONS REGARDING MEASURES TO ADDRESS, PREVENT AND COMBAT THE
SPREAD OF COVID-19 RELATING TO NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT PERMITS AND
LICENCES DURING COVID-19 PANDEMIC**

HOUTHAALBOOMEN GRID CONNECTION INFRASTRUCTURE

Application yet to be submitted/ Reference

April 2022

Introduction:

The restrictions implemented by the Government through various mechanisms to curb the spread of the COVID-19 virus since the beginning of the pandemic in March 2020, particularly in terms of numbers of people at gatherings, has placed some limitations on the of public consultation process as part the Basic Assessment process. Considering these limitations, the following consultation process has been designed and will be implemented, on approval by the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE).The public participation process which includes consultation with Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs), the competent authority, directly impacted landowners/occupiers, adjacent landowners/occupiers, relevant Organs of State departments, Municipalities, ward councillors and other key stakeholders.

The Public Participation Plan is submitted as per the requirements of the DFFE. According to Section (2)(4)(f) of the National Environmental Management Act (NEMA), the participation of all I&APs must be promoted and all potential I&APs must be informed early and in an informative and proactive way regarding applications that may affect their lives or livelihood in order to give effect to the above sections, and that it is essential to ensure that there is adequate and appropriate opportunity for public participation in decisions that may affect the environment.

Savannah Environmental as the independent assessment practitioners have adopted this plan to in compliance with the regulations. The submission of this and approval does not negate our responsibilities to comply with the requirements for public participation in terms of Regulations 39,40,41,42,43 & 44 of the EIA Regulations 2014, as amended.

Project Details:

The Applicant, Houthaalboomen Grid (Pty) Ltd, is proposing the development of grid connection infrastructure for Houthaalboomen PV Cluster and includes a collector substation (Houthaalboomen Collector Substation) and a 132kV power line to the existing Watershed MTS.

Applicant	Houthaalboomen Grid (Pty) Ltd
Project Description	In order to enable the evacuation of the generated power from the three (3) onsite facility substations for the Houthaalboomen PV Cluster (i.e., Barleria PV DFFE Ref: 14/12/16/3/3/2/2107, Dicoma PV DFFE Ref: 14/12/16/3/3/2/2108, Setaria PV DFFE Ref: 14/12/16/3/3/2/2106) to the collector substation to the existing Watershed MTS, two alternative grid

	<p>connection solutions (within a 200m wide corridor) have been assessed and includes:</p> <p>Grid Connection Alternative 1: Houthaalboomen Collector Substation, centrally positioned on the southern boundary of Portion 1 of the Farm Houthaalboomen 31, and a 132kV power line connecting into the existing Watershed MTS. The grid connection infrastructure is located within a 6km long and 200m wide grid connection corridor</p> <p>Grid Connection Alternative 2: Houthaalboomen Collector Substation, positioned on the south-eastern corner of Portion 1 of the Farm Houthaalboomen 31, and a 132kV power line connecting into the existing Watershed MTS. The grid connection infrastructure is located within a 4.5km long and 200m wide grid connection corridor</p>
<p>Affected Properties</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Portion 1 of the Farm Houthaalboomen 31 » Portion 0 of Farm Talene 25 » Portion 39 of Farm Elandsfontein 34- » Portion 93 of Farm Elandsfontein 34 » Portion 41 of Farm Elandsfontein 34 » Portion 0 of Farm Priem 30 » Portion 25 of Farm Houthaalboomen 31 » Portion 1 of Farm Lichtenburg Town and Townlands, No 27

Public Participation Plan:

The public participation (PP) process will be undertaken in accordance with the requirements of Regulations 39 to 44 of the EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended, (GNR 326). The aim of the public participation process is primarily to ensure that:

- » Information containing all relevant facts in respect of the proposed project is made available to potential stakeholders and I&APs.
- » Participation by I&APs is facilitated in such a manner that all potential stakeholders and I&APs are provided with a reasonable opportunity to comment on the proposed project.
- » Comments received from potential stakeholders and I&APs are recorded and incorporated into the EIA process.

The traditional means and opportunities available for the undertaking of public participation are still covered and implemented as part of this plan considering current regulations to limit risks associated with COVID-19. A COVID-19 protocol has been appended as **Appendix A**. Alternative means of undertaking consultation have been designed and will be implemented by Savannah Environmental to ensure that I&APs are afforded sufficient opportunity to raise comments on the project through an interactive web-based platform readily available and accessible to any person illustrating interest in the project and enables the public participation process to be undertaken in line with Regulations 41 to 44 of the EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended.

The use of online tools enables stakeholders and I&APs to explore the project-specific content in their own time and allows them to participate in a meaningful way in the consultation process. The online platform

allows for project information to be shared and made available. Access to the project documentation via the Savannah Environmental website will be unrestricted to all I&APs. I&APs wanting to access the project information via this portal will be required to register and will receive a unique code (via an automated system) to access the report of interest. This step and the online portal support the EAP in maintaining a complete and accurate record and database of all parties who have interest in the project (and who choose to access the report via the online portal), in line with the requirements of the Regulations.

The online stakeholder engagement platform considers the limitations applied by the Government Regulations prohibiting the gathering of people, as well as limitations which certain I&APs may have in terms of access to computers and internet as well as access to public spaces which are not open for operation or which have restricted access.

The benefits of the online stakeholder engagement platform include:

- Ability to create a dedicated project-specific online platform to enable easy access to project-related information.
- Ability to reach a wider audience, allowing more widespread consultation for major infrastructure projects.
- Allowing stakeholders and I&APs the opportunity to engage on a project without leaving their office or home.
- Enabling stakeholders and I&APs to register their interest in a project (for inclusion on the project database), and automatically gaining access to comprehensive project documentation.
- Enabling the EAP to maintain a complete database of I&APs through maintaining a record of persons accessing the online stakeholder consultation platform.
- Enabling the EAP and stakeholders/I&APs to meet virtually.
- Provides a resilient solution to the public consultation process.

Where I&APs do not have the applicable facilities (i.e., access to internet, mobile phones, or computers), provision has been made to include these I&APs in the consultation process by:

- Consulting with the Ward Councillor and, the ward committee members to ensure broader inclusion.
- Consulting with community representatives, formalised community structures and local community forum members to ensure broader inclusion.
- Inviting direct consultation with the Public Participation team to ensure broader inclusion and support by assisting with the submission of comments.
- Use of the 'Please call me' alert of the dedicated cellphone number to allow a call-back at zero expense to the I&AP.
- Hard copy documentation may be made available to local public facilities, but will only be provided where appropriate sanitary conditions can be maintained.

The schematic illustration overleaf provides an overview of the tools that are available to I&APs and stakeholders to access project information and interact with the public participation team to obtain project information and resolve any queries that may arise, and to meet the requirements for public participation.

<p>i. Stakeholder identification and register of I&APs</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Register as an I&AP on the online platform, via completion of a form and provision of contact information, by responding to an advert, or sending a 'please call me' which will be responded to • State interest in the project • Receive all project related information via email or other appropriate means.
<p>ii. Notifications</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advertisements, site notices, and written notifications provide information and details on where to access project information. • Notification regarding the EIA process and availability of project reports for public review to be sent via email, post or SMS notification.
<p>iii. Public Involvement and consultation</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Availability of project information will be via the Savannah website which is accessible and user friendly. • An opportunity for I&APs and stakeholders to request virtual meetings with the project team. • Where limited connectivity is encountered, in-person meeting/s will be arranged with strict COVID protocols followed.
<p>iv. Comment on the EIA reports</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Availability of the project reports via the online platform for a 30-day comment period. • Where applicable, other electronic platforms (WeTransfer or DropBox), and upon written request CD, USB and/or hard copies will be made available. • Submission of comments facilitated through email, WhatsApp/SMS, direct on-site engagement (where necessary) and where required via post to the PP team. • Comments recorded and responded to, as part of the process.
<p>v. Identification and recording of comments</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comments and Responses Report, including all comments received throughout the process to be included in the reporting.

The PP plan, as set out in the table below, has been drafted for the above-mentioned project to ensure compliance with the requirements of the EIA Regulations and that reasonable opportunity is provided to I&APs and that all administrative actions are reasonable. Proof of all notifications will be included in the public participation process report with supporting appendix's included in the Scoping and EIA Reports.

The PP plan is submitted to the DFFE for discussion and agreement before the PP process is undertaken for the proposed project.

Public Participation Plan: Discussion of approach and methodology to meet the requirements of the Regulations, applicable to all above mentioned applications for environmental authorisation (combined where possible).

Regulation	Approach & Methodology to meet requirements
<p>Regulation 40(1), Regulation 40(3) & Regulation 43 – provide all potential or registered interested and affected parties, including the competent authority, access to project related information, access to the BA Report which will be made available for a period of at least 30 days to submit comments on draft reports prior to submission of final reports for decision-making.</p>	<p><u>Notification of BA process to be distributed using the following means:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advertisement in local media • E-mail • Dedicated project page on the Savannah Environmental online stakeholder engagement platform. This platform is accessible and user friendly. • Post (where email or other means are not possible). This form of notification cannot be excluded considering that some parties may wish to use it. • Site notices placed on site as well as process notices placed at other relevant public locations. <p><u>Notification of availability of report and period for review using the following means:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Newspaper advert in a local newspaper (i.e Noordwester) , including details of where the report can be accessed and details of the Savannah Environmental website. • Direct notification to registered I&APs: Notification letter (to be sent via email, fax and/or post, as may be most applicable) to affected and surrounding landowners and occupiers, and registered I&APs. • Direct notification to registered I&APs: SMS and/ or WhatsApp notifications where possible and available. • Indirect notification to registered I&APs: Where direct notification is restricted, notifications to communities via one of the following will be implemented: Ward Councillor, ward committee members, identified and confirmed community representatives, and local community forum members. It is critical to note that all avenues to exhaust direct notifications will be exercised (i.e., including forming part of any local communication groups WhatsApp and Telegram groups). <p><u>Availability of reports for review:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reports available on the Savannah Environmental website for download. Upon registering their interest, I&APs will be able to download the respective project documentation. • Electronic copies can be made available to parties via a secure Dropbox link (or other means) that will be emailed upon request for the documentation. • CDs to be posted, if requested.






Regulation	Approach & Methodology to meet requirements
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hard copy project documentation and reports to be available only where appropriate sanitary conditions can be maintained. • Report will be submitted to the DFFE using the DFFE online portal. • Report will be submitted to Organs of State and commenting authorities via an agreed electronic platform (such as on CD, or via a secure Dropbox link or WeTransfer, etc.). <p><u>Submission of comments to PP team:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Written comments can be submitted via email, WhatsApp/SMS, fax or post, whichever is most applicable. • Any comments provided telephonically or via instant message will be transcribed and recorded as formal comments. <p><u>Opportunity and means of consultation where applicable facilities are not available to I&APs:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advertisement in local media. • Post (where email or other means are not possible). • Placement of site notice on all affected properties. • Consultation and communication through one of the following, where available: the ward councillor, ward committee members and confirmed community representatives and local community forum members. These forums would be suitable for notifications to occupiers, where access to these parties is not available through other means (such as direct consultation). • SMS or WhatsApp notification. • CDs or USBs to be posted, if requested (and where a computer is available). • Hard copy report only where sanitary conditions can be maintained.
<p>Regulation 40(2) - Provide access to all project information that has the potential to influence any decision regarding the application, unless protected by law, and must include consultation with Competent Authority, Organs of State & registered I&APs.</p> <p>Regulation 41 (6) – Relevant information available and accessible</p>	<p>Provision of project information and consultation via various means including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Telephonic consultation. • Email correspondence. • Correspondence sent via post (where email or other means are not possible) • SMS and/or WhatsApp. • The Savannah Environmental online stakeholder engagement platform will include the following-: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ A means for I&APs to register on the project database and provide details of their interest in the project. ○ Project maps (as applicable). ○ Presentation of findings of the EIA process for each project.

Regulation	Approach & Methodology to meet requirements
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Virtual focus group meetings using an appropriate platform agreeable to all parties (such as Zoom, Skype or Teams). The meetings will be recorded, and the attendees' details captured in an attendance register. • Where limited connectivity is encountered, in-person meeting/s will be arranged with strict COVID protocols followed. This includes having an understanding of the venue where the meeting is to be held and the number of attendees to ensure sanitary conditions can be maintained. • Communities will be consulted via one of the following, where available: the relevant Ward Councillor, ward committee members, community representative or local community forum members, as determined and confirmed during the consultation process. Through consultation these forums would be suitable for notifications to occupiers, where access to these parties is not available through other means (such as direct consultation). <p><u>Opportunity and means of consultation where applicable facilities are not available to I&APs:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Telephonic consultation. • Post (where email or other means are not possible) • SMS and/or WhatsApp. • Consultation and communication through one of the following, where available: face-to-face meetings or workshops (in an appropriate local language where required) the ward councillor, ward committee members and confirmed community representatives and local community forum members.
Regulation 41(2)(a) – Site notice	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Site notices will be placed at affected properties by the EAP, landowner or specialist, depending on specific travel restrictions applicable at the time. • Size and content will be in accordance with Regulation 41(3) & 41(4).
Regulation 41(2)(b) – Written notification to affected and neighbouring landowners and occupiers; municipality; ward councillors; Organs of State & other parties required by the CA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Notification letter to be sent via email, fax, or post. <p><u>Opportunity and means of consultation where applicable facilities are not available to I&APs:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Post (where email or other means are not possible) » SMS or WhatsApp notification.
Regulation 42 – Project database	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I&APs to be identified through a process of networking and referral, obtaining information from Savannah Environmental and Eskom's existing stakeholder databases, liaison with potentially affected parties in the greater surrounding area and a registration process involving response to adverts. • Organs of State, key stakeholders and affected and surrounding landowners will be identified and registered on the project database.

Regulation	Approach & Methodology to meet requirements
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Other stakeholders will be required to formally register their interest in the project through either directly contacting the Savannah Environmental Public Participation team via email or fax or use of the Savannah Environmental website. • To access the Savannah Environmental online stakeholder engagement platform, I&APs will be required to provide their details such that they are automatically registered on the project database. • The register of I&APs will contain the names of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ all persons who requested to be registered on the database through the use of the Savannah Environmental website, or in writing and disclosed their interest in the project; ○ all Organs of State which hold jurisdiction in respect of the activity to which the application relates; and ○ all persons who submitted written comments or attended virtual meeting/s and viewed virtual presentations on the Savannah Environmental website during the public participation process. • The information captured on the project database will contain the names, organisation and contact details, as required. It must be noted that personal details will not be shared in public documentation in accordance with the requirements of the POPI Act.
<p>Regulation 44 – Comments to be recorded</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Written comments can also be submitted via email, WhatsApp/SMS, fax or post, which ever is most applicable. • Any comments provided telephonically or via instant message will be transcribed and recorded as formal comments. • All comments received throughout the BA process will be acknowledged and captured in the comments and responses report (C&RR) with a relevant response. • The C&RR and all comments received will be included in the final report submitted to the CA. <p><u>Opportunity and means of consultation where applicable facilities are not available to I&APs:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I&APs without the applicable electronic facilities to access the Savannah Environmental website will be provided with the opportunity to submit their comments and communicate with the public participation team via SMS, WhatsApp or by sending a Please-call-me notification. These comments will be transcribed and recorded as formal comments • Written comments via post or fax (where email or other means are not possible). • Comment submission telephonically and instant messaging (SMS and/or WhatsApp). • Sending a Please-call-me notification to the Public Participation team so that contact can be made at any point of the project cycle.

Regulation	Approach & Methodology to meet requirements
Regulation 4(2) – Notification of decision on application	<p><u>Notification of Environmental Authorisation (EA) using the following means:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Notification letter with details as outlined in EA issued will be sent via email, fax, or post whichever is most applicable. • Notifications that the IEA and WML has been issued and where to download and/or obtain a copy to communities via one of the following, where available: Ward Councillor and his/her ward committee members and identified and confirmed community representatives. These channels will be closely facilitated where no direct notification is possible. • SMS or WhatsApp notification. <p><u>Opportunity and means of consultation where applicable facilities are not available to I&APs:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Post (where email or other means are not possible) • Communication via one of the following, where available: the ward councillor, ward committee members and confirmed community representatives and local community forum members. • SMS and/or WhatsApp.

APPENDIX A
COVID-19 Protocol

	<p>Avoid large gatherings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Meetings will comply with the latest government restrictions regarding gatherings » Participants will be confirmed by invitation only and will be required to register their attendance prior to the meeting
	<p>Wearing of cloth face-masks:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Mandatory wearing of face masks by all participants incl. consultants and applicant in line with latest government regulations » Where required the applicant will provide face masks for participants who do not have » Both Consultants and Community members have the right to refuse to participate if someone is refusing to wear a mask
	<p>Maintenance of Social distancing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Consultants and Community members will be seated according to the latest government restrictions for any community and/or Focus Group Meetings » Where meetings are held inside, adequate ventilation will be ensured
	<p>Hand washing and sanitising:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Hand sanitisers will be provided at the entrance of the venue for all meetings
	<p>Regular cleaning of shared surfaces and equipment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » The venue hire used will sanitise and clean chairs and tables in the venue prior to commencement of the meeting » Should there be a break during the meeting, the tables and chairs will be sanitised before the next session » There will be a designated rubbish bin in the meeting venue to collect all waste generated. All waste will be handled and treated as sanitary waste



PRE - APPLICATION MEETINGS

ID	404
CASE OFFICER	Zamalanga Langa
REFERENCE NUMBER	2022-04-0022
PROJECT TITLE	HOUTHAAALBOOMEN GRID CONNECTION INFRASTRUCTURE, NORTH WEST PROVINCE
PROVINCE	North West
APPLICANT	Houthaalboomen Grid (Pty) Ltd
EAP	Savannah Environmental (Pty) Ltd
DATE APPLICATION RECEIVED	Tuesday, 19 April 2022
MEETING HELD	<input type="checkbox"/>
DATE MEETING HELD	
NOTES	

Lehlogonolo Mashego

From: Rendani Rasivhetshele
Sent: Thursday, 12 May 2022 16:22
To: Lehlogonolo Mashego
Cc: Nondumiso Bulunga
Subject: FW: 2022-04-0022 (Houthaalboomen Grid Connection Infrastructure, North West Province)
Attachments: Houthaalboomen Grid_pre application from.pdf; Houthaalboomen Grid_Public Participation Plan.pdf; 2022-04-0022 DB Output.pdf

Hi Lehlogonolo,

The below email is to form part of Appendix B.

Kind regards

Rendani Rasivhetshele

Environmental Consultant | Savannah Environmental (Pty) Ltd
Tel: +27 (0)11 656 3237 | Fax: +27 (0)86 684 0547

[SAWEA Award for Leading Environmental Consultant for Wind Projects in 2013 & 2015](#)

From: Zama Langa <ZLANGA@dffe.gov.za>
Sent: Monday, May 9, 2022 9:52 AM
To: Rendani Rasivhetshele <rendani@savannahsa.com>
Cc: Nyiko Nkosi <NNKOSI@dffe.gov.za>
Subject: 2022-04-0022 (Houthaalboomen Grid Connection Infrastructure, North West Province)

The above subject refer,

Kindly note that a PPP Plan approval is no longer a requirement. You may processed with Public participation as prescribed in the EIA regulations.

Regards,
Zamalanga

From: EIA Applications <EIAApplications@dffe.gov.za>
Sent: Thursday, 05 May 2022 11:52
To: Zama Langa <ZLANGA@dffe.gov.za>
Cc: Nyiko Nkosi <NNKOSI@dffe.gov.za>; Dr. Danie Smit <DSMIT@dffe.gov.za>; Jana de Jager <Jana@savannahsa.com>
Subject: 2022-04-0022

Dear Zama.

Please note that you have been allocated an application:

Type of Application: Pre-Application Meeting Request;
Reference Number: 2022-04-0022;
Date Received: 19/04/2022;
Action Required: Decide on meeting request.

Kindly let Ephron know which date the meeting is to be held, if it will be set.

EIA Applications

Integrated Environmental Authorisations
Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment

Please note that this email is for the receipt and processing of online applications only, and is not monitored for responses. All queries must be directed to EIAAdmin@dffe.gov.za.

You are advised that this mailbox has a 48 hour response time.

Please note that this mailbox has a 5mb mail limit. No zip files are to be attached in any email.

From: Jana de Jager <Jana@savannahsa.com>
Sent: Tuesday, 19 April 2022 14:40
To: EIA Applications <EIAApplications@dffe.gov.za>
Cc: Rendani Rasivhetshele <rendani@savannahsa.com>
Subject: Request for Pre-Application & PP Plan Approval - Houthaalboomen Grid Connection Infrastructure, North West Province

Good day

Kindly see attached the Pre-application form and PP Plan for the Houthaalboomen Grid Connection infrastructure, North West Province. A pre-application meeting is not specifically required for the project, the request is submitted in order to provide the DFFE details of the proposed Houthaalboomen Grid Connection infrastructure and for approval of the Public Participation Plan.

Your assistance will be highly appreciated. Please contact the EAP Rendani Rasivhetshele, cc'd in this email, if have any queries in this regard.

Kind regards



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c: +27 (0)81 444 3432
f: +27 (0) 86 684 0547

Jana de Jager
Environmental Consultant

e: jana@savannahsa.com

SAWEA Award for Leading Environmental Consultant on Wind Projects in 2013 & 2015

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