

IMPACT PHASE

HYPERION SOLAR DEVELOPMENTS 1, 2, 3 AND 4, INCLUDING ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE APPLICATION FOR ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION

**NOTES OF AUTHORITY MEETING
HELD ON 26 FEBRUARY 2019
VENUE: REMAINDER OF FARM LYNDOCH 432**

Notes for the Record prepared by:

Savannah Environmental (Pty) Ltd
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Please address any comments to Savannah Environmental at the above address

PROJECT NAME: HYPERION SOLAR DEVELOPMENTS 1, 2, 3 AND 4 AND ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION APPLICATION

Venue: Remainder of Farm Lyndoch 438, near Kathu, Northern Cape Province

Date: 26 February 2019

Time: 11:00am

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

Shaun Taylor opened the meeting, welcoming everyone. Introductions were provided by each attendee including their name, designation and representative entity. Details are provided below.

MEETING ATTENDEES

Name	Organisation	Position	Email	Contact Number
Shaun Taylor (ST)	Savannah Environmental (Pty) Ltd	Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP)		
Magdalena Michalowska (MM)	Building Energy South Africa (Pty) Ltd	Environmental Manager		
Janine Brasington (JB)	Building Energy South Africa (Pty) Ltd	Project Developer		
Johan Hattingh (JH)	Building Energy South Africa (Pty) Ltd	Operations Manager		
Tom Knoesen (TK)	Landowner of Remainder of Lyndoch 438	Landowner of Remainder of Lyndoch 438		
Simon Todd (ST2)	3Foxes	Ecologist		
Jacoline Mans (JM)	Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries	National Forest Act Regulation		
Samantha De La Fontaine (SF)	Northern Cape Provincial Government Department of Environment and Nature Conservation	District Ecologist		

APOLOGIES

Thalita Koster.

PURPOSE OF THE MEETING

ST explained that the purpose of the site meeting was to provide the Northern Cape Provincial Government Department of Environment and Nature Conservation (NCPG DENC) and the Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (DAFF) with an opportunity to view the proposed development sites and access roads in light of recent comments submitted by DAFF (dated 26 November 2018) on the draft scoping reports for the Hyperion Solar Developments 1, 2, 3 and 4 including associated infrastructure (dated October 2018). ST elaborated that the main concern was with regards to the proposed high-density loss of protected tree species (*Vachellia haemotoxylon* and *V. erioloba*).

DISCUSSION ITEMS

1. Pre-site Visit Meeting

JM wished to clarify the four proposed project areas. ST responded that four projects were being proposed including Hyperion Solar Development (HSD) 1, 2, 3 and 4, which included associated infrastructure such as access roads, substations, operation and maintenance areas and lay-down areas. MM stated that the power line component will be considered in the future, and therefore did not form part of the current environmental assessment applications. MM stated that final layout designs were underway and revealed a preliminary layout design for the authorities (NCPG DENC & DAFF) to view.

JM enquired whether the development would be phased? MM responded that each project would be phased and may or may not take place simultaneously, depending on their bid success.

JM enquired what the approximate number of protected trees would be lost to each of the proposed developments. ST2 stated that estimates at present were approximately 4000 *V. erioloba* would be lost per project site, and that approximately 10 000 *V. haemotoxylon* would be lost per project site.

JM enquired whether there was any important fauna on the project sites. ST2 stated that there were some Red Data species, although that these species were mobile and would most likely move away from the area during disturbance.

JM noted concern for traffic and dust related impacts for the projects, noting that dust smothering of plants could be a concern. JH stated that Building Energy have a nearby project (Kathu Solar) that was already developed, and could confirm that the dust would be minimal given the type of soils and shallow rock profile of the area.

JM enquired whether there would be total clearance of vegetation with each proposed project. JH stated that there would not be total clearance except where the mounting structures would need to be piled into the ground. MM added that clearance be just above ground level, as vegetation is required to assist with controlling run-off for each site.

2. Site Visit Discussion Points

JM and SF stated concern for a cluster of *V. erioloba* in the South western corner of HSD 4 where an access road/fire break was being proposed. MM stated that this cluster could be avoided with the final layouts to prevent removal of this particular cluster.

MM wanted to clarify what would be the recommended approach going forward in the EIA phase considering that there was a high amount of tree species that would need to be removed / relocated. JM stated that it is possible that a biodiversity offset may be required since the number of protected trees to be removed were considered high. However, this was not an official response, and that the results of the site meeting would need to be brought to the attention of her colleagues at DAFF and NCPG DENC to determine a more definitive way forward. TK enquired whether the eastern portion of the property of Remainder of Farm Lyndoch No. 432, which had been excluded from the proposed development area due to high number of protected tree species, could not be used as an offset. JM responded that as there are already a high number of protected tree species present, this area would not serve as an appropriated area for an offset as it could not be densified any further.

Post-Meeting Note: The applicant and Environmental Assessment Practitioner are currently awaiting formal response from DAFF and NCPG DENC on the matter of how to proceed with the expected high loss of protected tree species.

DISCUSSION SESSION AND CLOSURE

ST closed the meeting at 14:30pm.

Minutes of meetings held during the EIAr review period will be included in the Final EIAr

SCOPING PHASE

FOCUS GROUP MEETINGS DURING THE
SCOPING REPORT FOR PUBLIC REVIEW AND
COMMENT PERIOD

FOCUS GROUP MEETING:
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY AND
FISHERIES (DAFF)

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT PROCESS

HYPERION SOLAR DEVELOPMENTS AND ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE NEAR KATHU, NORTH WEST PROVINCE

DEA Ref. Nos:

14-12-16-3-3-2-1109 – Hyperion Solar Development 1

14-12-16-3-3-2-1110 – Hyperion Solar Development 2

14-12-16-3-3-2-1111 – Hyperion Solar Development 3

14-12-16-3-3-2-1112 – Hyperion Solar Development 4

NOTES OF FOCUS GROUP MEETING

HELD ON THURSDAY, 08 NOVEMBER 2018

VENUE: DAFF Northern Cape Province Offices, Louisvale, Upington

Notes for the Record prepared by:

Nicolene Venter

Savannah Environmental (Pty) Ltd

E-mail: publicprocess@savannahsa.com

Please address any comments to Savannah Environmental at the above address

HYPERION SOLAR PV DEVELOPMENTS AND ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE

Venue: DAFF Northern Cape Province Offices, Louisvale, Upington

Date: Thursday, 08 November 2018

Time: 09h30

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

Ms Nicolene Venter, Public Participation Practitioner, Savannah Environmental, thanked Ms Jacqueline Mans for making time available for the Focus Group Meeting. After introducing herself and her role, Mr Shaun Taylor introduced himself and informed Ms Mans that he will be presenting the project on behalf of Ms Thalita Botha, the Environmental Assessment Practitioner, who could not attend due to unforeseen circumstances.

MEETING ATTENDEES

Name	Organisation	Position
Ms Jacqueline Mans	Department of Agriculture, Forestry (DAFF)	Chief Forester: NFA Regulations, Forestry Management
Mr Shaun Taylor	Savannah Environmental	Environmental Assessment Practitioner
Ms Nicolene Venter		Public Participation & Social Consultant

APOLOGIES

None received.

BACKGROUND & TECHNICAL ASPECTS REGARDING THE PROPOSED PROJECT

The development of four (4) separate photovoltaic (PV) solar energy facilities (SEFs) as well as associated infrastructure are being proposed on the Remaining Extent of the Farm Lyndoch 432 situated ~16km north of, and these facilities will be called:

- » Hyperion Solar Development 1
- » Hyperion Solar Development 2
- » Hyperion Solar Development 3
- » Hyperion Solar Development 4

Each of the four (4) SEFs will be constructed as separate stand-alone projects, with a separate project development company (or Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV)) as the applicant for each project. The project details are:

Applicant:	Project Name:	Contracted Capacity:
Hyperion Solar Development 1 (Pty) Ltd	Hyperion Solar Development 1	75MW

Cyragaurd (Pty) Ltd	Hyperion Solar Development 2	75MW
Nomispank (Pty) Ltd	Hyperion Solar Development 3	75MW
Nomispan (Pty) Ltd	Hyperion Solar Development 4	75MW

It is the developer's intention to bid each solar energy facility under the Department of Energy's (DoE) Renewable Energy Independent Power Producer Procurement (REIPPP) Programme. The power generated from each solar energy facility will be sold to Eskom and will feed into the national electricity grid. The development of the facilities will also assist with the achievement of the electricity goals as set out in the Integrated Resources Plan (IRP).

DISCUSSION SESSION

Question / Comment (All questions / comments below have been submitted by Ms Jacoline Mans)	Response
It was asked whether the associated power line corridors forms part of this EIA.	Shaun Taylor responded that it is not part of this EIA process and would be a separate Basic Assess process.
In terms of the two proposed access roads, Alternative 1 is more preferred than Alternative 2, as the dust impact on the Camel Thorn trees situated along Alternative 2 (T25) is a concern.	Shaun Taylor responded that the preference is noted and in terms of the two access road alternatives. In terms of the dust impact on the Camel Thorn trees situated along Alternative 2 (T25), it can be confirmed that this will be fully assessed in the impact phase.
The project team was informed that road access Alternative 2 traverse a section of the Kathu Forest and that the DAFF will not issue a license for road access Alternative 2 as the DAFF had lodged an appeal against Kathu 2 Solar who also proposed their access road through this section of the protected Kathu Forest.	Shaun Taylor replied that the information provided will be taken forward and also shared with the Applicant.
An additional access road alternative was proposed that could run from the proposed development sight to the Stokkiesdraai Road (T25) which joins the R380.	Shaun Taylor acknowledged these two additional proposed alternative and informed the DAFF that it will be discuss with the Applicant.
The project team was informed by DAFF of a fourth possible alternative that can be considered that could route from the R380 to the northern part of Hyperion Solar Development 2.	
It was mentioned that the <i>Terminalia sericea</i> that might be present on the proposed sites is indigenous but not a protected species.	Shaun Taylor responded that this information will be confirmed by the biodiversity specialist in the impact phase.

It was enquired whether all four projects will be constructed at the same time or will it be a phased approach.	Shaun Taylor replied that it would be a phased approach, should all four the proposed projects receive preferred bidding status.
Is was enquired whether the properties will be purchased by the developer or leased.	Shaun Taylor responded that the properties will be leased.
It was enquired as to the exact footprint size of each of the four proposed developments.	Shaun Taylor responded that the "development footprint" are approximately 180 hectares.
It was asked as to how many trees per ha is envisaged to be lost on each of the four (4) proposed sites.	Shaun Taylor replied that according to the specialist's desk-top calculations, it is estimated at 100 trees.
The project team was informed that in terms of off-sets and with reference to the DAFF's appeal against the Kathu 2 Solar project, that an off-set for the loss of Camel Thorn trees was requested. The same will apply for the Hyperion 1, 2, 3 &4 projects.	Shaun Taylor requested that the DAFF submit this request / recommendation in writing to the project team, and that this request / recommendation can form part of the DAFF's formal comments on the Scoping Report.
The project team was provided with a map indicating the buffer zone around the Kathu Forest	Nicolene Venter thanked the DAFF for the copy and requested that an electronic copy can be sent via e-mail to the project team.
The project team was informed that should the access road cross any portion of the Kathu Forest or areas declared then the road should be fenced with a game fence. Should this be required, the DAFF will discuss this matter with the DENC as a joint decision is required.	Shaun Taylor take note of the fence requirements and the DAFF will be kept informed regarding any possible impact on the Kathu Forest.
It was recommended that a meeting be arranged with the DAFF and DENC to discuss any possible off-sets that might be required for these four (4) proposed projects.	Shaun Taylor replied that the matter will be discussed with the Applicant and it is envisaged that should a meeting be arranged that it will take place in during the impact phase, and probably as early in the impact phase as possible.
Electronic copies of the maps were requested, and preferably shapefiles.	The requested maps were e-mail to the DAFF on 7 December 2018.
A site visit was requested, after the Reports were read, to take place where the DAFF and DENC Officials both are present, and it was recommended that this site visit take place late January 2019 or early February 2019.	Shaun Taylor responded that this request will be forwarded to the Applicant and further communication in this regard will take place in early January 2019.
It was enquired whether the Biodiversity Specialist did a detailed Fauna study.	Shaun Taylor responded that the specialist had only done a desk-top study for the Scoping Phase and that ground truthing will be done in the Impact Phase.

<p>It was asked as to whether the project team knows when was the last time that the Vlermuisleegte River had flowed.</p>	<p>Shaun Taylor responded that the project team were not aware of the last time that this watercourse flowed but stated that this would be queried with the landowners in the area. The landowner was accordingly queried and reported that the last time it flowed was allegedly in 1974.</p>
<p>It was asked whether the access road will be a gravel road or tarred.</p>	<p>Shaun Taylor replied that erosion is an associated first with gravel roads and also the possible impact associated with dust is also a concern. Whether the access road will be tarred is unsure at this stage of the EIA.</p>
<p>The project team was informed, that with the Kathu Solar, dust suppression was used, and this activity resulted in the use of a large amount of water.</p>	<p>Shaun Taylor replied that it is believed that dust suppression will be done during the construction phase, but not sure whether it will carry on during the operation phase as it is believed that not a lot of vehicles will use the access road during the operation phase.</p>
<p>It was enquired whether the Biodiversity Specialist's Report addressed the impact in terms of access roads.</p>	<p>Shaun Taylor replied that the team will confirm whether it was included.</p>
<p>It was asked as to why the Applicant selected sites with such high density of trees.</p>	<p>Shaun Taylor replied that it is believed that the sites were identified to be suitable for such a development and the close proximity to connect to the electricity grid network.</p>
<p>In terms of off-sets, DAFF indicated that they are not in favour of such an approach due to the time frame associated with these proposed developments.</p>	<p>Shaun Taylor acknowledged the DAFFs point regarding off-sets.</p>

WAY FORWARD AND CLOSURE

Nicolene Venter thanked Ms Jacoline Mans for the valuable inputs provided into the EIA.

Meeting closed at 10h30

ATTENDANCE REGISTER

Project	Hyperion Solar Development			Meeting	Focus Group Meeting with DAFF
Date	8 November 2018	Time	9h30	Venue	DAFF, Louisvale Road Upington

	Organization	Name & Postal Address	Contact Details	Signature
1	DAFF	Jacoline Mans	Tel: 054-338-5909	
	Designation	DAFF Directorate: Forestry Management Louisvale Road Upington Northern Cape 8800 South Africa	Fax: 054-334-0030	
	Chief Forester: NFA Regulation		Cell: 082-808-2737 Email: jacolinema@daff.gov.za	
	Organization	Name & Postal Address	Contact Details	Signature
2	Savannah Environmental	Shaun Taylor	Tel: 011 656 2986	
	Designation	First Floor, Block 2, 5Woodlands Drive Office Park, Woodmead	Fax: 086 684 0547	
	EAP		Cell: 072 779 4899 Email: shaun@savannahsa.com	
	Organization	Name & Postal Address	Contact Details	Signature
3	Savannah Environmental	Nicolene Venter	Tel: 011 656 2986	
	Designation	First Floor, Block 2, 5Woodlands Drive Office Park, Woodmead	Fax: 086 684 0547	
	Public Participation Consultant		Cell: 083 377 9112 Email: nicolene@savannahsa.com	

FOCUS GROUP MEETING:
LANDOWNERS

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT PROCESS

HYPERION SOLAR DEVELOPMENTS AND ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE NEAR KATHU, NORTH WEST PROVINCE

DEA Ref. Nos:

- 14-12-16-3-3-2-1109 – Hyperion Solar Development 1
- 14-12-16-3-3-2-1110 – Hyperion Solar Development 2
- 14-12-16-3-3-2-1111 – Hyperion Solar Development 3
- 14-12-16-3-3-2-1112 – Hyperion Solar Development 4

NOTES OF FOCUS GROUP MEETING: Landowners

HELD ON THURSDAY, 08 NOVEMBER 2018

VENUE: House of Mr Tom Knoessen, Farm Lyndoch Farm, Kathu
and

One-on-One Discussion held on Friday, 09 November 2018 at Sanyati
Guest House, Kathu

Notes for the Record prepared by:

Nicolene Venter

Savannah Environmental (Pty) Ltd

E-mail: publicprocess@savannahsa.com

Please address any comments to Savannah Environmental at the above address

HYPERION SOLAR PV DEVELOPMENTS AND ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE

Venue: Lyndoch Farm, Kathu

Date: Thursday, 08 November 2018

Time: 18h00

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

Ms Nicolene Venter, Public Participation Practitioner, Savannah Environmental, thanked the attendees for making time available for attending the Focus Group Meeting. After introducing herself and her role, she requested the attendees to introduce themselves. After introducing herself and her role, Mr Shaun Taylor introduced himself and informed Ms Mans that he will be presenting the project on behalf of Ms Thalita Botha, the Environmental Assessment Practitioner, who could not attend due to unforeseen circumstances.

MEETING ATTENDEES

Name	Organisation	Position
Mr Tom Knoessen	Farm Lyndoch	Owner
Mr Nico Steyn	Farm Cowley	Owner
Mr Shaun Taylor	Savannah Environmental	Environmental Assessment Practitioner
Ms Nicolene Venter		Public Participation & Social Consultant

APOLOGIES

Ms Cecilia Loubser, Farm Calway

Mr André van Heerden, Farm Lyndoch

Mr Schalk Burger, Farm Selsden

Mr Johan Vorster, Farm Cowley

Mr Sakkie Burger, Farm Bucote

BACKGROUND & TECHNICAL ASPECTS REGARDING THE PROPOSED PROJECT

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It is the developer's intention to bid each solar energy facility under the Department of Energy's (DoE) Renewable Energy Independent Power Producer Procurement (REIPPP) Programme. The power generated from each solar energy facility will be sold to Eskom and will feed into the national electricity grid. The development of the facilities will also assist with the achievement of the electricity goals as set out in the Integrated Resources Plan (IRP).

DISCUSSION SESSION

Question / Comment (All questions / comments below have been submitted by Ms Jacoline Mans)	Response
Tom Knoessen informed the project team that in terms of the two (2) access road Alternatives, that Alternative 2 (T25) would be the most preferred, as Alternative 1 (T26) in terms of dust and visibility impact, is a safety concern as the alternative traverses close to homesteads.	Shaun Taylor acknowledged the preference and thanked the attendees for the information provided. He informed the attendees that detailed studies for both these alternatives will be done in the impact phase.
Tom Knoessen raised the concern regarding safety to the residents along Alternative 1 especially during construction time.	Shaun Taylor acknowledged the concern regarding safety as this is a key issue for landowners. He informed the attendees that safety and security will be addressed and responded to during the impact phase.
The attendees indicated to the project team that the third alternative as proposed by the DAFF seems to be the most feasible alternative as it will address the safety issue as it will run along the property fences of two landowners.	Shaun Taylor acknowledged the comment regarding a possible third alternative for an access road and informed the attendees that this alternative needs to be submitted to the Applicant before any commitments of an additional alternative can be made.
Johan Vorster recommended that a 4m high electrical fence be erected around the proposed development to prevent trespassing and thoroughfare as this could also negatively impact the residents' safety.	Shaun Taylor acknowledged the recommendation and inform the attendees that it will be forwarded to the Applicant for consideration.

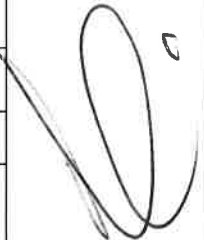
Johan Vorster enquired as to what would the buffer be from the fence to the proposed development as this buffer could be used as a firebreak.	Shaun Taylor responded that this detailed information is not yet available and once it becomes available, it will be communicated to the attendees.
Both the attendees requested that an access control system be considered on access road Alternative 1 (T26) to ensure the safety of the residents.	Shaun Taylor responded that there will be access control at the entrance to the solar plants.
Johan Vorster enquired whether the local labour force will be sourced from Kuruman or Kathu.	Shaun Taylor replied that this information is not yet known and once available, it will be communicated to the attendees.
Johan Vorster enquired whether any workers will be housed on the development site during construction.	Shaun Taylor replied that workers will be transported to and from the construction site. Post-meeting note: It is important to note that Security Officers will be on site.
One-on-One Discussions: Friday, 09 November 2018	
Nico Steyn asked whether the proposed access road will have a registered servitude.	Nicolene Venter replied that it is believed that the preferred access road will be registered according to the relevant by-law.
Nico Steyn & Jan Burger raised the concern regarding safety to the residents along Alternative 1 especially during construction time.	Nicolene Venter acknowledged the concern regarding safety as this is a key issue for landowners. He informed the attendees that safety and security will be addressed and responded to during the impact phase.
Nico Steyn requested that an access control system be considered on access road Alternative 1 (T26) to ensure the safety of the residents.	Nicolene Venter responded that there will be access control at the entrance to the solar plants.
Nico Steyn & Jan Burger enquired as to whether the development will be fenced.	Nicolene Venter responded that the development will be fenced but the type of fence is not yet known.

WAY FORWARD AND CLOSURE


Nicolene Venter thanked all the attendees at the various meetings for their valuable inputs provided into the EIA.


ATTENDANCE REGISTER



Project	Hyperion Solar Development		Meeting	Focus Group Meeting with Landowners	
Date	8 November 2018	Time	18h00	Venue	Farm Lyndoch, Kathu ,8446

	Organization	Name & Postal Address	Contact Details	Signature
1	Savannah Environmental	Shaun Taylor First Floor, Block 2, 5Woodlands Drive Office Park, Woodmead	Tel: 011 656 2986	
	Designation		Fax: 086 684 0547	
	EAP		Cell: 072 779 4899 Email: shaun@savannahsa.com	



	Organization	Name & Postal Address	Contact Details	Signature
2	Savannah Environmental	Nicolene Venter First Floor, Block 2, 5Woodlands Drive Office Park, Woodmead	Tel: 011 656 2986	
	Designation		Fax: 086 684 0547	
	Public Participation Consultant		Cell: 083 377 9112 Email: nicolene@savannahsa.com	

	Organization	Name & Postal Address	Contact Details	Signature
3		Thomas Knoesen	Tel:	
	Designation		Fax:	
			Cell: 078-879-2565 Email: tomknoesen@icloud.com	

	Organization	Name & Postal Address	Contact Details	Signature
4		Nico Steyn	Tel:	
			Fax:	
	Designation		Cell: 073-198-2943	
	Email: licosim@gmail.com			
	Organization	Name & Postal Address	Contact Details	Signature
5	PNP Trust	Schalk Burger	Tel:	
	Designation		Fax:	
	Trustee		Cell: 082-570-4488	
	Email: pnpvoerkrale@gmail.com			
	Organization	Name & Postal Address	Contact Details	Signature
6		Johan Vorster	Tel:	
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	Organization	Name & Postal Address	Contact Details	Signature
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