

OCTOBER 2021

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## BACKGROUND INFORMATION DOCUMENT

**“ARA GAS PIPELINE NETWORK” LOCATED IN SALDANHA BAY, SALDANHA BAY LOCAL MUNICIPALITY, WEST COAST DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY, WESTERN CAPE PROVINCE**

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Short name: **ARA GAS PIPELINE NETWORK**

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*Hierdie dokument is op aanvraag in Afrikaans beskikbaar*

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### ANNEXURE A: LOCALITY MAP

## LIST OF ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

BID	Background Information Document
CBA	Critical Biodiversity Areas
DFFE	National Department of Forestry, Fishery and Environment,
EAP	Environmental Assessment Practitioner
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
EIAR	Environmental Impact Assessment Report
EXIGENT	Exigent Engineering Consultants cc
FSRU	Floating Storage & Regasification Unit
I&APs	Interested and Affected Parties
LNG	Liquefied Natural Gas
NEMA	National Environmental Management Act (No. 107 of 1998)
NEM:ICMA	National Environmental Management: Integrated Coastal Management Act (Act 24 of 2008)
NG	Natural Gas
NWA	National Water Act (No. 36 of 1998)
PPP	Public Participation Process
SEMA	Specific Environmental Management Act

## 1. INTRODUCTION

In view of the growing electricity demand and the aim to use viable energy resources, **Ara Energy (Pty) Ltd** is assessing the feasibility of a **gas pipeline network** within the Saldanha Bay Local Municipality, West Coast District Municipality, Western Cape Province.

Exigent Engineering Consultants cc (hereafter referred to as Exigent) has been appointed by Ara Energy (Pty) Ltd as the Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP) to undertake the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) for the proposed gas pipeline.

Natural Gas (NG) will be transported from two **Floating Storage and Regasification Units (FSRU's)**, permanently moored within the Port of Saldanha Bay, to:

- a) the planned Vortum and Auriga Thermal Power Plants; and/or
- b) to potential end-users at the Saldanha Bay and Besaansklip industrial areas; and/or
- c) at the Port of Saldanha Bay, for refuelling, bunkering and other uses.

**Please note that the FSRU, proposed within the Port of Saldanha Bay, will be assessed in separate Environmental Impact Assessment processes.**

This report has been compiled to provide the National Department of Forestry, Fisheries and Environment (DFFE) background information to the project prior to the submission of the Application Form for Environmental Authorisation. The aim is to identify the key features and possible impacts associated to the relevant location, as well as to provide insights to the applicable legislation.

## 2. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

According to the preliminary location of the FSRU and to the pipeline study corridors selected during the feasibility study, the gas pipeline network will be approximately **19.8 km in length**, with the first corridors offshore (subsea) from the FSRU's, then onshore (underground) for the remaining pipeline length. A right-of-way (servitude) with a width of 20.0 m (to-be-confirmed and assessed during the scoping and EIA phase) will be established before the construction and installation of the pipeline.

The **Ara Gas Pipeline Network** will be located within the Saldanha Bay Local Municipality, West Coast District Municipality, Western Cape Province.

Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG), at the temperature below -162 °C and under near atmospheric pressure, will be delivered to proposed FSRU's located at the port of Saldanha Bay and St Helena Bay by LNG carriers. The FSRU's will store the LNG within its cryogenic tanks and then will re-gasify the LNG to natural gas (NG), to be injected into the gas pipeline, up to the planned Vortum and Auriga Thermal Power Plants and/or to potential end-users at the Saldanha Bay/Besaansklip industrial area and/or at the Port of Saldanha BaY.

According to the preliminary location of the FSRU and to the pipeline study corridors selected during the feasibility study, the gas pipeline will be offshore (subsea) and onshore as follows:

**Table 1. Gas pipeline route details**

Location	Alternative Corridor 1 Length (km)	Alternative Corridor 2 Length (km)	Alternative Corridor 3 Length (km)
Saldanha Bay (subsea)	6.1	7.0	7.9
Deviation to the Vortum and Auriga Thermal Power Plant (onshore)	6.1	7.0	7.9
<b>Overall length</b>	11.9	12.3	11.9

The characteristics, the technology and the extent of the initiative are defined more in detail in this document.

### 3. PROJECT LOCATION

The **Ara Gas Pipeline Network** will be located within the Saldanha Bay Local Municipality, West Coast District Municipality, Western Cape Province. The gas pipeline may also cross selected farm portions located on the Bergvliet Local Municipality (Alternative Study Corridor 3).

Please find attached, as **Annexure A**, the Locality Map.

### 4. PURPOSE OF THIS DOCUMENT

The main purposes of this background information document are:

- To provide information about the proposed project
- To explain the EIA process
- To provide an opportunity for participation in the EIA process

This document also indicates how you can receive information, or raise issues, which may be of concern and/or interest for I&AP's.

The sharing of information forms the basis of the public participation process and offers you the opportunity to become actively involved in the project from the outset.

Public participation plays an important role in the undertaking of an EIA process, as input from I&AP's ensure all potential issues are considered within the study.

### 5. KEY FEATURES OF THE PROPOSED PROJECT

Natural Gas from the proposed FSRU will be delivered to the planned Vortum/Auriga Thermal Power Plants and/or to potential end-users at the Saldanha Bay industrial area and/or at the Port of Saldanha Bay by means of a **gas pipeline up to 19.8 km long, laid down subsea for between 6 - 8 km from Saldanha Bay, and underground for between 6 - 8 km onshore**, with a diameter up to 1.2 m (48-inch diameter) and a throughput capacity **up to 7000 ton/day** (80 kg/s) of natural gas, working at a nominal pressure up to 120 bar.

Due to the overall length of the gas pipeline and of the altitude of the highest point of the pipeline route (50 m above the main sea level), **Compressor Station/s** may be required along the onshore route. Furthermore, **Metering Station(s)**, to measure the flow of gas along the pipeline, may be installed at the delivery point(s).

The pipeline will be buried underground with a cover of at least 1.0 m to the top of the pipe. A right-of-way (servitude) with a width of approximately 20 m (to-be-confirmed and assessed during the scoping and EIA phase) will be established before the construction and installation of the pipeline.

Please find attached, as **Annexure A**, the **Locality Map** showing:

- The proposed location for the proposed mooring of the FSRU, as well as the study corridors (Alternatives 1, 2 and 3) for the Ara Gas Pipeline Network, to be evaluated during the Scoping and EIA phases of the Environmental Impact Assessment process.

The proposed gas pipeline may cross through any of the following properties:

**From the project site of the Vortum/Auriga Thermal Power Plants up to the Port of Saldanha Bay and to the Industrial Area of Saldanha Bay:**

- FARM 1185 (Alternative Corridors 1 and 2)
- FARM 196 (Alternative Corridors 1, 2 and 3)
- Portion 12 of the farm PIENAARS POORT 197 (Alternative Corridor 3)
- Portion 7 of the farm PIENAARS POORT 197 (Alternative Corridor 1)
- Portion 8 of the farm PIENAARS POORT 197 (Alternative Corridors 1 and 2)
- Portion 14 of the farm PIENAARS POORT 197 (Alternative Corridor 1)
- Portion 15 of the farm PIENAARS POORT 197 (Alternative Corridors 1, 2 and 3)
- Portion 16 of the farm PIENAARS POORT 197 (Alternative Corridors 1, 2 and 3)
- Remainder Portion 3 of the farm PIENAARS POORT 197 (Alternative Corridors 1, 2 and 3)
- Portion 1 of the FARM 1139 (Alternative Corridors 2 and 3)
- Remainder of the FARM 1139 (Alternative Corridors 1, 2 and 3)
- Portion 3 of FARM 1112 (Alternative Corridors 1, 2 and 3)
- Remainder of FARM 1112 (Alternative Corridors 1, 2 and 3)
- FARM 1239 (Alternative Corridor 1)
- Portion 9 of the farm YZERVARKENSRUG 129 (Alternative Corridors 1, 2 and 3)
- Remainder Portion 2 of the farm YZERVARKENSRUG 127 (Alternative Corridor 3)
- Remaining Extent of Portion 13 of the farm YZERVARKENSRUG 127 (Alternative Corridor 1)
- Portion 17 of the farm YZERVARKENSRUG 127 (Alternative Corridors 1 and 2)
- Portion 65 of the farm YZERVARKENSRUG 127 (Alternative Corridor 1)
- Portion 66 of the farm YZERVARKENSRUG 127 (Alternative Corridor 1)
- Portion 69 of the farm YZERVARKENSRUG 127 (Alternative Corridor 1)
- Portion 70 of the farm YZERVARKENSRUG 127 (Alternative Corridors 2 and 3)
- Remainder Portion 15 of the farm YZERVARKENSRUG 127 (Alternative Corridors 2 and 3)
- Portion 5 of the farm YZERVARKENSRUG 129 (Alternative Corridors 1 and 2)
- Portion 39 of the farm YZERVARKENSRUG 127 (Alternative Corridors 1 and 2)
- Portion 7 of the farm YZERVARKENSRUG 129 (Alternative Corridor 1)
- Portion 3 of the farm YZERVARKENSRUG 129 (Alternative Corridors 1, 2 and 3)
- Portion 1 of the farm UYEKRAAL 189 (Alternative Corridors 1, 2 and 3)
- Portion 3 of the farm UYEKRAAL 189 (Alternative Corridors 1, 2 and 3)
- Remainder Portion 9 of the FARM 187 (Alternative Corridors 1, 2 and 3)
- Portion 6 of the farm LANGE BERG 188 (Alternative Corridors 1, 2, 3) (ending point)
- Erf 14722 Saldanha (Alternative Corridor 3)
- Erf 11945 Saldanha (Alternative Corridors 1, 2 and 3)
- Erf 11930 Saldanha (Alternative Corridor 3)

## 6. THE NEED FOR NATURAL GAS FOR ENERGY GENERATION

In the last few years, the demand for electricity in South Africa has been growing at a rate of approximately 3% per annum.

The urgent need to procure power in the short-to-medium term has been qualified as a priority by the Government of South Africa in the Integrated Resource Plan 1 (IRP1). Subsequently the Department of Energy of South Africa (DoE) decided to undertake a detailed process to determine South Africa's 20-year electricity plan, called **Integrated Resources Plan 2010-2030 (IRP 2010)**. The IRP1 (2009) and the IRP 2010 (2011, updated in March 2014) outline the Government's vision, policy and strategy in matter of the use of energy resources and the current status of energy policies in South Africa. In particular, the IRP 2010 highlights the necessity of commissioning **2370 MW with Gas-CCGT technology and 3910 MW with Peak-OCGT technology by the end of 2030**.

Since the promulgation of IRP 2010, a total of 18,000 MW of new generation capacity has been committed, comprising 9,564 MW of coal power at Medupi and Kusile, 1,332 MW of water pumped storage at Ingula, 6,422 MW of renewable energy by Independent Power Producers (IPPs), and 1,005 MW of Open Cycle Gas Turbine (OCGT) peaking plants currently using diesel at Avon and Dedisa.

On 19 December 2012, the Minister of Energy issued three Determinations in terms of section 34 of the Electricity Regulation Act, 2006:

- **"IPP Procurement Programme 2012"** published in Government Notice 1074 in Government Gazette No. 36005 on 19 December 2012;
- **"Baseload IPP Procurement Programme 2012"** published in Government Notice 1075 in Government Gazette No. 36005 on 19 December 2012;
- **"Medium Term Risk Mitigation Project IPP Procurement Programme 2012"** published in Government Notice 1076 in Government Gazette No. 36005 on 19 December 2012.

Pursuant to the **"Baseload IPP Procurement Programme 2012"** and to the **"Medium Term Risk Mitigation Project IPP Procurement Programme 2012"**, the Minister of Energy has determined in particular:

- *that baseload and/or mid-merit energy generation capacity is needed to contribute towards energy security, including **2652 MW to be generated from Natural Gas** (which includes Liquefied Natural Gas or Natural Gas delivered by pipeline from a Natural Gas Field), which represents the capacity allocated to **"Gas CCGT (natural gas)" and "OCGT (diesel)"**, under the heading "New build", for the years 2021 to 2025, in Table 3 of the IRP 2010-2030;*
- *that baseload energy generation capacity is needed to contribute towards energy security, including **474 MW to be generated from Natural Gas**, which represents the capacity allocated to **"Gas CCGT (natural gas)"**, under the heading "New build", for the years 2019 to 2020, in Table 3 of the IRP 2010-2030;*
- **the electricity must be purchased from Independent Power Producers.**

The **IRP 2019**, published in October 2019, indicated that there is a short-term electricity supply gap of approximately **2,000 MW** between 2019 and 2022. In order to procure this energy supply, the **Department of Mineral Resources and Energy (DMRE)** launched a **Risk Mitigation Independent Power Producer Procurement Programme (RMIPPPP)** on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of August 2020. The objective of the RMIPPPP is *"to fill the current short-term supply gap, alleviate the current electricity supply constraints and reduce the extensive utilisation of diesel-based peaking electrical generators"*.

The Department of Mineral Resources and Energy furthermore invited Requests or Qualifications and Proposals (RFPs) under a further **BID Window 5 of the Renewable Energy Independent Power Producers Procurement Programme (REIPPP)** on 13 April 2021. This procurement bid window is the first to be released in line with the Ministerial Determination, promulgated on 25th September 2020, which seeks to procure 11 813 MW of power from various sources including renewable energy, storage, gas and coal. These include wind (4800 MW), solar PV (2000 MW), coal (500 MW), gas (3000 MW), and battery storage (513 MW). Bid Window 5 will call for 1600 MW from wind and 1000 MW from Solar PV. The other technologies with specific reference to GAS will be released at a later stage to be announced.

The securing of new energy sources, like natural gas, has become high priority for the Government, considering that the current energy production is not able to meet the increased energy demand of the Country. This leads to frequent electricity shortage and fluctuations in supply (“load shedding”), detrimental to the economic development of South Africa.

Therefore, the development of a pipeline network moving natural gas (NG) from offshore FSRUs to the key locations, as identified, will represent a key feature in the fulfilment of the proposed goals of sustainable fuel for new generation capacities for energy security.

The purpose of the proposed **Ara Gas Pipeline Network** is to secure sustainable fuel required to add new capacity for the generation of electrical energy to the national electricity supply, in compliance with the Minister of Energy's Determinations and to meet the “electricity consumptions’ growth” of the Western Cape Province.

## 7. SPECIALIST STUDIES TO BE DONE

Apart from environmental screening, numerous specialist investigations have informed the design criteria to date for the proposed project. These include:

- Geotechnical, Seismicity geo-hydrological Assessment;
- Agricultural Impact Assessment;
- Aquatic Biodiversity Impact Assessment;
- Terrestrial Biodiversity Impact Assessment;
- Ecological (Plant Species and Animal Species) Impact Assessment;
- Archaeological and Cultural Impact Assessment;
- Palaeontological Impact Assessment;
- Major Hazard Installation Risk Assessment;
- Socio-economic Impact Assessment.

The DFFE or other stakeholders may require additional specialists’ studies if necessary.

## 8. APPLICABLE LEGISLATION

This section deals with the Environmental law and regulations that would be applicable with regards to the proposed project.

### 8.1. National Environmental Management Act (Act 107 of 1998)

The National Environmental Management Act (NEMA) (Act 107 of 1998) is an all-encompassing act regulating various aspects of natural resource use, integrated environmental management and pollution control. The Act provides for:



- The right to an environment that is not harmful to the health and well-being of the South African people;
- Sustainable development, environmental protection, equitable distribution of natural resources; and
- The formulation of environmental management frameworks.

## 8.2. Listed Activities

The Listed Activities published on 4 December 2014 under section 24(5) and 44 of the NEMA, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998) (EIA Regulations 2014, as amended) potentially triggered by the proposed development are indicated in Table 2.

Table 2. Listed activities potentially triggered by the proposed development

Listed activities under EIA Regulations 2014 (as amended)		Description of project activities that trigger listed activities
GN R.983, Item 12	<p>The development of-</p> <p>(xii) infrastructure or structures with a physical footprint of 100 square metres or more; where such development occurs-</p> <p>(a) within a watercourse;</p> <p>(b) in front of a development setback; or</p> <p>(c) if no development setback exists, within 32 metres of a watercourse, measured from the edge of a watercourse;</p>	<p>Natural Gas from the FSRUs will be delivered to the planned Vortum/Auriga Thermal Power Plants and/or to the industrial areas of Saldanha Bay and/or to the Port of Saldanha Bay by means of a gas pipeline network, laid down subsea and underground. The gas pipeline may cross watercourses.</p>
GN R.983, Item 19	<p>The infilling or depositing of any material of more than 5 cubic metres into, or the dredging, excavation, removal or moving of soil, sand, shells, shell grit, pebbles or rock of more than 5 cubic metres from-</p> <p>(i) a watercourse;</p> <p>(ii) the seashore; or</p> <p>(iii) the littoral active zone, an estuary or a distance of 100 metres inland of the high-water mark of the sea or an estuary, whichever distance is the greater</p>	<p>Natural Gas from the FSRUs will be delivered to the planned Vortum/Auriga Thermal Power Plants and/or to the industrial areas of Saldanha Bay and/or to the Port of Saldanha Bay by means of a gas pipeline network, laid down subsea and underground. The gas pipeline will cross the seashore and may cross littoral active zone and/or watercourses.</p>
GN R.984, Item 7	<p>The development and related operation of facilities or infrastructure for the bulk transportation of dangerous goods -</p> <p>(i) in gas form, outside an industrial complex, using pipelines, exceeding 1000m in length, with a throughput capacity of more than 700t per day;</p> <p>(ii) in liquid form, outside an industrial complex, using pipelines, exceeding 1000 metres in length, with a throughput capacity of more than 50 cubic metres per day</p>	<p>Natural Gas from the FSRUs will be delivered to the planned Vortum/Auriga Thermal Power Plants and/or to the industrial areas of Saldanha Bay and/or to the Port of Saldanha Bay by means of a gas pipeline network, laid down subsea and underground, with a throughput capacity of more than 700t per day (up to 7000 ton/day) and a diameter up to 1.2 m (up to 48-inch diameter).</p>

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<b>Listed activities under EIA Regulations 2014 (as amended)</b>		<b>Description of project activities that trigger listed activities</b>
<b>GN R.984, Item 14</b>	<p>The development and related operation of-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) an island;-</li> <li>(ii) anchored platform; or</li> <li>(iii) any other structure or infrastructure on, below or along the sea bed;</li> </ul>	<p>Sections of the gas pipeline network will be located offshore, from the FSRUs to the coastline, where it will surface and continue underground on land.</p>
<b>GN R.985, Item 12</b>	<p>The clearance of an area of 300 square metres or more of indigenous vegetation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) In Western Cape province: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) Within any critically endangered or endangered ecosystem listed in terms of section 52 of the NEMBA or prior to the publication of such a list, within an area that has been identified as critically endangered in the National Spatial Biodiversity Assessment 2004;</li> <li>(ii) Within critical biodiversity areas identified in bioregional plans</li> <li>(iii.) Within the littoral active zone or 100 metres inland from the high-water mark of the sea, whichever distance is the greater, excluding where such removal will occur behind the development setback line on erven in urban areas;</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p>The gas pipeline will cross endangered ecosystems in terms of Section 52 of the NEMBA and critical biodiversity areas identified in the Fine-Scale Biodiversity Planning (FSP) project led by Cape Nature in partnership with the South African National Biodiversity Institute (SANBI), part of the C.A.P.E. (Cape Action for People and the Environment) programme.</p> <p>The gas pipeline will cross the littoral active zone.</p>
<b>GN R.985, Item 14</b>	<p>The development of-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(xii) infrastructure or structures with a physical footprint of 10 square metres or more;</li> </ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) In Western Cape: Outside urban areas:</li> <li>(ff) Critical biodiversity areas or ecosystem service areas as identified in systematic biodiversity plans adopted by the competent authority or in bioregional plans;</li> </ul>	<p>The gas pipeline will cross endangered ecosystems in terms of section 52 of the NEMBA and critical biodiversity areas identified in the Fine-Scale Biodiversity Planning (FSP) project led by Cape Nature in partnership with the South African National Biodiversity Institute (SANBI), part of the C.A.P.E. (Cape Action for People and the Environment) programme.</p>
<b>GN R.985, Item 15</b>	<p>The transformation of land bigger than 1000 square metres in size, to residential, retail, commercial, industrial, or institutional use, where, such land was zoned open space, conservation or had an equivalent zoning, on or after 02 August 2010.</p>	<p>A Compressor Station, with a footprint bigger than 1000 m<sup>3</sup>, may be required along the onshore route of the gas pipeline. Furthermore, Metering Station(s) with a footprint bigger than 1000 m<sup>3</sup>, to measure the flow of gas along the pipeline, may be installed at the delivery point(s).</p>

The EIA Process consists of the following two very closely interlinked processes:

- A technical process, which entails the identification and management of possible environmental issues/concerns; and
- A public participation process, which requires public consultation in order to assist in the identification of possible environmental and/or social issues and/or concerns.

### 8.3. National Environmental Management: Integrated Coastal Management Act (Act No. 24 of 2008)

The National Environmental Management: Integrated Coastal Management Act (Act No. 24 of 2008), was enacted on 1 December 2009 in Government Notice 32765, (referred to here as NEM: ICMA). The NEM: ICMA is informed by the NEMA principles as adapted for the coastal zone in the nationally adopted White Paper for Sustainable Coastal Development in South Africa (DEAT, 2000 cited in Celliers *et al.*, 2009). The ICM Act must therefore be regarded as ‘a specific environmental management Act’ (SEMA) in terms of the NEMA Section 1.

To minimise or mitigate impacts in the coastal zone, the NEMA makes provision for the need to obtain environmental authorisations prior to undertaking certain listed activities. Environmental authorisations are issued by competent authorities which are designated in the NEMA regulations providing for the procedures and requirements for environmental authorisations. The ICM Act provides for additional criteria that must be considered by the relevant competent authority when evaluating an application for an activity which will take place in the coastal zone. The competent authority must ensure that the terms and conditions of any environmental authorisation are consistent with the objectives of any coastal management programme in the area.

It is therefore recommended that consultation with the Department Oceans and Coasts also occur prior to submission of the application, as well as throughout the application process as their input will form an integral part of the application.

## 9. WAY FORWARD: ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT (EIA) PROCESS

In order to undertake the construction of the proposed thermal power plant, Ara Energy (Pty) Ltd must receive an environmental authorization granted from the DFFE, under the terms of the EIA Regulations, 2014 published on 4 December 2014 under section 24(5) and 44 of the NEMA, Act No. 107 of 1998.

The environmental authorization shall be granted in consultation with the **Western Cape Department of Environmental Affairs and Development Planning (WC DEA&DP)**.

The EIA process permits the identification and assessment of potential environmental impacts resulting from the proposed project.

Ara Energy (Pty) Ltd will undertake the required EIA process and appointed **Exigent Engineering Consultants** as EAP to identify and assess potential environmental impacts, proposing appropriate mitigation and management measures as part of an Environmental Management Programme (EMPr). This process also gives the opportunity to dialogue with interested and affected parties through a public participation process. Therefore, during the entire EIA process, I&AP’s will be actively and constantly involved.

The main environmental studies will be the following:

- Draft Scoping Report;
- Final Scoping Report ;
- Draft EIA Report ;

- Final EIA Report ;
- Draft EMPr.

## 10. POTENTIAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS ASSOCIATED WITH THE PROPOSED PROJECT

A series of preliminary significant environmental issues and potential environmental impacts are currently being investigated and evaluated in terms of the severity, duration, extent, frequency and probability during the construction and the operational phases. The methods to be used are internationally recognised and based on facts, experience and expert opinions.

The following preliminary issues and potential impacts are being evaluated during the EIA process:

- Impacts on aquatic (marine) vegetation and fauna;
- Impacts on terrestrial vegetation and fauna;
- Geological, soil and erosion impacts;
- Impacts on heritage resources;
- Impact on water quantity and quality;
- Social and economic impacts.

During the Scoping Phase specialists will identify the abovementioned potential environmental issues and impacts for further investigation within the subsequent EIA Phase.

Specialist studies will be conducted to identify all potentially significant impacts. These impacts will be all analysed singularly and cumulatively to exclude the risk of fatal flaws and potential threats, if any, as well as to recommend adequate and effective mitigation measures.

The Draft and Final Scoping Reports will highlight areas that should be avoided in order to limit potential impacts and will recommend the most favourable alternatives for the proposed project for further investigation in the Draft and Final EIA Reports.

The public participation process will provide valuable information in the identification of further issues which may require further and specific investigation and analysis during the EIA process.

Exigent will give response to all comments and queries received from I&AP's, and will carefully consider and evaluate all issues raised with the aim of assessing all potential impacts.

## 11. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCESS

It is important that all relevant I&AP's are identified and involved in the PPP from the beginning of the project.

The public participation process gives the chance to become actively involved through constant sharing of information related to the projects.

The main purposes of the public participation process are to ensure that:

- all relevant information in respect of the application is made available to I&AP's for their evaluation and review;
- reasonable opportunity is given to I&AP's to comment and to submit queries related to the proposed project;
- a review period is provided for interested and affected parties to comment on findings of the Draft Scoping Report and Draft EIA Report

The public participation process includes the following phases:

- Phase 1: advertising of the EIA process (regional and local press);
- Phase 2: registration of I&AP's and key stakeholders on the database (on-going);
- Phase 3: consultation with and transfer of information to I&AP's through consultation, public meetings, focus group meetings and key stakeholder workshops;
- Phase 4: registration of all comments, issues and concerns raised by I&AP's within an issues registry, which will form an integral part of Scoping and EIA Reports;
- Phase 5: invitation of I&AP's to comment the Draft Scoping and EIA Reports within the stipulated 40-day review period.

The public involvement within the phases of an EIA process includes:

### **11.1. Notification of EIA process**

- a) Application form sent to DFFE;
- b) Advertising in local and/or regional newspapers;
- c) Inform I&AP's and stakeholders through site notices, background information documents & stakeholders letters.

### **11.2. Draft Scoping Report**

- a) Draft Scoping Report sent to I&AP's and stakeholders;
- b) Draft Scoping Report submitted to the DFFE;
- c) Collection of comments from I&AP's and stakeholders;
- d) Comments from the DFFE.

### **11.3. Final Scoping Report**

- a) Final Scoping Report sent to I&AP's and stakeholders;
- b) Final Scoping Report submitted to the DFFE;
- c) Approval of the Final Scoping Report by the DFFE.

### **11.4. Draft EIA Report and Draft Environmental Management Programme**

- a) Draft EIA Report and Draft EMPr sent to I&AP's and stakeholders;
- b) Draft EIA Report and Draft EMPr submitted to the DFFE;
- c) Collection of comments from I&AP's and stakeholders;
- d) Comments from the DFFE.

### **11.5. Final EIA Report and Environmental Management Programme**

- a) Final EIA Report and EMPr sent to I&AP's and stakeholders;
- b) Final EIA Report and EMPr submitted to the DFFE.

## 11.6. Decision Making

- a) Acknowledge receipt of Final EIA Report and Draft EMPr;
- b) Accept or Reject of Final EIA Report and Draft EMPr;
- c) To Grant or Refuse EA;
- d) Notification of decision;
- e) Information of stakeholders & I&AP's of decision in writing.

## 12. PRELIMINARY TIME SCHEDULE

Please see preliminary time schedule overview below, with the detail dates of each phase of the process to be provided to all registered I&APs as the process progresses:

- |  |                             |
|--|-----------------------------|
| 1. Public participation process                  | Ongoing through EIA process |
| 2. Submission of Draft Scoping Report            | November 2021               |
| 3. Submission of Final Scoping Report            | December 2021               |
| 4. Submission of Draft EIA Report and Draft EMPr | March 2021                  |
| 5. Submission of Final EIA Report and Draft EMPr | April 2021                  |

## 13. RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES AS AN I&AP

In terms of the EIA Regulations 2014, please take note of your rights and responsibilities as an I&AP.

1. In order to participate in this EIA process as an I&AP, you must register yourself on the project database.
2. Please observe that all comments regarding the proposed project must be submitted within the stipulated timeframes.
3. Finally, please be advised that as an I&AP you are required to disclose any direct business, financial, personal or other interest which that you may have in the approval or reject of the application for the proposed project.

## 14. WHO TO CONTACT

We would like to encourage you to participate in this EIA and AEL process by registering at the contact persons below.

**Jacquette Adam / Selma Otto**

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# APPENDIX A: LOCALITY MAP

