



MEETING MINUTES: FOCUS GROUP MEETING

PROJECT : BASIC ASSESSMENT PROCESS FOR THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF THE 132kV CHIKADEE POWER LINE BETWEEN THE EXISTING HENDRINA/ARBEDEEN 132kV POWER LINE AND THE **BOSCHMANSKOP** TRACTION STATION WITHIN THE STEVE TSHWETE LOCAL MUNICIPALITY, MPUMALANGA PROVINCE.

BASIC THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF THE 132kV CHIKADEE POWERLINE BETWEEN THE EXISTING BOTHASHOEK/SPECULATE 132kV POWER LINE AND THE **WOESTALLEEN** TRACTION STATION WITHIN THE STEVE TSHWETE LOCAL MUNICIPALITY, MPUMALANGA PROVINCE.

PURPOSE : Discuss the power line development with affected ward councillor and landowner.

VENUE : Mr Daniel Van Wyk's property (Farm Boschmanskop154 IS)
Middelburg, Mpumalanga Province

DATE : 15 February 2018 at 11H30

| ATTENDEES | |
|--------------------------------|---|
| Name | Title / Organisation |
| Cllr Caroline Mphego (Cllr CM) | Ward 5 Councillor, Steve Tshwete Local Municipality |
| Mr Daniel Van Wyk (DVW) | Land Owner (Farm Boschmanskop154 IS) |
| Mrs Van Wyk (VW) | Land Owner (Farm Boschmanskop154 IS) |
| Mr Tebogo Chauke (TC) | Eskom Environmental Officer |
| Mr Percy Khumbuza (PK) | Eskom Surveyor |
| Ms Pfaniso Mukhana (PM) | Eskom Surveyor |
| Mr Thabang Sekele (TS) | Envirolution Consulting - Environmental Assessment Practitioner |
| Item | It must be noted that one focus group meeting was held for the two projects (Boschmanskop and |

Woestalleen) with the Ward 5 councillor. This was done due to the projects being in the same ward and the projects having highly similar environmental impacts and the identical objectives. Also, it eased organisational and logistical aspects by conducting one meeting at one venue for these two projects. The land owner contact details for the Woestalleen project proved challenging to obtain, as such, the affected landowner was not present at the meeting. However, correspondence was sent via post to the landowner.

PROJECT MOTIVATION

Eskom Holdings is the biggest producer of electricity in South Africa and is a vertically integrated company licensed to generate, transmit and distribute electricity. A distribution operation constructs and maintains equipment that transforms the power supply to the type that meets the customer's needs. Reliable network performance targets necessitate that Eskom Distribution improves present distribution network performance levels.

The need and desirability for this specific development is to assist Transnet (SOC) Ltd (Transnet) in increasing its export coal capacity to 81MTPA and to upgrade the Direct Current (DC) sections on the Transnet traction site as well as on the corresponding Eskom sides.

Local benefits of the proposed development include benefits to the local economy through possible job creation and local supplier procurement during the construction phase as well as during the operational phase of the development.

The project qualifies as a Strategic Infrastructure Project (SIP 10), namely "Electricity transmission and distribution for all". The project serves to "expand the transmission and distribution network to address historical imbalances, provide access to electricity for all and support economic development. Align the 10-year transmission plan, the services backlog, the national broadband roll-out and the freight rail line development to leverage off regulatory approvals, supply chain and project development capacity".

MEETING DISCUSSION SUMMARY

It must be noted that one focus group meeting was held for two Projects.

A focus group meeting for the proposed project was held at Mr Daniel Van Wyk's property, at 11:30 AM on Thursday 15 February 2018 to discuss the proposed projects and to discuss potential environmental and logistical issues related to the project with the ward councillors and landowners.

Mr Thabang Sekele (TS) of Envirolution Consulting welcomed all present and thanked everyone for availing themselves for the meeting and distributed the presentation copies and related maps for the project to the attendees. TS went on to give the opportunity for the attendees to introduce themselves.

Attendees proceeded to introduce themselves to everyone present.

➤ The following issues were discussed were tabled for discussion by TS as per the meeting agenda.

- Purpose of Meeting
- Project Details
- Project Description and Motivation
- Basic Assessment process & Legislation
- Input / comments from Ward Councillors and Land owner
- Way forward

TS proceeded to conduct the project presentations, where there were some questions asked by those in attendance. These questions and subsequent answers are detailed below.

Below are the comments, questions and answers that transpired during the meeting.

| Question / Comment | Answers |
|---|--|
| DVW: I'm aware of this proposed powerline project, also I noted the specialists when they were conducting their studies on my property. | TS: Yes, we work closely with specialists who we sent to conduct on field studies for the proposed development. |
| DVW: You people must note that my family has owned this land since 1913, so it means we have a lot of history here. | TS: Yes, that is acknowledged and that is why we are having this meeting with you along with the councillor. We want to ensure that you are appropriately engaged with regard to this project. |
| DVW: As you can see, we live right next to Hendrina Power Station and are obviously affected by it. When the power station was built in 1966 we were included as part of Eskom's distribution and logistics. Eskom built roads and power lines through my farm. | Comments noted. |
| DVW: Also bear in mind that the approximate footprint of a power line pylon is 8m x 8m of which is land that utilised by Eskom on my farm. Eskom owns approximately R1.3 million in servitudes on my property of which I cannot really farm there. | TC: Yes, that is noted. Eskom when acquiring servitude, negotiates with the affected land owner and buys the servitude rights at an agreement consensus with the land owner. |
| WV: We have dealt with Eskom negotiators before and had to also bring in our own valuers and lawyers as part of the negotiation process. | Comment noted. |

| | | |
|--|--|--|
| | <p>DVW: All in all we are not in opposition to the power line and we are happy with the preferred power line (Alternative 1) route, but not happy with the Alternative 3. As long as the power line does not transverse over my buildings then I'm happy.</p> | <p>TS: Noted, yes the Alternative 1 is most preferred as it does not directly cross any watercourse and is ideally preferred as it is the shortest route and has the least impact on the watercourses recorded on site and has less environmental impacts of the other two alternatives.</p> |
| <p>TC: It must be noted that Eskom was approached by Transnet to supply more electricity capacity in order for them to increase their coal capacity.</p> | | |
| | <p>Cllr CM: It must be ensured that the affected land owners of this proposed development are compensated</p> | <p>TC: Yes, it is a part of Eskom procedure to negotiate and compensate landowners.</p> |
| | <p>Cllr CM: I'm happy that we are being consulted in regards to these proposed developments and that we are given a chance to give our inputs.</p> | <p>TS: We strive to ensure that interested and affected parties are engaged as best as practically possible.</p> |
| <p>TC: The Eskom negotiator will be in contact once the environmental authorisation is in place.</p> | | |
| | <p>Cllr CM: I am aware that you have been struggling to obtain contact details of the Woestallen landowners, I'm not certain myself who the landowners are. I will try and enquire around to find out any landowner contact details.</p> | <p>TS: Yes councillor we have tried to the best of our means to obtain phone numbers of the land owners but to no avail. But as mentioned before we have sent correspondence via the post to them.</p> |
| <p>CONCLUSION AND WAY FORWARD</p> | | |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TS explained on the EIA process moving forward and advised that the BAR will be finalised inclusive of all the comments and issues brought forward. The FBAR will be submitted to DEA for their review and decision of which may take up to 107 days. Once a decision has been reached, then all registered and affected parties will be notified and the appeal process communicated to. • TS thanked all that were present for the presentation and closed the meeting. | |

Photo plate:



Photo 1:
Landowners at
Focus Group
Meeting (Mr &
Mrs Van Wyk)



Photo 2: Ward
5 Councillor
Caroline
Mphego (right)
and Eskom
Environmental
Officer at
Focus Group
Meeting on
landowner's
property.



Photo 3:
Eskom
representatives
at Focus
Group
Meeting.

Photos taken by Thabang Sekele



ATTENDANCE REGISTER

**BASIC ASSESSMENT AND WATER USE LICENCE PROCESS FOR THE PROPOSED CHIKADEE BOSCHMANSKOP
POWERLINE STEVE TSHWETE LOCAL MUNICIPALITY, MPUMALANGA PROVINCE.
FOCUS GROUP MEETING WITH WARD COUNCILOR AND LANDOWNER**

Date: 15 February 2018

Time: 11h00

Venue: Mr Daniel Van Wyk Property, Steve Tshwete Local Municipality

| NAME AND SURNAME | ORGANISATION / AFFILIATION | CONTACT NO | FAX NO/EMAIL ADDRESS | SIGNATURE |
|------------------|----------------------------|---------------|------------------------------|--------------------|
| Thabang Sekele | Envirovolution Consulting | 0861 44 44 99 | thabang@envirovolution.co.za | <i>[Signature]</i> |
| Caroline Mphogo | Ward 05 CLLC | 082-549 788 | CarolineMphogo@gmail.com | <i>[Signature]</i> |
| DS van Wyk | Kwini Community | 0826424170 | | <i>[Signature]</i> |
| S. van Wyk | Rienaar | 0836424170 | vanwyk@nashuisp.co.za | <i>[Signature]</i> |
| Percy Khumbura | Estkom Surveyors | 0710618028 | khumbura@estkom.co.za | <i>[Signature]</i> |
| Pfanzo Muthlang | Estkom Survey | 081 442 8686 | m4khams@0112@gmail.com | <i>[Signature]</i> |

Teboogo Chauke Estkom-Environmental 076 020114 *ChaukeT@estkom.co.za*



**BASIC ASSESSMENT PROCESS FOR THE PROPOSED
CHIKADEE **BOSCHMANSKOP** POWERLINE WITHIN
STEVE TSHWETE LOCAL MUNICIPALITY,
MPUMALANGA PROVINCE.**

**Focus Group Meeting
at Mr Daniel Van Wyk Property
15 February 2018**

Introduction

- ❑ Welcome and Introduction
- ❑ Project Description
- ❑ Project Need and Desirability
- ❑ Public Participation Process to date
- ❑ Progress of EIA Process
- ❑ Specialist Studies summaries
- ❑ Questions and Comments
- ❑ Way forward

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

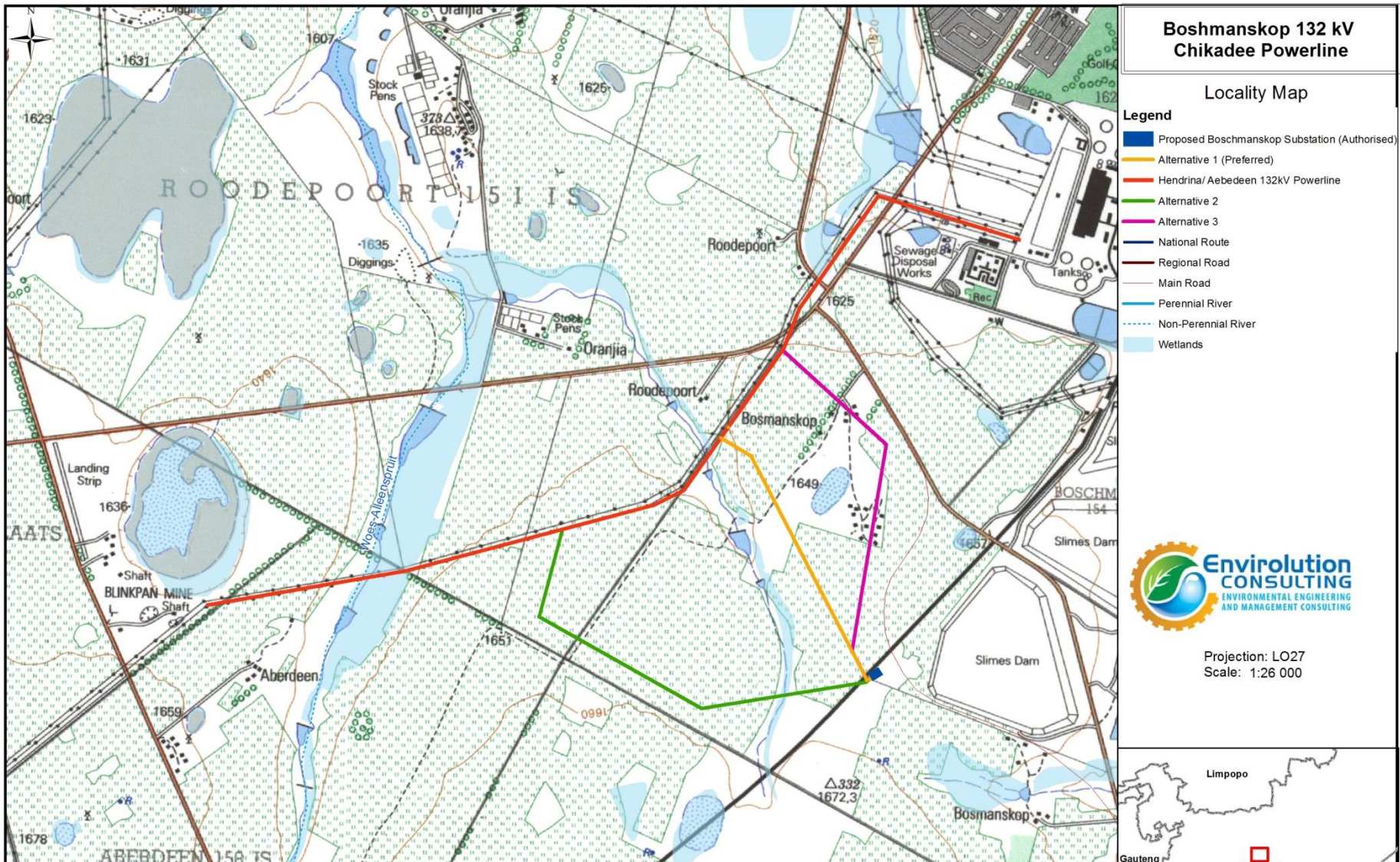
POWERLINE DEVELOPMENT

- Eskom proposes the development of a 132 kV Chikadee power line between the existing Hendrina/Arbedeen 132 kV power line and the proposed Boschmanskop Traction Station within the Steve Tshwete Local Municipality, Mpumalanga Province.
- The proposed development traverses Farm **Boschmanskop 154 IS Portion 3, 7** and **Farm Roodepoort 151 IS, Portion 13.**

PROJECT DESCRIPTION continued...

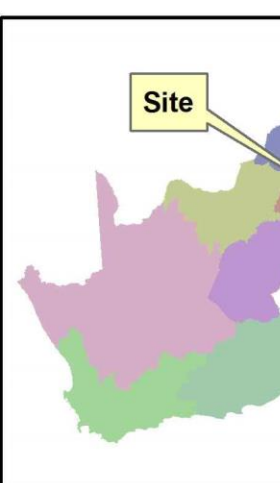
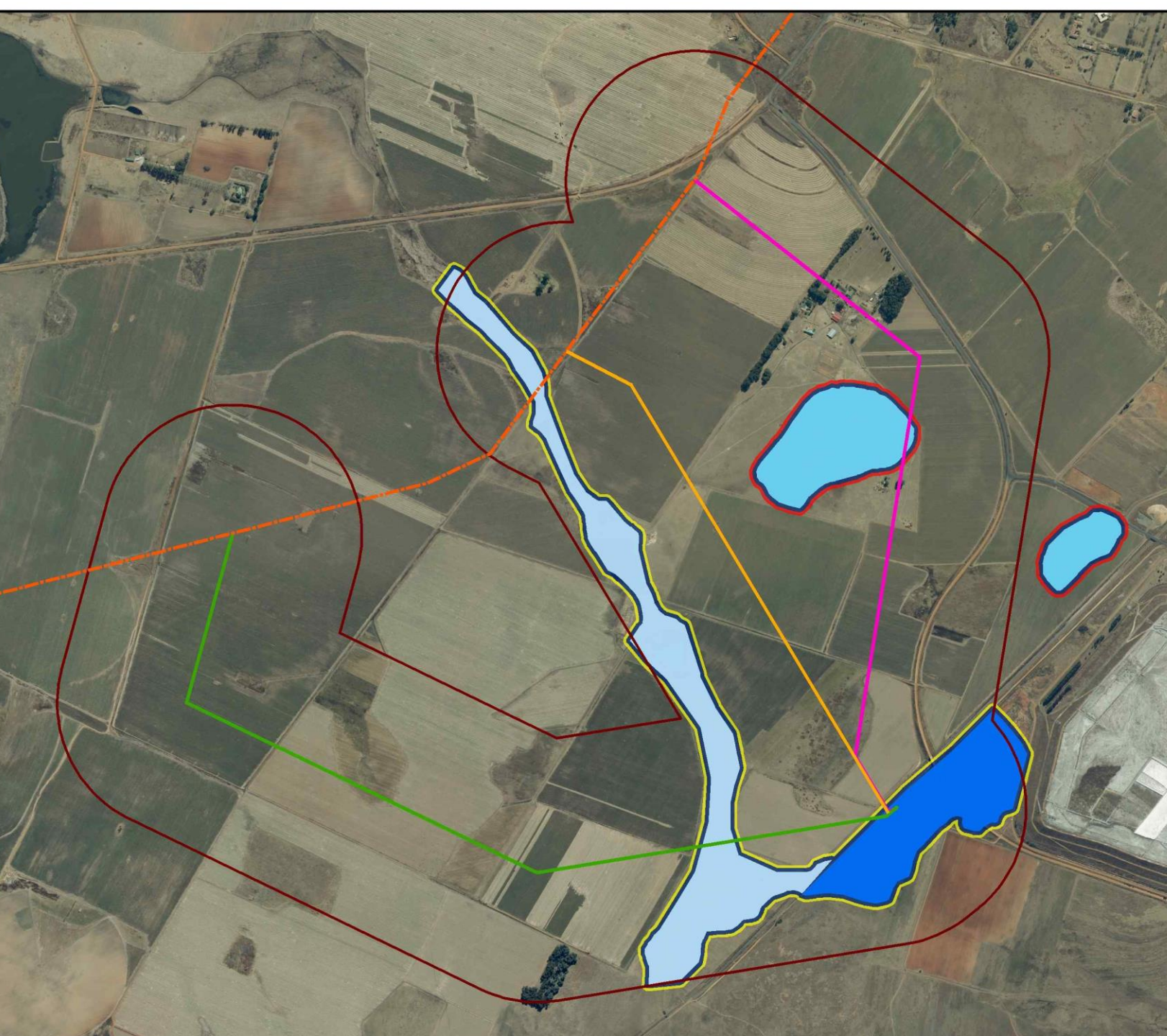
- The length of power line **Alternative 1** is approximately 2.3 km in total and it will originate from the proposed Boschmanskop substation. The power line will start at the proposed Boschmanskop substation and span in a north westerly direction for approximately 1830 m and will turn slightly to a more westerly direction for approximately 260 m before joining the existing Hendrina/Aberdeen 132 kV power line.
- **Two other alternative** power line routes are proposed.
- Alternative 2 is approximately 3.4 km in length.
- Alternative 3 is approximately 2.9 km in length.
- They will transverse the same property as Alternative 1

PROJECT MAP



Projection: LO27
Scale: 1:26 000





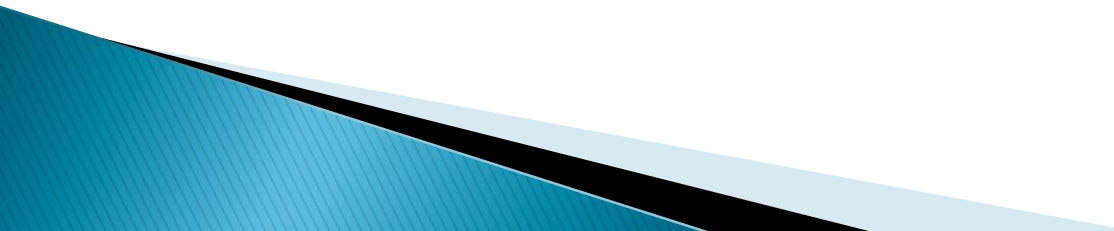
**BOSCHMANS
WETLAND M**

Legend

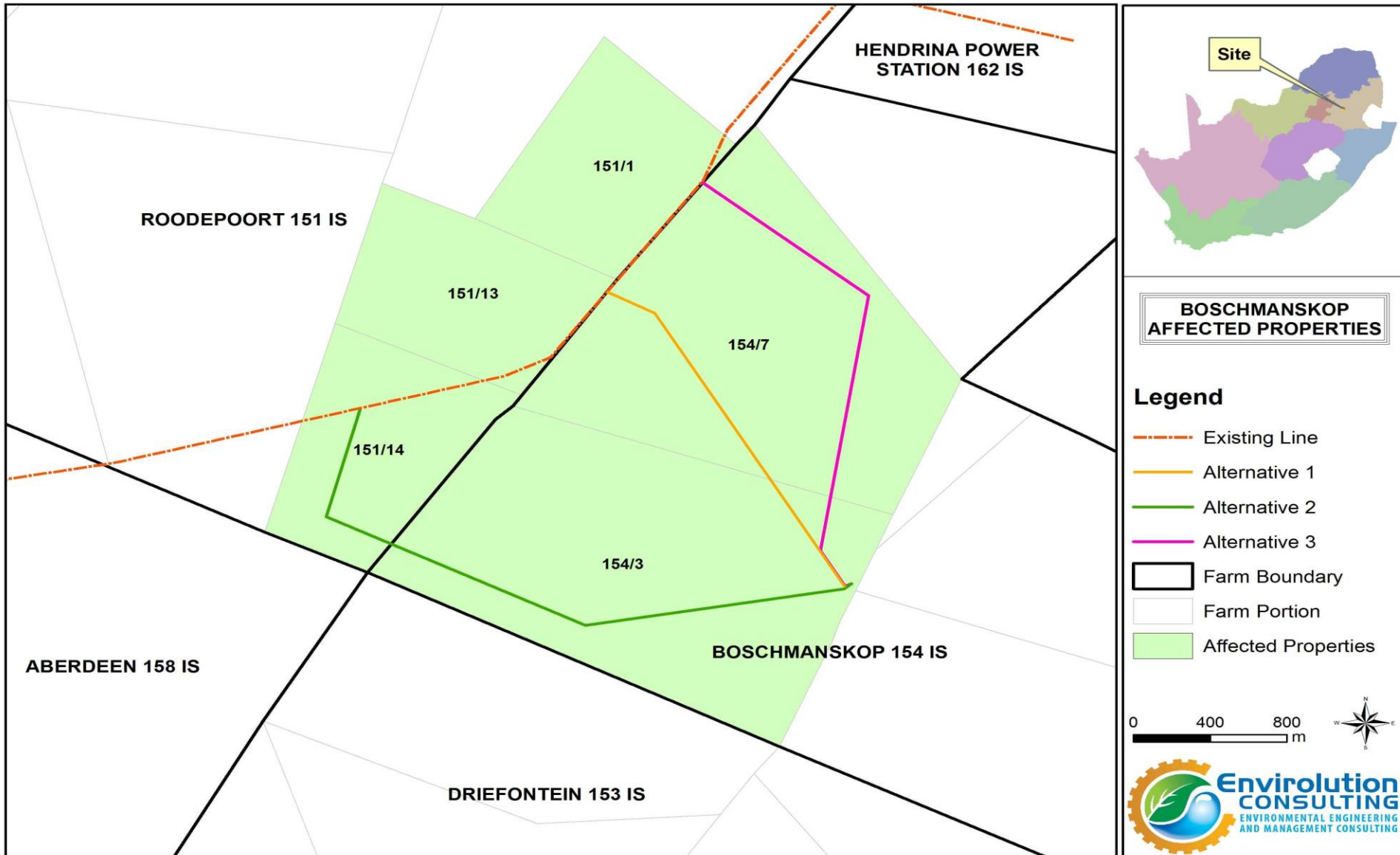
- - - Existing Line
- Alternative 1
- Alternative 2
- Alternative 3
- 500m Buffer Zone
- Depressional Pan
- Seepage Wetland
- Unchannelled Val
- 15m Operations E
- 26m Construction
- 28m Construction



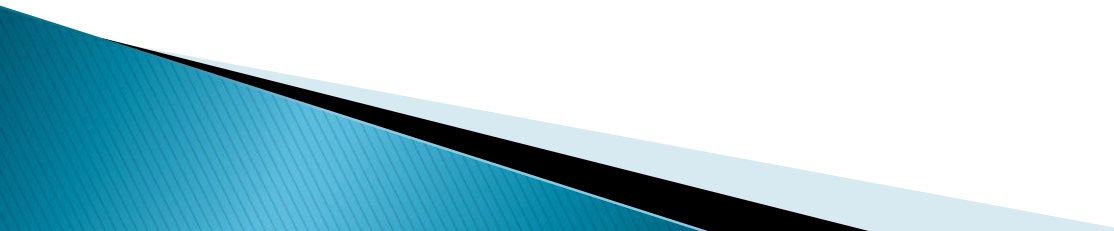
NEED AND DESIRABILITY

- ▶ The need and desirability for this specific development is to assist Transnet (SOC) Ltd (Transnet) in increasing its export coal capacity to 81MTPA and to upgrade the Direct Current (DC) sections on the Transnet traction site as well as on the corresponding Eskom sides.
 - ▶ Reliable network performance targets necessitate that Eskom Distribution improves present distribution network performance levels.
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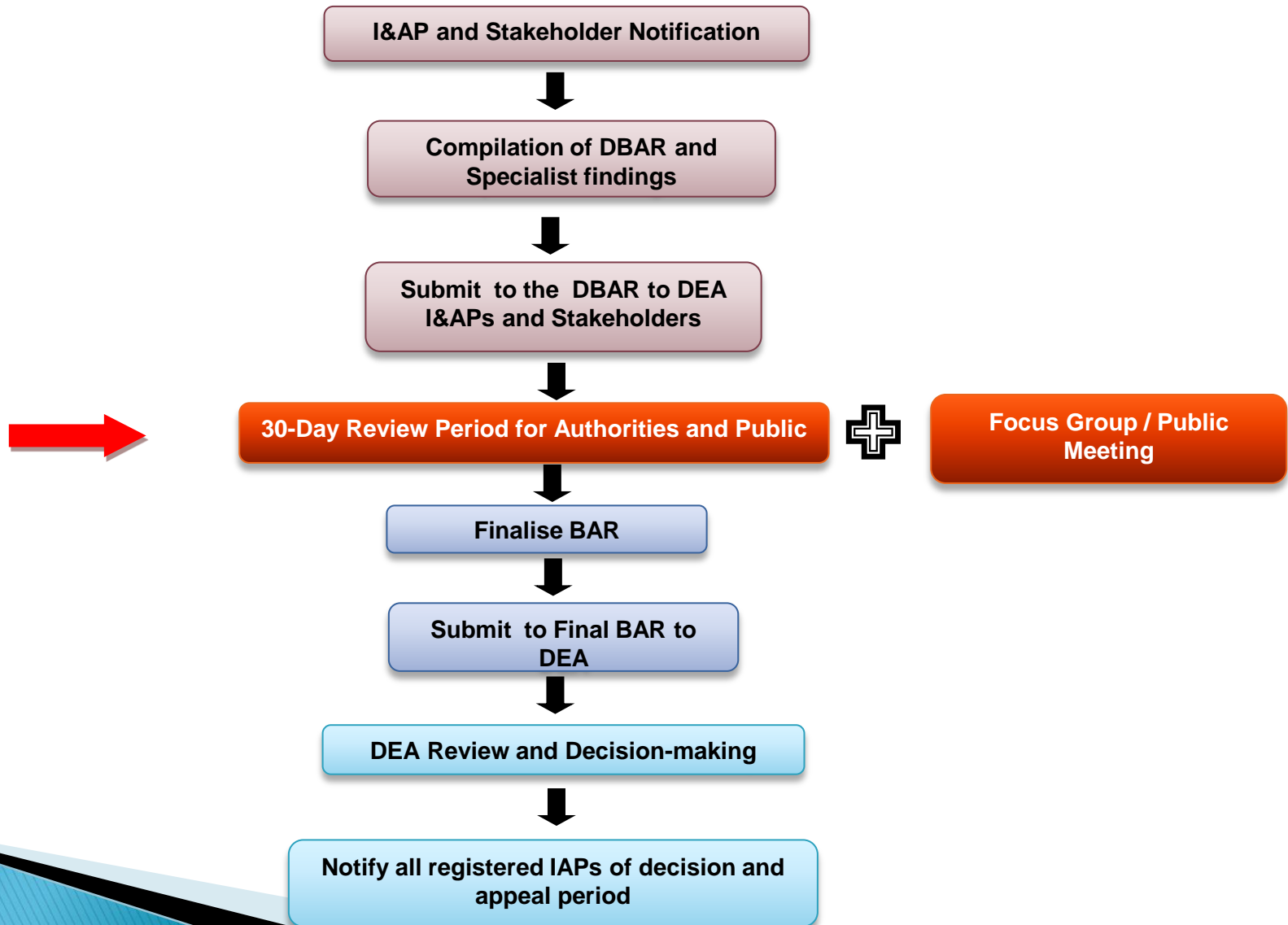
AFFECTED PROPERTIES MAP



PRIMARY LEGISLATION

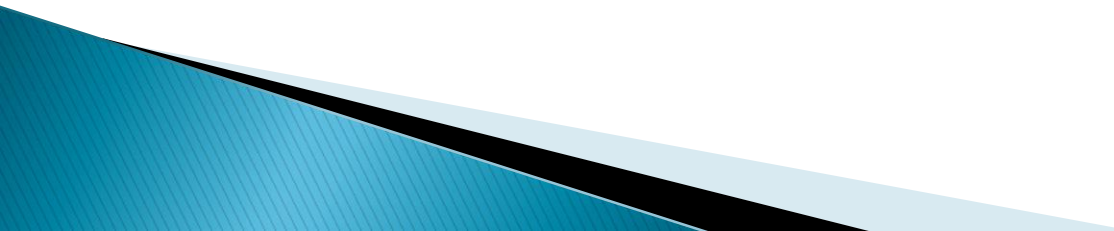
- ❑ **National Environmental Management Act (Act 107 of 1998) – NEMA**
 - ❑ **NEMA EIA Regulations, 2014: Government Notice Regulations, as amended (GNR 982, 983 & 985)**
 - ❑ **National Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA) is the decision making authority**
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PROGRESS OF BA PROCESS



SPECIALIST STUDIES UNDERTAKEN

□ Specialist investigations that have been undertaken include:

- Ecology (Vegetation, Fauna & Habitat Assessment)
 - Wetland Assessment
 - Visual Impact Assessment
 - Geotechnical Desktop Assessment
 - Heritage Impact Assessment
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Summary of specialist conclusions continued...

Vegetation Assessment findings

- ▶ Alternative 1 has a lower probability of causing direct impacts on intact moist grassland vegetation as most the route comprises secondary vegetation or are modified. This route is thus preferred from a vegetation perspective.
- ▶ The vegetation assessment has no objection if Alternative 3 is implemented, provided that mitigation measures are applied to limit the impact on the vegetation to a minimum.
- ▶ Wetland Assessment findings
- ▶ Alternative 2 crosses and unchannelled valley bottom watercourse (Perennial river) of which is undesired from a watercourse impact perspective. Alternative 2 also crosses a seepage wetland.

Summary of specialist conclusions continued...

- ▶ Alternative 1 does not directly cross any watercourse and is ideally preferred as it is the shortest route and has the least impact on the watercourses recorded on site.

Visual Assessment findings

- ▶ The only observers in the study area are residents from the dispersed farming community. Only one farmstead was identified in the Zone of Maximum Visual Exposure (ZMVE) which is located at Portion 7 of the farm Boschmanskop 154.
- ▶ Alternative 2 is the most preferred option. This alignment is the furthest away from any sensitive observers and will therefore have the least impact on them.

Summary of specialist conclusions continued...

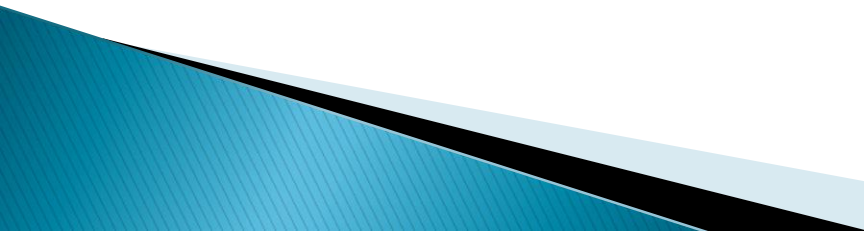
Heritage Assessment findings

- ▶ The proposed project is acceptable from a heritage point of view provided the specialist recommendations are adhered to.
- ▶ The development can continue as the development will not impact negatively on the archaeological record of the area.

Geotechnical Study findings

- ▶ No geological faults or dykes (intrusive bodies) are indicated on the geological map over the overhead power line routes.

WAY FORWARD

- ❑ Draft Basic Assessment Report review ends **15 February 2018** for comments
 - ❑ Minute any issues / comments from I&AP's from the meetings.
 - ❑ Incorporate issues and comments raised during the Public Participation Process into the Final Basic Assessment Report.
 - ❑ Submit Report to DEA for review and decision.
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QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS

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**Any other comments can be submitted to
Thabang Sekele**

thabang@envirolution.co.za

Tel: 0861 44 44 99



THANK YOU!!

