

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

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**NOTES OF FOCUS GROUP MEETING  
HELD ON THURSDAY, 08 NOVEMBER 2018  
VENUE: DAFF Northern Cape Province Offices, Louisvale, Upington**

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**Notes for the Record prepared by:**

Nicolene Venter

**Savannah Environmental (Pty) Ltd**

**E-mail: [publicprocess@savannahsa.com](mailto: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

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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

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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

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None received.

### BACKGROUND & TECHNICAL ASPECTS REGARDING THE PROPOSED PROJECT

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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**

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

Meeting closed at 10h30

**ATTENDANCE REGISTER**

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

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



FOCUS GROUP MEETING:  
LANDOWNERS

## ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT PROCESS

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

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

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**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**

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**Notes for the Record prepared by:**

Nicolene Venter

**Savannah Environmental (Pty) Ltd**

**E-mail: [publicprocess@savannahsa.com](mailto: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

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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

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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

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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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Hyperion Solar Development 1 (Pty) Ltd	Hyperion Solar Development 1	75MW
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Nomispark (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

<b>Question / Comment</b> (All questions / comments below have been submitted by Ms Jacoline Mans)	<b>Response</b>
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. <b>Post-meeting note:</b> It is important to note that Security Officers will be on site.
<b>One-on-One Discussions: Friday, 09 November 2018</b>	
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.

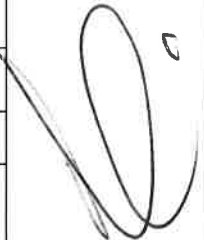
## **WAY FORWARD AND CLOSURE**

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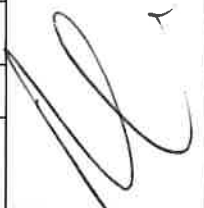
Nicolene Venter thanked all the attendees at the various meetings for their valuable inputs provided into the EIA.


**ATTENDANCE REGISTER**


<b>Project</b>	Hyperion Solar Development		<b>Meeting</b>	Focus Group Meeting with Landowners	
<b>Date</b>	8 November 2018	<b>Time</b>	18h00	<b>Venue</b>	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	
	<b>Designation</b>		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	
	<b>Designation</b>		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:	
			Fax:	
	<b>Designation</b>		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:	
			Fax:	
	Designation		Cell: 083-320-1466	
	Email: jacqueline.vorster@yahoo.com			

	Organization	Name & Postal Address	Contact Details	Signature
7		Jurie Nel	Tel:	
			Fax:	
	Designation		Cell: 083-304-0748	
	Email: jurie.nel@angloamerican.com			