

**BASIC ASSESSMENT AND
PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCESS
FOR THE
NALEDI PV AND NGWEDI PV NEAR UPINGTON,
NORTHERN CAPE PROVINCE**

**MEETING NOTES OF FOCUS GROUP MEETING HELD WITH KAI !GARIB
LOCAL MUNICIPALITY
HELD ON TUESDAY, 21 JULY 2020 AT 09H00
VENUE: ZOOM VIRTUAL PLATFORM**

Meeting notes prepared by:

Nicolene Venter
Savannah Environmental (Pty) Ltd
E-mail: publicprocess@savannahsa.com

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

NALEDI PV AND NGWEDI PV NEAR UPINGTON, NORTHERN CAPE PROVINCE

MEETING ATTENDEES

Name	Organisation	Position
Cllr Marius Louw	Kai !Garib Local Municipality	Mayor
Dr Johny MacKay		Acting Municipal Manager and Director: Planning Development
Cllr Victor Secco		Councillor Ward 6
Clark Meyor		Manager: Electromechanical Services and Acting Director: Technical Services
Millicent Andreas		Administration Officer
Mr Pete Smith	Atlantic Renewable Energy Partners	Project Manager
Ms Lisa Opperman	Savannah Environmental	Environmental Assessment Practitioner
Ms Nicolene Venter		Public Participation Co-ordinator

A narrated presentation, in both English and Afrikaans, was distributed via e-mail to the attendees prior to the Focus Group Meeting. The attendees were also directed to the public participation platform where the presentation can be accessed and/or downloaded. A copy of the slides presented during the virtual meeting is attached as **Appendix A**.

Attendees were requested to register their attendance by introducing themselves by submitting their names and roles at Kai !Garib Local Municipality on the chat function of Zoom, as well as doing a verbal introduction. None of the attendees submitted their registration on the chat function of Zoom, however, the above table represents the attendees present at the on-line meeting

Lisa Opperman informed the attendees that comments can be submitted on the chat function and verbally during the meeting and advised that any additional comments after the meeting can be submitted via e-mail, WhatsApp or SMS to the public participation office. Lisa Opperman provided a summary of the narrated presentation to all attendees and opened the floor for questions and comments.

DISCUSSION SESSION

Question / Comment	Response
Mayor Louw enquired whether the development will be on privately owned land.	Lisa Opperman responded that the property is owned by the developer, Abengoa, which is the same company that developed the existing Khi Solar One CSP facility.
Mayor Louw informed the project team that the Local Municipality does not have good experience with the development of the	Lisa Opperman acknowledged the concerns raised and informed the attendees that the process needs to be acknowledge as this is the

<p>current solar parks in their municipal area due to the following:</p>	<p>first step in a number of authorisations required for the proposed development i.e. an environmental authorisation is required, a permitting process and only when the project obtains preferred bidder status by Department of Energy, can construction start.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Companies developing in the Municipal area divide the communities and should rather create a uniform feeling between the communities. 	<p>She advised the attendees to read the Social Impact Assessment Report as this report talks to specific measures recommended for development to ensure local communities are first considered for employment, as well as consultation recommended with the Municipality and communities before and during construction, and the appointment of a community liaison officer etc.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The developers do not recognise the Local Municipality especially in terms of local SMMEs and providing local job opportunities to address unemployment and skills transfer especially for the youth. 	<p>Pete Smith thanked the Mayor for the valuable comments and recommendations submitted and responded that the proposed development is in early planning stage but consultation and communication with the Local Municipality is important, especially prior to the construction phase.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is important that the developer acknowledge and communicate their social responsibility especially in rural communities. 	<p>He acknowledged the need for a project steering committee to ensure that the proposed development moves forward as Upington is a preferred area for solar developments and any lessons learned from past projects would ensure a smoother development process.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Previous experience was that people from other areas are brought into the Municipal area for construction and the residents of Ward 8 were excluded and therefore not benefitting from the project developments. 	<p>Lisa Opperman added that suggestions and recommendations from the Municipality are welcome especially in terms of the reports considering lessons learnt from past experiences in the area and the solutions which the Municipality believe would be relevant. The community can give guidance and the team will consider the inputs as part of the process and assess the feasibility thereof for all parties involved.</p>
<p>Mayor Louw informed the project team that as a Local Municipality they request a follow-up engagement after this meeting as the</p>	<p>Lisa Opperman acknowledged the request for further consultation and confirm that the request is recorded.</p>

<p>developer needs to provide them with timelines and process as to what happens after this meeting until construction starts.</p>	
<p>Mayor Louw informed the project team that another past experience is that developers want to dictate to the Municipality in terms of how and where funds will be spent, or the types of projects needed within the affected areas.</p> <p>It was requested that before the project proceed a consultative process must be undertaken and a Memorandum of Understanding drafted between the Municipality and the developer as this will assist with the process going forward.</p>	<p>Pete Smit acknowledged the request and need for a Memorandum of Understanding and will take this request forward to the developer project team.</p>
<p>Dr MacKay informed the project team that it is important that the Municipality's Integrated Development Plan for 2020/2021 be consulted as it covers, in particular, future infrastructure developments and social investment in the Municipal area.</p>	<p>Lisa Opperman acknowledged the information provided.</p>

CLOSURE

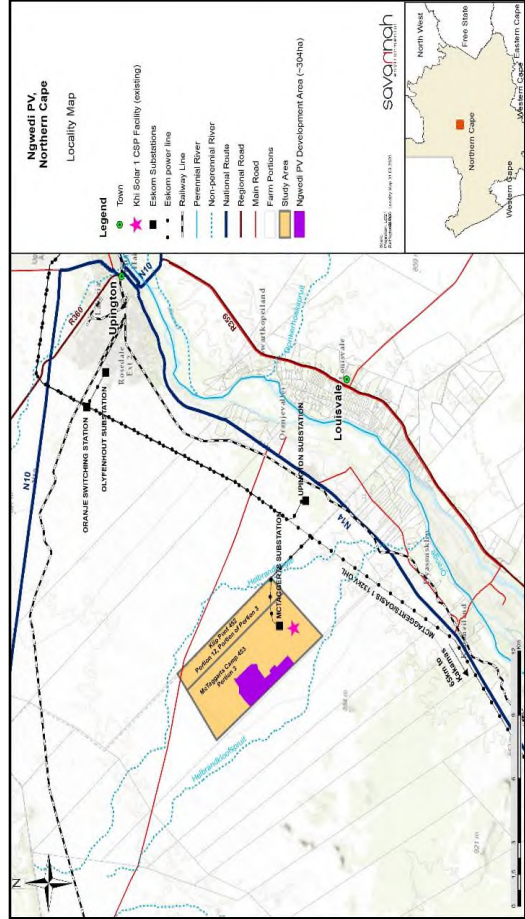
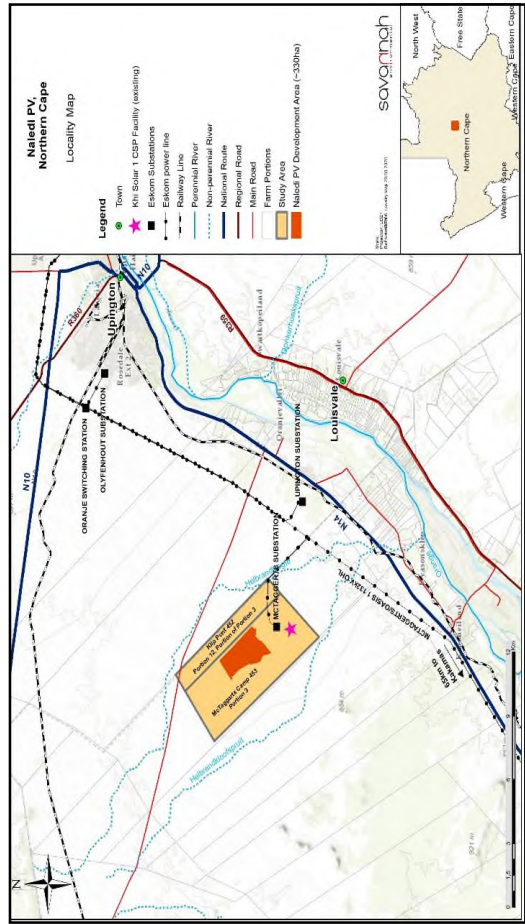
Lisa Opperman thanked the attendees for their valuable inputs into the Basic Assessment processes. The meeting was closed at 10h30.

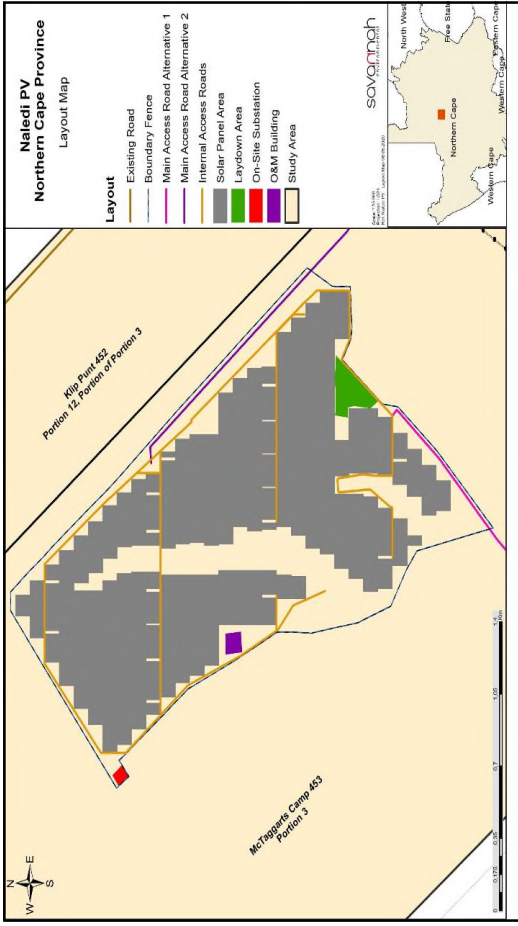
Naledi and Ngweddi PV, Northern Cape Province

Public Participation Presentation
July 2020

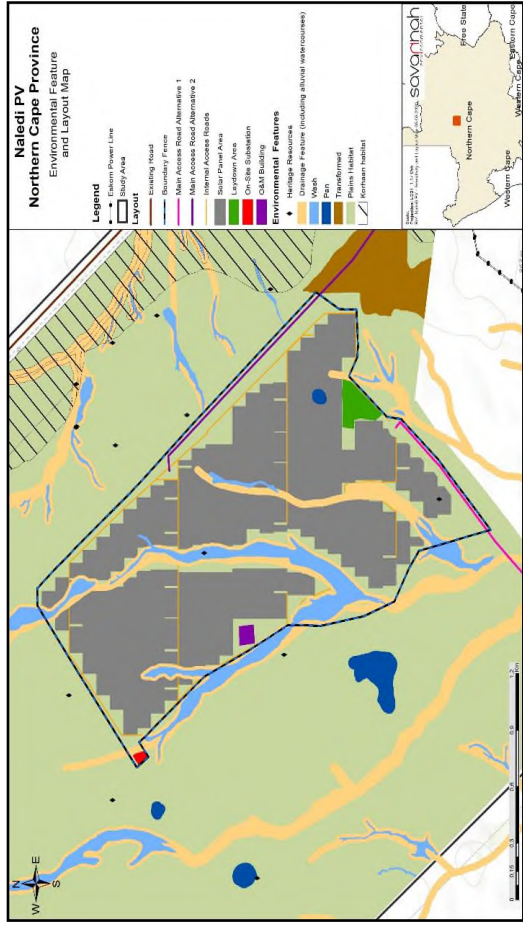
AGENDA

- Welcome
- Introduction of attendees
- Meeting Conduct
- Purpose of the Meeting
- Introduction and Project Description
- Maps
- Results

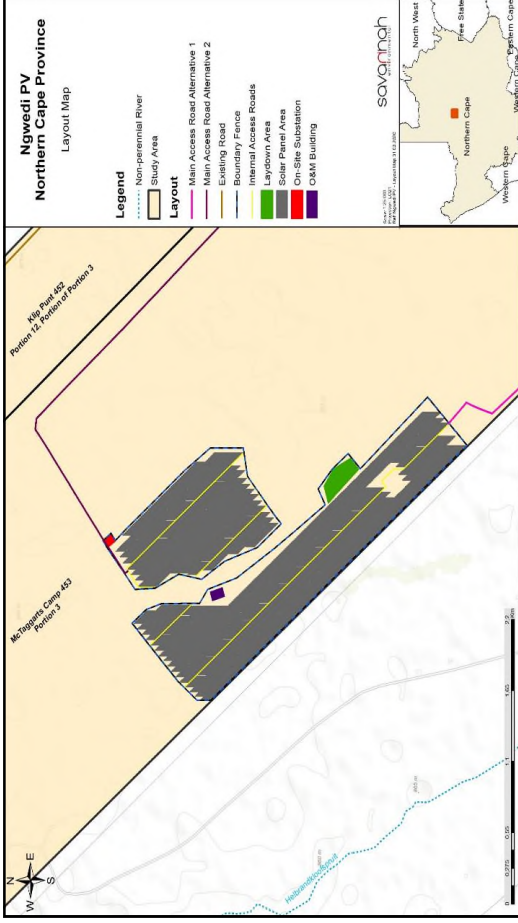




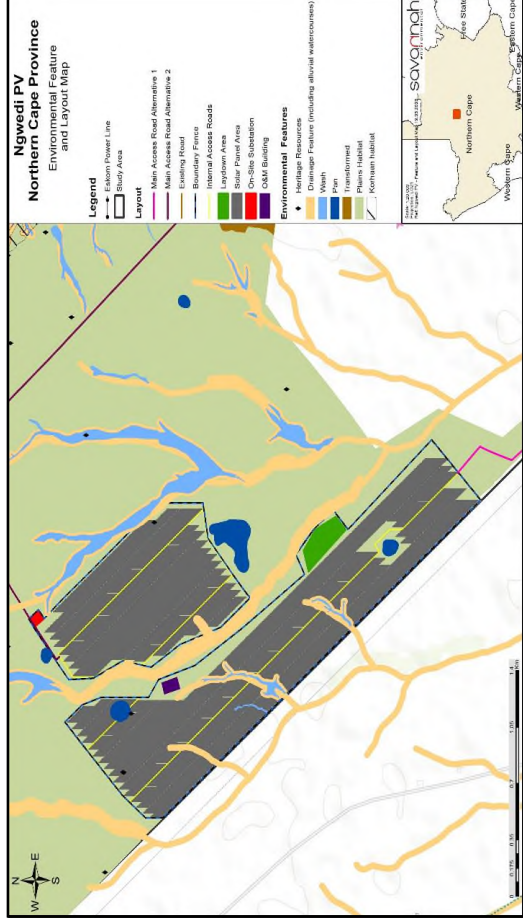
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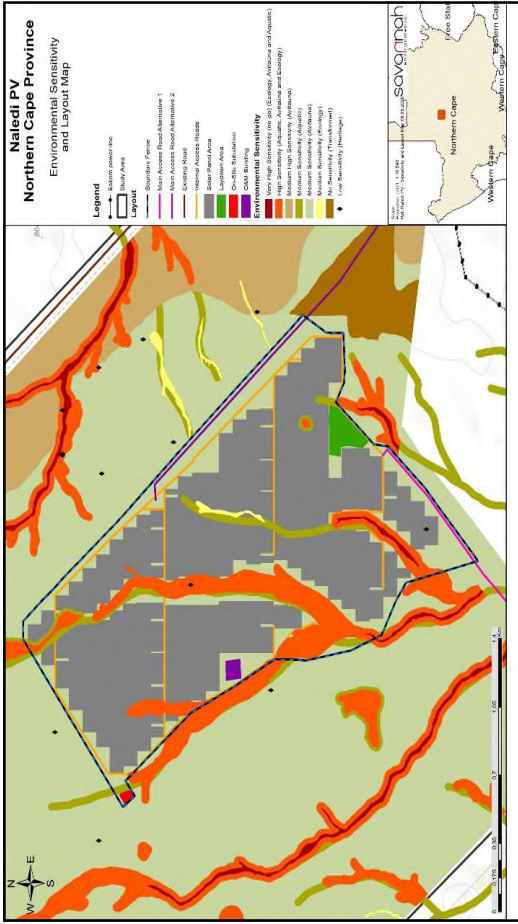
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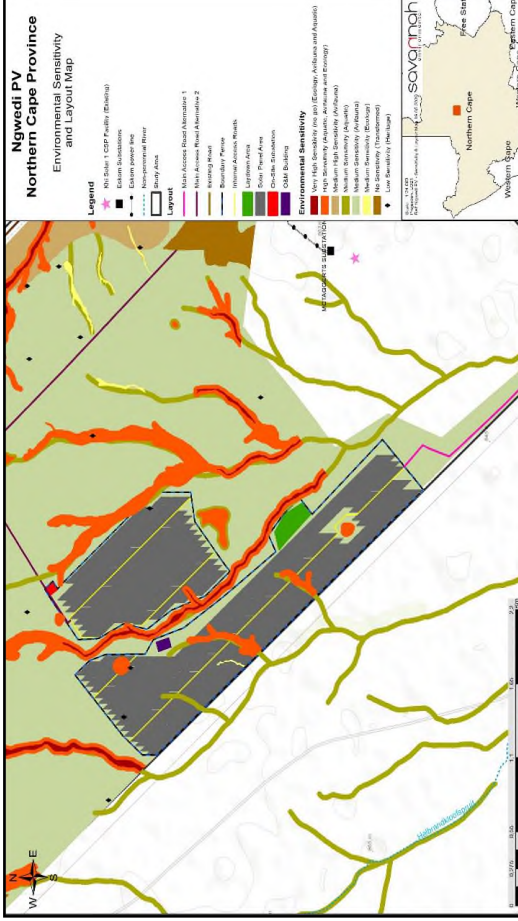
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WHO TO CONTACT FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

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NORTHERN CAPE PROVINCE**

**MEETING NOTES OF FOCUS GROUP MEETING HELD WITH KEIMOES /
McTAGGARTS COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVES
HELD ON TUESDAY, 21 JULY 2020 AT 11H00
VENUE: ZOOM VIRTUAL PLATFORM**

Meeting notes prepared by:

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NALEDI PV AND NGWEDI PV NEAR UPINGTON, NORTHERN CAPE PROVINCE

MEETING ATTENDEES

Name	Organisation	Position
Cllr Victor Secco	Kai !Garib Local Municipality	Councillor Ward 6
Ms Roelien Beukes	McTaggarts Camp Community	School Principle: McTaggarts Camp
Ms Elvira Basson		Intern: Northern Cape Department of Environment and Nature Conservation
Ms Meisie Brussel		Kai !Garib Ward Committee Member
Mr Pete Smith	Atlantic Renewable Energy Partners	Project Manager
Ms Lisa Opperman	Savannah Environmental	Environmental Assessment Practitioner
Ms Nicolene Venter		Public Participation and Social Specialist

A narrated presentation, in both English and Afrikaans, was distributed via e-mail to the attendees prior to the Focus Group Meeting. The attendees were also directed to the public participation platform where the presentation can be accessed and/or downloaded. A copy of the slides presented during the virtual meeting is attached as **Appendix A**.

Attendees confirmed their attendance by e-mail in which their names and roles/positions were confirmed. Refer to **Appendix B**.

Lisa Opperman informed the attendees that comments can be submitted on the chat function and verbally during the meeting and advised that any additional comments after the meeting can be submitted via e-mail, WhatsApp or SMS to the public participation office. Lisa Opperman provided a summary of the narrated presentation to all attendees and opened the floor for questions and comments.

DISCUSSION SESSION

Question / Comment	Response
Cllr Secco enquired what method of participation is available for the broader community of McTaggarts Camp to be informed about the proposed projects.	<p>Lisa Opperman responded that due to COVID-19 restrictions imposed on all, the following has been put in place to ensure that as many interested parties as possible are informed and able to access the project information:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> project documents are available on Savannah Environmental's website – the public participation platform – for download; virtual platforms such as Zoom / Teams etc. are used for small group meetings such as this meeting;

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • interested and affected parties can send WhatsApp messages and/or a SMS to the dedicated Savannah Environmental public participation mobile number; • advertisement was placed in the local community newspaper; • radio announcements on Riverside Radio, one live read per week reminding the community of the BA report availability and the contact information of Savannah Environmental; • e-mail communication; • telephonic discussions; and • inform Ward Councillors, Ward Committee Members and representatives of community members such as the attendees present of the proposed developments. <p>It can be confirmed that public participation conducted previously, i.e. holding public meetings, took on a new method of consulting due to COVID-19 and it was a requirement from the Department of Environmental Affairs that a public participation plan be presented to them. This was undertaken for the projects and the Department approved the public participation plan with the consultation methodology as mentioned above.</p>
<p>Ms Elvira Basson asked whether a committee will be established for these projects and it needs to be taken into consideration that not all community members have access to the internet.</p>	<p>Lisa Opperman responded that these environmental processes is a short process and that the establishment of a committee would not be possible. The request is put to the Councillor, his Ward Committee Members and community representatives to share the information presented at the meeting to the affected communities as due to the limitations experienced during the COVID-19 pandemic hard copies of reports cannot be made available at public places. It was also requested that should they be aware of any specific stakeholder groups they can inform the Savannah Environmental project team who will then contact these parties.</p>

<p>'Nicolene Venter enquired whether the information as provided by Lisa Opperman address Bs Basson's concern.</p>	<p>Ms Elvira Basson responded that it does.</p>
<p>Ms Elvira Basson informed the project team that there are two key questions that will be raised by community members when they are informed by them as representatives and these two questions are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • when will construction starts; and • where and how can community members apply for employment. 	<p>Lisa Opperman responded that the timeframe in short is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • after the 30-day comment period which is ending on the 7th of August 2020, the reports will be finalised and submitted to the Department for review and decision-making; • the Department has 57 days to issue their decision; • the decision is then distributed to all registered I&APs; and then • the project is submitted to the Department of Energy under the Renewable Energy Independent Power Producer Procurement (REIPPP) programme once the next bidding round is announced. This timeframe is however not known. <p>Peter Smith informed the attendees that the current information regarding the next round of Bidding is scheduled for the second quarter of 2021 i.e. June or July 2021. However, it is important to note that this timeframe might be extended / postponed and that no confirmed data is available.</p>

CLOSURE

Nicolene Venter informed the attendees that the project team has a dedicated mobile number that the public participation team can be contacted on should they require any information and would like to meet in a small group on WhatsApp where this resource is available within the community.

The attendees thanked the team for the provision of holding small group discussions with the communities and should this be required, they will inform the project team timeously of a date and time that the group/s will be meeting in order for Savannah Environmental to be part of the discussion.

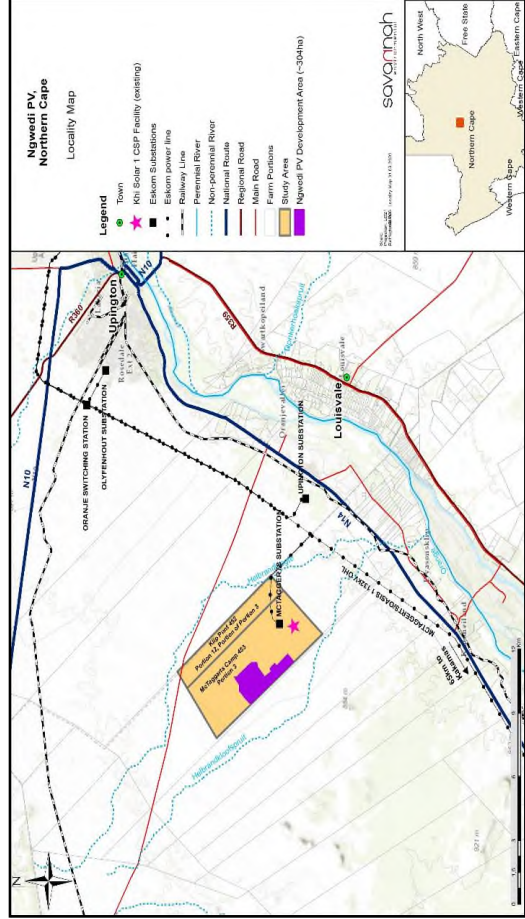
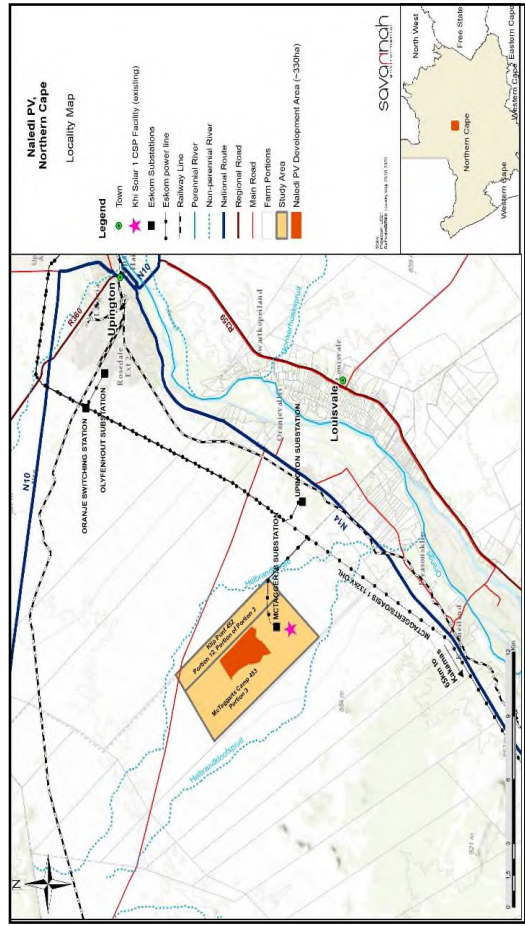
Lisa Opperman thanked the attendees for their valuable inputs into the Basic Assessment processes. The meeting was closed at 11h40.

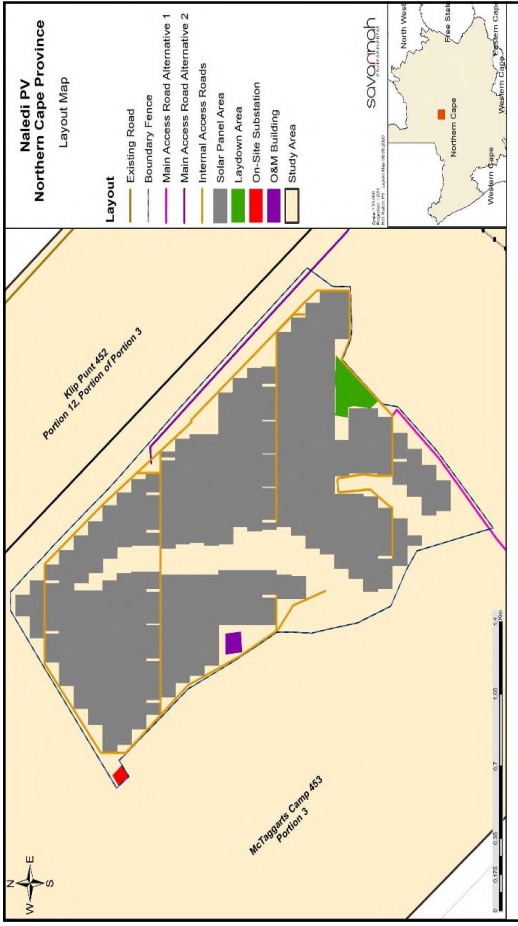
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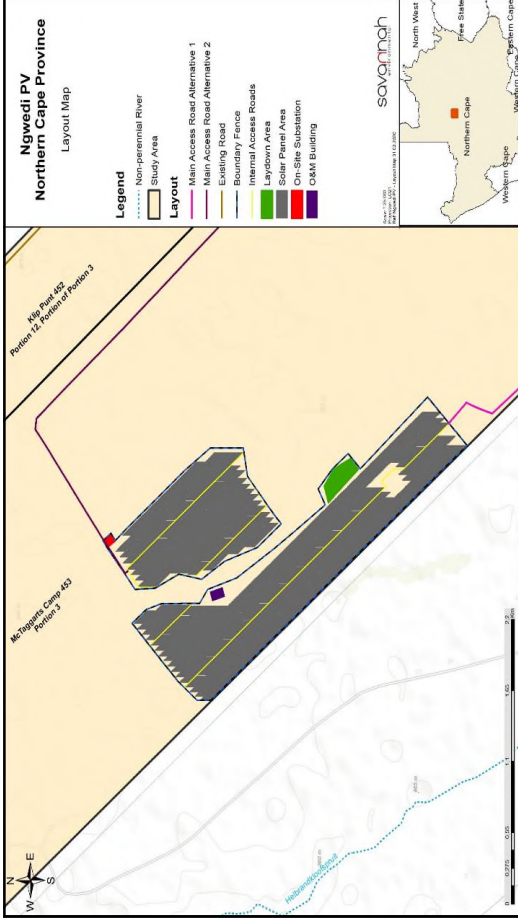
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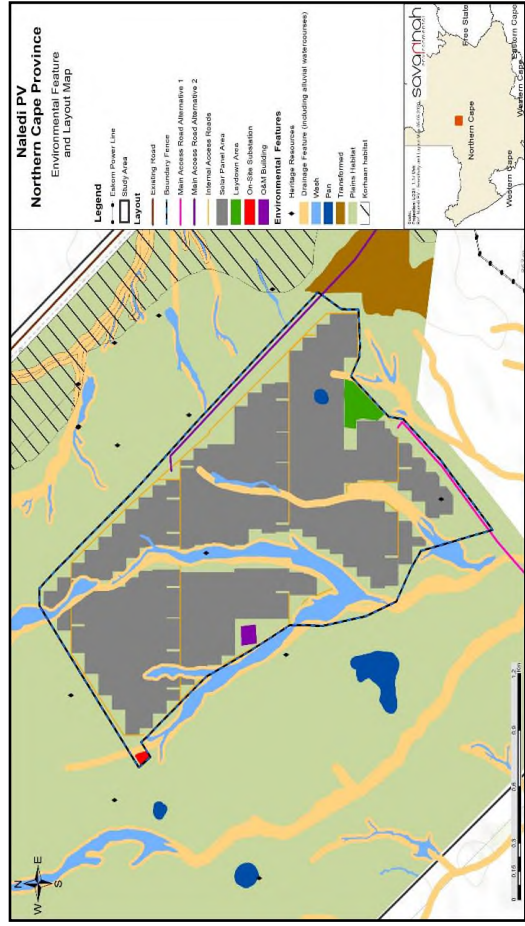




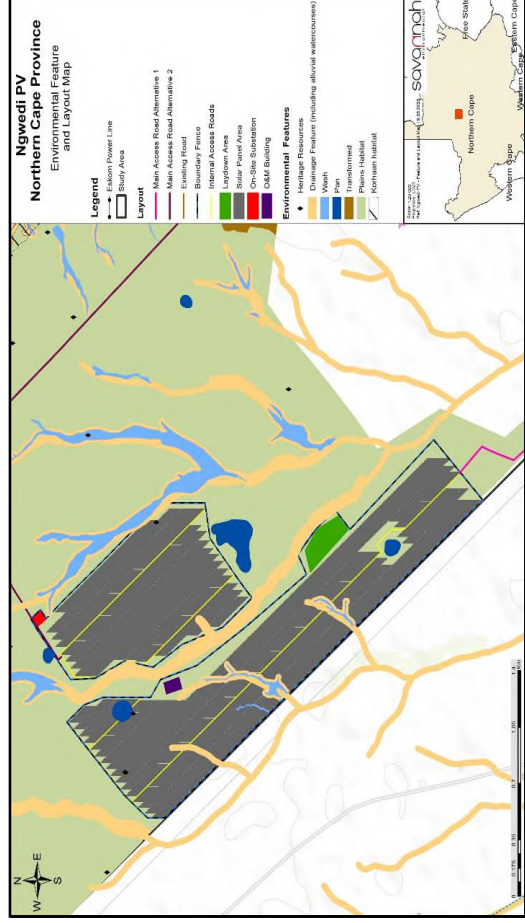
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Nicolene Venter

From: Victor Sacco <saccovictor6@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, July 29, 2020 5:05 PM
To: Nicolene Venter
Subject: Re: SE2704: Naled PV & Ngwedi PV; Confirmation of attendance at FGM - Tuesday, 21 July 2020)

The details are correct

On Wed, 29 Jul 2020, 08:55 Nicolene Venter <nicolene@savannahsa.com> wrote:

Dear Cllr Secco,

Thank you for securing the of the community representatives for the Focus Group Meeting (on-line) held on Tuesday, 21 July 2020 at 11h00.

Councillor, will you please confirm that the following representatives attended the meeting and confirm that we have captured their representation correctly by return e-mail:

- Yourself
- Ms Roelien Beukes, Principle: McTaggarts Camp
- Ms Elvira Basson, Youth Environmental Co-Ordinator: Department of Environment, Forestry & Fisheries
- Ms Meisie Brussel, Ward Committee Member (Ward 8), Kai !Garib Local Municipality

Kind regards,

Nicolene Venter

Public Participation & Social Consultant | Savannah Environmental (Pty) Ltd
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[SAWEA Award for Leading Environmental Consultant for Wind Projects in 2013 & 2015](#)