

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PLAN (OCTOBER 2020)

1. Introduction

A Basic Assessment process was initiated at the beginning of 2019 for the proposed Poole's Bay connection path in Hermanus. A number of meetings were held with authorities, after which a NOI was submitted to the DEA&DP in April 2019. The public participation was then undertaken as follows:

- Comment period on pre-application draft BAR - June-July 2019.
- Acknowledgement of comments received during and after this period.
- Compilation of draft comments and responses report, which included proof of the public participation undertaken.
- Additional consultation with authorities and organisations, including Surveyor General, DEA&DP Coastal Management, DEA Oceans and Coasts, Birdlife South Africa (ongoing).
- Poole's Bay property owner meetings (October 2019).
- Avian Specialist appointment in response to comments received from BirdLife SA (for bird survey as recommended by Birdlife SA) (December 2019-February 2020).
- Technical meeting with architect and construction contractor to address design concerns and other relevant issues raised during consultation with Interested and affected parties (March 2020).

The process was halted due to Covid-19 and eventually the NOI file was closed. DEA&DP indicated that if the project was to go ahead, that a new application process would need to be undertaken, including re-advertising and notifications. A summary of the previous process and issues raised will be included in the pre-application Draft BAR that will follow as part of the new application process.

The new application process will start in October 2020. The public participation process to follow would meet the minimum requirements terms of Regulation 41 of the EIA Regulations, 2014 (as amended) through the actions as set out below.

2. Site notices

Due to the linear nature of the proposed development a number of notices are deemed appropriate to inform a wider area of people and will be placed as far as possible at the following locations:

- One formal site notice with a size according to the guidelines will be placed at each entry point to the proposed connection path.
- Laminated infographic notices will be placed at various points along the existing Hermanus Cliff Path and other public locations deemed appropriate.
- Photographic evidence of notices and their locations will be provided.

3. Written Notices

As part of the previous application process during 2019 a number of Interested and Affected parties have already registered. These parties (which include adjacent landowners) will be included on the list for initial notifications of the re-instatement of the application process and will be sent written notices via email.

Unless otherwise preferred, notices will be emailed Organs of State, municipal Councillor and identified community organisations. A hyperlink with direct access to the documentation as well as a link to the Ecosense website will be provided to enable downloads of the documentation in electronic format. Where hardcopies are preferred by Organs of State, sanitized copies, including a CD with electronic version will be sent by courier to the relevant person.

4. Advertisements

Advertisements will be placed in local newspapers - Hermanus Times and Village News. Advertisements will indicate where hardcopy information is available, as well as electronic availability of the documentation on the Ecosense

website, which could be accessed through using people's own or free internet facilities in the Hermanus Library and various restaurants in the area.

5. Website

The reports will be available on the Ecosense website for electronic access at <http://www.ecosense.co.za/documents-for-public-review/> for every comment period to follow. This link will be provided in all notices and correspondence to the public and authorities.

Free internet access is available at the Hermanus Public library. A large number of restaurants in Hermanus also offer free Wi-Fi facilities, so people with Wi-Fi enabled devices would be able to access the report on the internet.

6. Hardcopies of reports

Hermanus library is open during lockdown level one, as confirmed telephonically with the Librarian on 22 October 2020 (albeit subject to relevant protocols, which currently allows only for the collection and return of books). Persons are however allowed in the library and hard copies of reports can be left for viewing.

The library also has internet facilities. Each registered user gets free Internet access for up to 30 minutes per session. People would therefore be able to access reports in the library in either hard copy or electronic copy.

Due to the risk and limitation of Covid-19 on making hardcopies available, we propose as additional measure to have A0 information posters containing a summary of the report at the following venues:

- Hermanus Information Office
- Hermanus Public Library
- Hermanus Tourism Bureau
- Fernkloof Nature Reserve Information Office

The information poster would contain background information, a simplified site layout on a locality map, project description, legislative aspects, photos of the area, a summary of impacts, and any other relevant information as is normally contained in the Basic Assessment report. It will further include details of the Ecosense website where the full technical report and appendices are available, as well as details of the public participation opportunities and contact details for inquiries.

7. Meetings

The need for meetings, if any, should be revealed through the first comment period, upon which we will inform the department of any revisions to the public participation approach:

- For the time being, no public meetings or open days will be organised by Ecosense to reduce the risk of the spread of Covid-19. Current limitation for public gatherings is no more than 250 people.
- Any focus group meetings (such as authority meetings or municipal line departments) identified will be held virtually as far as possible, or should there be any future limitations on gatherings and social distancing will be observed should meetings in person be required.
- It is noted that the Cliff Path Action Group is considering to organise public open day event during November / December. Ecosense will use this event to notify interested and affected parties attending where they can register for the NEMA public participation process, should they wish to.

8. Timeframes and tentative dates

Public participation is planned as set out in the table below:

Phase	Actions	Approximate date
Pre-application phase	Advertisement Site notices Written notices to previously registered and new potential IAPs Engagement with authorities and community representatives 30-day comment period (extended as necessary over the Christmas holiday period) Focus group meetings as required	December 2020- January 2021
Application phase (Draft Basic Assessment report)	Letters to registered IAPs Engagement with authorities and community representatives 30-day comment period Focus group meetings as required	Mid-March to Mid-April 2020
Application phase (Revised Draft Basic Assessment report)	Only if required	To follow
Decision	Notify registered IAPs	August 2021 (if no second comment period required during application phase).

The above plan is subject to change, but any revisions will be subject to approval by the Department.

We also wish to note that in consideration of the Protection of Personal Information Act No. 4 of 2013 (POPIA) requirements, we are including the requirements in terms of NEMA and notifying potential interested and affected parties that they will be entering a public process, should they register and comment.

It is a requirement according to Regulation 42 of the NEMA EIA Regulations to open, maintain and submit a register of interested and affected parties which must contain their names, contact details and addresses. According to Regulation 44, comments of interested and affected parties must be recorded in reports and plans and such written comments, including responses to such comments and records of meetings, must be attached to the reports and plans that are submitted to the competent authority.

We will therefore only make people's name and submitted comments public during comment periods. We however will not make contact information (e.g. email address or telephone numbers appearing on submitted comments) directly available to the public, these details are required and will be submitted to the Authorities upon final submission of documentation for authorisation. Comments will be presented verbatim in the comments and responses report. Copies of actual comments received will however only be included in the report upon final submission to the department

In terms of the requirements of the POPIA, we will be including the following in all our notifications as a minimum:

By registering as Interested and Affected Party and taking part in this public participation process you are entering into a public process as required by the NEMA Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations 2014, as amended within which your personal information may be used.