



Basic Assessment and Water Use License for the proposed
Square Kilometre Array (SKA) fibre optic cable
between Beaufort West and Carnarvon

Public Participation Plan

Prepared for: National Department of Environment, Forestry and Fisheries
(DFFE)

Applicant: Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR)
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Summary

The South African National Research Network (SANReN) has been tasked with constructing a proposed 185 km fibre optic cable between Beaufort West and Carnarvon to complete the data connection between the Square Kilometre Array (SKA) radio telescope and the data processing facility in Cape Town. A Basic Assessment procedure is required to obtain Environmental Authorisation for the proposed fibre optic route. This requirement is triggered by Listing Notice 1, Activity 19, and Listing Notice 3, Activity 12 of the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations. Furthermore, a Water Use License is required in terms of Section 2 (c) and (i) of the National Water Act.

This document serves as the Public Participation Plan required in GN 650 to document how the Public Participation Process (PPP) will be undertaken throughout the SKA fibre optic Basic Assessment (BA) and Water Use License Application (WULA) processes.

The following mechanisms are proposed to achieve the purpose of the PPP (see Section 4 of this plan):

- Adjacent landowner database collation and notification;
- Email notifications (hard copy letter notification where email address not available);
- SMS text notifications;
- Information sharing via broader social networks (e.g. farmer's associations);
- Newspaper advertisements;
- Site notices placed in Beaufort West, Loxton and Carnarvon;
- Hard copy non-technical BA Report summary placement in Beaufort West, Loxton and Carnarvon during the 30-day public commenting period;
- Digital full report access via CSIR website and other file-sharing platforms.
- Hard copy full report access on request from stakeholders.

The PPP for the proposed SKA fibre optic project will adhere to the requirements of Chapter 6 of the 2014 NEMA EIA Regulations (as amended).

All personal information collated for the purposes of the PPP for the proposed SKA fibre optic project will be collected, processed and safeguarded in accordance with the requirements of the Protection of Personal Information Act (No. 4 of 2013).

1. Introduction

The document presents the Public Participation Plan for an integrated Public Participation Process (PPP) as part of the Basic Assessment (BA) and Water Use License Application (WULA) for a proposed 184 km fibre optic cable installation between Beaufort West and Carnarvon to complete the data connection between the Square Kilometre Array (SKA) radio-telescope and the data processing facility in Cape Town.

2. Need for a Public Participation Plan

On 5 June 2020, the Minister of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment issued Directions in terms of regulation 4 (10) of the Regulations issued by the Minister of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs in terms of section 27(2) of the Disaster Management Act, 2002 (Act 57 of 2002). These Directions were published in Government Gazette 43412, GN 650 on 5 June 2020, regarding measures to address, prevent and combat the spread of COVID-19 relating to national environmental management permits and licences.

Regulation 5.1 of GN 650 states that Authorities responsible for the processing of applications contemplated in the EIA Regulations, will be receiving such applications from 5 June 2020 and will receive and process applications and issue decisions in the manner as set out in Annexure 2 of GN 650. Regulation 5.2 of GN 650 states that Annexure 3 includes additional requirements in respect of the provision, supporting or obtaining of services contemplated in Regulation 5.1.

Annexure 3 of GN 650 states that an Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP) must:

- Prepare a written public participation plan, containing proposals on how the identification of and consultation with all potential Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) will be ensured in accordance with Regulation 41(2)(a) to (d) of the 2014 NEMA EIA Regulations (as amended) or proposed alternative reasonable methods as provided for in regulation 41(2)(e), for purposes of an application and submit such plan to the competent authority; and
- Request a meeting or pre-application discussion with the competent authority to determine the reasonable measures to be followed to identify potential I&APs and register IA&Ps for purposes of conducting public participation on the application requiring adherence to Chapter 6 of the 2014 NEMA EIA Regulations (as amended) as set out in the public participation plan and obtain agreement from the competent authority on the public participation plan.

GN 650 also states that for new applications, the public participation plan agreed with the competent authority must be annexed to the application form.

This document therefore serves as the Public Participation Plan required in GN 650 to document how the PPP will be undertaken throughout the SKA fibre optic BA and WULA Process. The Public Participation Plan will be discussed with the DEFF during the Pre-Application Meeting in order to facilitate the decision-making on the plan itself.

3. Project background

The South African Radio Astronomy Observatory (SARAO) spearheads South Africa's activities in the Square Kilometre Array (SKA) Radio Telescope in engineering, science and construction. SARAO is a National Facility, managed by the National Research Foundation, which incorporates radio astronomy instruments and programmes such as the MeerKAT and KAT-7 telescopes in the

Karoo, the Hartebeesthoek Radio Astronomy Observatory (HartRAO) in Gauteng, the African Very Long Baseline Interferometry (AVN) programme in nine African countries, as well as the associated human capital development and commercialisation endeavours.

Connectivity is required between the SKA core site in the Northern Cape and a data processing facility in Cape Town to transport the science data for the SKA project and its precursor, MeerKAT. Access to dark fibre is required to transport this data due to the expected data throughputs for the SKA project.

SARAO has already established a fibre optic connection between Carnarvon and the SKA core site.

Additionally, the South African National Research Network (SANReN – the Applicant) has procured access to fibre between Beaufort West area and Cape Town. A fibre optic cable connection must therefore be constructed between Beaufort West, in the Western Cape Provinces, and Carnarvon, in the Northern Cape Province (Figure 1). The Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) Environmental Management Services (EMS) has been appointed as the EAP to undertake the necessary environmental assessments required together with an application for Environmental Authorisation (EA) for the proposed project.

The details of the preferred and selected SKA fibre route is as follows:

1. The fibre route starts from Beaufort West Transnet building, to Loxton where a 3 m x 6 m container for regeneration of signal will be established, and then to the existing Carnarvon SKA Point of Presence (PoP) site – a total of approximately 183 km.
2. The fibre duct and cable will be laid in a 1 m deep and 300 mm wide trench and be buried by backfilling and compacting the trench.
3. The fibre route will predominantly be installed within the road reserves of roads R381 and R63 (and other roads within the towns of Beaufort West, Loxton and Carnarvon), and at least 1 m from the fence of the private land.
4. 155 km will be underground and 25 km will be overhead due to it not being technically and financially feasible to trench on the Molteno Pass section and two other topographically complex sections north of the Molteno Pass.
 - Here, sections of the cabling may be installed outside the road reserve (i.e. following the most direct / technically feasible route).
 - The height of the aboveground poles vary between 7.5 m and 9 m.
5. There are several streams / river and associated wetlands to cross. Rivers will be crossed using directional drilling, 2 m below riverbed, and starting 32 m away from river banks.
 - An application for a Section 21 (c) and (i) Water Use License (in terms of the National Water Act) will also be undertaken, and subject to an integrated Public Participation Process (PPP) as part of the Basic Assessment.
6. There is one river with solid bedrock (the Brak river near Loxton) where directional drilling is not technically or financially feasible. Here the fibre cable will be attached to the existing road bridge.

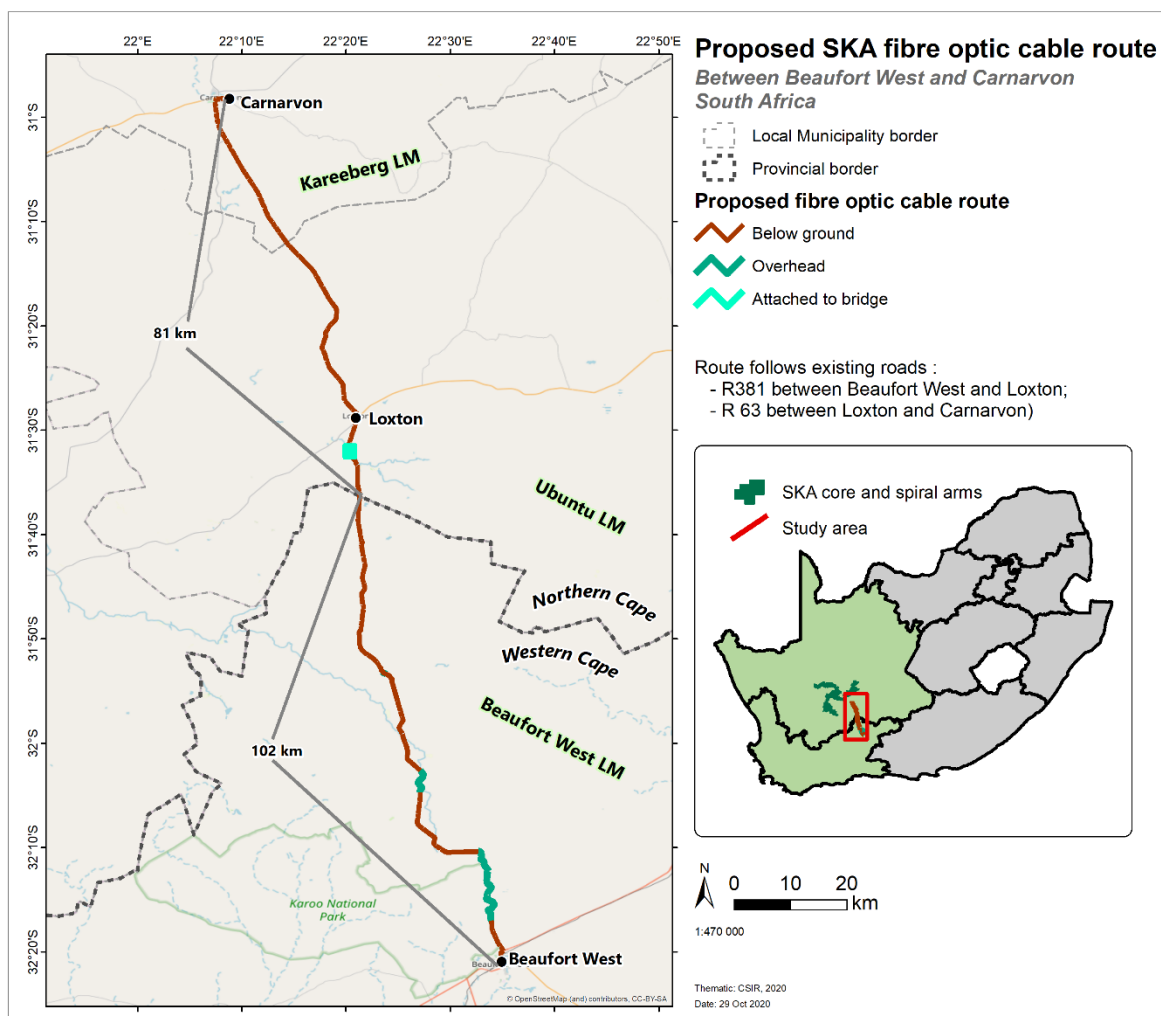


Figure 1: Proposed fibre optic cable route from Beaufort West, via Loxton, to Carnarvon.

The fibre optic cable will be placed in the reserves of the roads presented in Table 1. According to available cadastral data, approximately sixty (60) and thirty-eight (38) land portions are traversed by the proposed SKA fibre optic road reserve corridor (i.e. “neighbouring land portions”) in the Western- and Northern Cape provinces, respectively (see Appendix A).

Table 1: The fibre optic cable is proposed in the road reserve of the following roads.

Road	Town
Park Avenue	Beaufort West
New Street	Beaufort West
Donkin Steet (N1 / N12)	Beaufort West
R381	Beaufort West to Loxton
Fraserburg Street	Loxton
Auret Street / R381	Loxton
R63	Loxton to Carnarvon
South Street	Carnarvon
Margaretha Prinsloo Street	Carnarvon
Biblioteek Street	Carnarvon
Zahn Street	Carnarvon
Van Riebeeck Street	Carnarvon
Stasieweg Street	Carnarvon

4. Proposed PPP plan and mechanisms

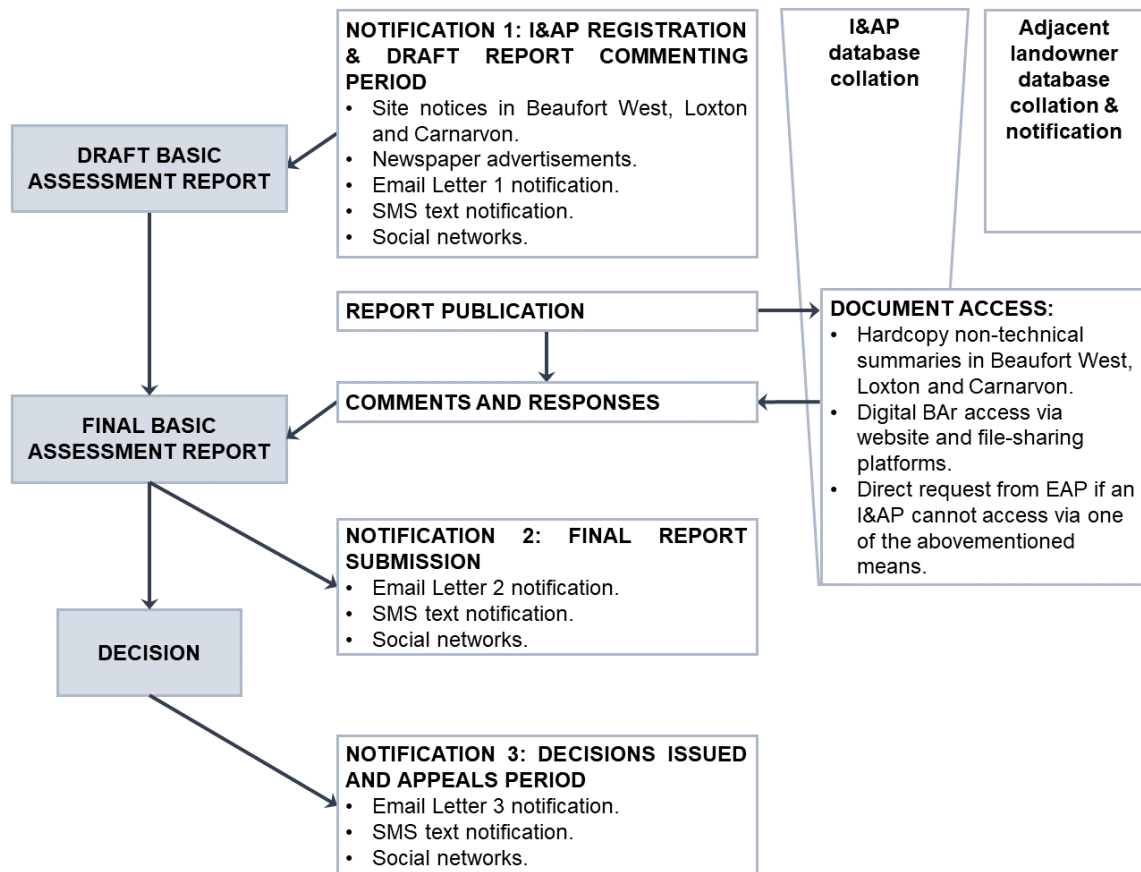


Figure 2: Summary of the Public Participation Process plan for the proposed Fibre Optic Project.

4.1 Interested and Affected Party Database and the Protection of Personal Information Act

The Protection of Personal Information Act (No. 4 of 2013) (POPIA) introduces minimum requirements for the processing of personal information and aims to promote the protection of personal information processed by public and private bodies. Enforcement of POPIA will commence on 01 July 2021.

The NEMA provides for PPP (“ a process by which potential interested and affected parties are given opportunity to comment on, or raise issues relevant to, the application”) to be conducted for any application for an environmental authorisation. In order to fulfil the aforementioned legal requirement, the EAP and / or appointed public engagement specialist must collect personal information (name and contact details (e.g. telephone number, email address, postal / street address)) of potential I&APs in order to notify them of the project details and opportunity to comment on the environmental impact assessment process and outputs¹. I&APs provide their personal details on a voluntary basis, except where information is available publicly and can be sourced by the EAP indirectly (e.g. when an organisation is identified as a potential I&AP, and the organisation’s email address is available from their website)².

¹ POPIA Section 11 (1) Personal information may only be processed if –
(c) processing complies with an obligation imposed by law on the responsible party.

² POPIA Section 12 (1) Personal information must be collected directly from the data subject, except as otherwise provided for in subsection (2)
(2) It is not necessary to comply with subsection (1) if –
(a) the information is contained in or derived from a public record or has deliberately been made public by the data subject.

I&APs will be made aware of the type of personal information that is sourced, the purpose of the data collection, how the data will be used and any other relevant information stipulated in Section 18 of the POPIA.

All personal information will be collected and processed in accordance with the requirements of the POPIA and will be safeguarded by the EAP and / or public engagement specialist. The collection of personal information for the purposes of PPP for the proposed SKA fibre optic project may thus be considered lawful in terms of the POPIA.

4.2 Adjacent landowner database collation and notification

- A public engagement specialist has been appointed to assist in collating a complete and verified adjacent landowner and occupier database for the proposed 183 km fibre optic route.
- The scope of work for the public engagement specialist includes:
 - Liaison with Authorities and Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) in the project area of interest to obtain information required to develop a complete and verified adjacent land owners and / or occupiers, including, but not limited to:
 - Local and Provincial Government level within the Western Cape and Northern Cape Provinces
 - Local farmer associations, Agri Central Karoo, Agri Western Cape and Agri South Africa;
 - Legal representatives and trustees where farms are in trust, closed corporations or other entities;
 - Stakeholders on the ground; and,
 - Conservation bodies, water user associations, fire protection associations and safety and security groups.
 - Site Visits:
 - The team will visit each farm, commercial and residential property along the proposed SKA fibre optic route to contact the landowners and occupiers and collect, obtain and verify the interested and affected parties contact details.
 - Notification & Briefing:
 - The notification of the landowners, tenants and occupiers would be done through the site visits to each farm, telephone follow-up, local farmers WhatsApp, SMS network, farmers associations and the SFZA PPP drop bag method on farm entrances and at post office boxes.
 - Records / proof of delivery of the notification and briefing will be supplied.
 - Stakeholder Data Collection:
 - Stakeholder data collection would be done by reviewing existing databases, Cape Farm Mapper, The Deeds Office, Legal/Trust representatives, Conservation Agencies, Farmers Associations and Unions, Local and Provincial Government and the farm drop bag system (with photographic evidence of placement);
 - Data must be obtained for each property - e.g. rural farms, erven and street addresses (residential and commercial properties) in towns - at minimum as per the National cadastre.
 - Stakeholder Participation:
 - The stakeholders will be briefed and provided with an overview of the SKA fibre optic route as background information and the importance of their participation in the forthcoming impact assessment process.
 - Stakeholder Data Verification:
 - Stakeholder data will be verified via telephone and engaging with legal representatives and authorities.
 - Compilation of Verified Adjacent Landowner & Occupier Database:
 - The database will be constructed utilising the excel platform and focus on landowners, tenants, occupiers and other interest and affected parties of significance along the proposed SKA Fibre optic transmission route. This

would include parties who might have direct interest in the operations and maintenance of the transport corridors.

- Data on the adjacent land owners / occupiers / tenants will include, at minimum:
 - Name and Surname (required);
 - Surveyor General (SG) code and physical address (if SG code not obtainable) of the corresponding adjacent property (required);
 - Email address (if available, preferred);
 - Cell phone number (preferred);
 - Residential / Postal address (if available);
 - Land line telephone number (if available);
 - Any other means of communication used along the SKA Fibre optic route.
- The final Adjacent Landowner and Occupier Database must demonstrably be as complete and correct as possible.

4.3 Email notification and information sharing:

- Email letter 1 (Commencement of the BA Process): emailed to all I&APs in the database, where email addresses are available. Letter 1 will include information on the project and the availability of the Draft BA Reports.
- Non-technical Summaries of the Draft and Final BA Reports will be emailed to all I&APs in the database.
- Email letter 2 (Submission of Final BA Reports to DEFF) will be emailed to all I&APs in the database, where email addresses are available.
- Email Letter 3 (Release of Environmental Authorisation) will be emailed to all I&APs in the database, where email addresses are available. A copy of the Environmental Authorisation will be emailed with Letter 3.

4.4 SMS text notification:

- SMS texts will also be sent to all I&APs on the database, where cell phone numbers are provided / obtainable, to inform them of the proposed project and how to access the Draft and Final BA Reports.

4.5 Social networks:

- Communication will be made with key I&APs such as farmer's associations, and ward councillors / municipal managers to request that they send notifications of the project and report availability and executive summaries via their local social networks (such as WhatsApp groups, Neighbourhood Watch groups, other social media mechanisms etc.). This mechanism relies on the willingness of people to 'spread the word' on the project, and cannot be monitored in detail by the EAP.

4.6 Newspaper advertisements:

- In order to notify and inform the public of the proposed project, to invite I&APs to register on the project database, as well as to inform I&APs of the release of the Draft BA Report for comment, the BA Processes will be advertised in one local and one national newspaper (in English and Afrikaans) at the commencement of the 30-day comment period for the Draft BA Report.

4.7 Site notices:

- Notice boards will be placed at key roads along which the fibre optic cable will be installed in the towns of Beaufort West, Loxton and Carnarvon, as well as at well-known retail facilities / public spaces within these towns.

4.8 Document Access:

- Hardcopy non-technical summaries of the draft BA will be placed at key locations in the towns of Beaufort West, Loxton and Carnarvon during the 30 day public commenting period.
- The Draft and Final BA will be uploaded to a project website for I&APs to access it.
- As a supplementary mechanism, the Draft and Final BA Reports will also be uploaded to other alternative file sharing web-platforms such as Dropbox or Google Drive.
- In the event that an I&AP cannot access the report via the project website, via the alternative web-platforms such as Dropbox or Google Drive, and / or additional information is required (other than what is provided in the non-technical summary), the I&AP can contact the EAP, who will then make an electronic or hardcopy available via courier or post (where possible).

4.9 Compliance with Chapter 6 of the NEMA EIA Regulations

Chapter 6 of the 2014 NEMA EIA Regulations (as amended) contains the requirements for the Public Participation Process of projects requiring an Environmental Authorisation.

Table 2 provides a detailed description of the requirements of Chapter 6 of the 2014 NEMA EIA Regulations (as amended), as well as the proposed mechanisms that will be adopted to comply with the regulations during the National Lockdown.

Table 2: Proposed Mechanisms to Comply with Chapter 6 of the 2014 NEMA EIA Regulations (as amended).

Regulation	Proposed Mechanism to Comply
<p><u>Activity on land owned by person other than proponent:</u></p> <p>Regulation 39:</p> <p>(1) If the proponent is not the owner or person in control of the land on which the activity is to be undertaken, the proponent must, before applying for an environmental authorisation in respect of such activity, obtain the written consent of the landowner or person in control of the land to undertake such activity on that land.</p> <p>(2) Subregulation (1) does not apply in respect of:</p> <p>(a) linear activities;</p> <p>(b) activities constituting, or activities directly related to prospecting or exploration of a mineral and petroleum resource or extraction and primary processing of a mineral or petroleum resource; and</p> <p>(c) strategic integrated projects as contemplated in the Infrastructure Development Act, 2014.</p>	<p>Land owner consent is not required from the owners of the property/ies (road reserves) on which the SKA fibre optic cable is proposed, as this constitutes a linear activity as per Regulation 39 (2) (a), and is related the SKA Strategic Infrastructure Project (SIP 19).</p>
<p><u>Purpose of Public Participation</u></p> <p>Regulation 40:</p> <p>(1) The public participation process to which the:</p> <p>(a) basic assessment report and EMPr, and where applicable the closure plan, submitted in terms of regulation 19; and</p> <p>(b) scoping report submitted in terms of regulation 21 and the environmental impact assessment report and EMPr submitted in terms of regulation 23;</p> <p>was subjected to must give all potential or registered interested and affected parties, including the competent authority, a period of at least 30 days to submit comments on each of the basic assessment report, EMPr, scoping report and environmental impact assessment report, and where applicable the closure plan, as well as the report contemplated in regulation 32, if such reports or plans are submitted at different times.</p>	<p>The Draft BA Report, Environmental Management Programme (EMPr) and WULA information will be compiled in compliance with Appendix 1 of the 2014 NEMA EIA Regulations (as amended). The reports and EMPrs will be released to all registered I&APs and stakeholders, including the National DEFF, for a 30-day comment period. The reports will also be made available to members of the public (i.e. potential I&APs) on a dedicated project webpage. Various mechanisms will be used to make the report available to the public, potential and registered I&APs, and stakeholders during the 30-day comment period. These mechanisms will be discussed below.</p>
<p>(2) The public participation process contemplated in this regulation must provide access to all information that reasonably has or may have the potential to influence any decision with regard to</p>	<p>The BA Process will be founded on a basis of ethics and will ensure that all registered and potential I&APs will have access to all information that has or may have the potential to influence any decision or comment made, unless such access to information is protected by law.</p>

Regulation	Proposed Mechanism to Comply
<p>an application unless access to that information is protected by law and must include consultation with:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (a) the competent authority; (b) every State department that administers a law relating to a matter affecting the environment relevant to an application for an environmental authorisation; (c) all organs of state which have jurisdiction in respect of the activity to which the application relates; and (d) all potential, or, where relevant, registered interested and affected parties. 	<p>An initial database of I&APs (including key stakeholders and Organs of State) has been developed for the BA Processes (see Appendix B: Draft I&AP Database Summary) and will be expanded as new I&APs become evident and / or register their interest in the project.</p> <p>The I&AP database contains, as a minimum, the competent authority (DEFF); relevant state departments (e.g. Department of Environment, Nature and Conservation (DENC), Department of Human Settlements and Water and Sanitation (DHSWS); relevant organs of state (e.g. Beaufort West Local Municipality, Kareeberg Local Municipality, Ubuntu Local Municipality, Central Karoo District Municipality, Pixley ka Seme District Municipality, South African National Parks); as well as other I&APs as registration requests are received during the process.</p>
<p>(3) Potential or registered interested and affected parties, including the competent authority, may be provided with an opportunity to comment on reports and plans contemplated in subregulation (1) prior to submission of an application but must be provided with an opportunity to comment on such reports once an application has been submitted to the competent authority.</p>	<p>The Application for Environmental Authorisation will be submitted to the DEFF together with the Draft BA Report and EMPr. The 30-day comment period will commence on the day after the Applications and Draft BA Report have been sent to the DEFF for comment. Therefore, all registered I&APs and stakeholders, including the National DEFF, will be provided with an opportunity to comment on the reports once the Applications for EA have been submitted to the DEFF. The comment period will extend for a 30-day comment period.</p> <p>The BA Process will not include any pre-application reporting or comment periods.</p>
<p><u>Public Participation Process</u></p> <p>Regulation 41:</p> <p>(1) This regulation only applies in instances where adherence to the provisions of this regulation is specifically required.</p>	<p>Adherence to the provision of Regulation 41 of the 2014 NEMA EIA Regulations (as amended) is required as a BA Process is required for the proposed development.</p>
<p>(2) The person conducting a public participation process must take into account any relevant guidelines applicable to public participation as contemplated in section 24J of the Act and must give notice to all potential interested and affected parties of an application or proposed application which is subjected to public participation by:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (a) fixing a notice board at a place conspicuous to and accessible by the public at the boundary, on the fence or along the corridor of: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. the site where the activity to which the application or proposed application relates is or is to be undertaken; and ii. any alternative site; 	<p>Relevant guidelines for Public Participation will be considered during the BA Processes.</p> <p>Notice will be given to all potential and registered I&APs of the proposed projects, which are subjected to public participation. Various mechanisms will be undertaken to provide such notice.</p> <p>Notice boards will be placed at key roads along which the fibre optic cable will be installed in the towns of Beaufort West, Loxton and Carnarvon, as well as at well-known retail facilities / public spaces within these towns. It is proposed that site notice boards be concentrated along the roads within the towns of Beaufort West, Loxton and Carnarvon. Placement of site notice boards along the fence lines of the road reserve in rural areas is not preferable since it may not be noticeable to people travelling on the R381 and R63 at between 80 – 120 km/h and could break free during windy conditions, thus contributing to litter.</p> <p>Site notice boards will be placed in English and Afrikaans. Proof of placement of such notice boards will be included in the Draft BA Reports.</p>
<p>(b) giving written notice, in any of the manners provided for in section 47D of the Act, to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. the occupiers of the site and, if the proponent or applicant is not the owner or person in control of the site on which the activity is to be undertaken, the owner or person in 	<p>The owners / persons in control of the road reserves in which the proposed fibre optic cable will be installed, includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Northern Cape Roads and Public Works;

Regulation	Proposed Mechanism to Comply
<p>control of the site where the activity is or is to be undertaken and to any alternative site where the activity is to be undertaken;</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Western Cape Transport and Public Works Department; • South African National Roads Agency (SANRAL); • Beaufort West Municipality (Beaufort West); • Kareeberg Municipality (Carnarvon); and • Ubuntu Municipality (Loxton). <p>Where overhead cabling is installed outside of the road reserve, the owners / persons in control of the land includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • South African National Parks (SANParks) – Karoo National Park; and • Several private land owners. <p>The aforementioned I&APs will be notified of pertinent information, progress and opportunity to participate throughout the BA and WULA processes.</p>
<p>ii. owners, persons in control of, and occupiers of land adjacent to the site where the activity is or is to be undertaken and to any alternative site where the activity is to be undertaken;</p>	<p>An independent public engagement specialist has been appointed to assist in identifying land owners adjacent to the 183 km proposed fibre optic route. In order to build a complete and verified adjacent landowners database, the public engagement specialist will undertake site visits as required, and will also use this as an opportunity to notify adjacent landowners.</p>
<p>iii. the municipal councillor of the ward in which the site and alternative site is situated and any organisation of ratepayers that represent the community in the area;</p>	<p>The municipal councillors and relevant ratepayers organisations (in addition to those identified in the Draft I&AP Database, Appendix B) will be identified and added to the database of I&APs. They will be sent Letter 1 via email to inform them of the proposed project and the release of the Draft BA Report for comment. Letter 1 will include the link to the project website and other web-platforms, which can be accessed to download the Draft BA Report. Executive Summaries will also be emailed to the municipal officials, who will also receive SMS texts about the release of the Draft BA Report (where cell phone numbers are obtainable / provided).</p>
<p>iv. the municipality which has jurisdiction in the area;</p>	<p>The proposed SKA fibre optic cable route is situated in:</p> <p>Western Cape:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Central Karoo District Municipality <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Beaufort West Local Municipality <p>Northern Cape:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pixley ka Seme District Municipality <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Kareeberg Local Municipality ○ Ubuntu Local Municipality <p>These municipalities have jurisdiction of the area in which the proposed projects are to be undertaken. They will be sent Letter 1 via email to inform them of the proposed project and the release of the Draft BA Report for comment. Letter 1 will include the link to the project website and other web-platforms, which can be accessed to download the Draft BA Report. Executive Summaries will also be emailed to the municipal officials, who will also receive SMS texts about the release of the Draft BA Report (where cell phone numbers are obtainable / provided).</p> <p>During the National Lockdown, the provision of hard copy reports has been reduced in order to curb the spread of COVID-19. Many stakeholders, departments and organs of state, such as the National DEFF, are no longer requiring hard copies of reports. As such, hard copies of the Draft BA Reports</p>

Regulation	Proposed Mechanism to Comply
	will not be provided to the municipalities. It is understood and expected that the municipal officials will have access to the project website or other web-platforms.
v. any organ of state having jurisdiction in respect of any aspect of the activity; and	<p>Relevant Organs of State that have jurisdiction in respect of any aspect of the proposed project (in addition to those identified in the Draft I&AP Database, Appendix B) will be identified and added to the database of I&APs. They will be sent Letter 1 via email to inform them of the proposed project and the release of the Draft BA Report for comment. Letter 1 will include the link to the project website and other web-platforms, which can be accessed to download the Draft BA Report. Executive Summaries will also be emailed to the municipal officials, who will also receive SMS texts about the release of the Draft BA Report (where cell phone numbers are obtainable / provided).</p> <p>During the National Lockdown, the provision of hard copy reports has been reduced in order to curb the spread of COVID-19. Many stakeholders, departments and organs of state, such as the National DEFF, are no longer requiring hard copies of reports. As such, hard copies of the Draft BA Reports will not be provided to the organs of state. It is understood and expected that the relevant organs of state will have access to the project website or other web-platforms.</p>
vi. any other party as required by the competent authority;	<p>Other parties that are generally required by the DEFF (in addition to those identified in the Draft I&AP Database, Appendix B) will be identified and added to the database of I&APs. They will be sent Letter 1 via email to inform them of the proposed project and the release of the Draft BA Report for comment. Letter 1 will include the link to the project website and other web-platforms, which can be accessed to download the Draft BA Report. Executive Summaries will also be emailed to the I&APs, who will also receive SMS texts about the release of the Draft BA Report (where cell phone numbers are obtainable / provided).</p> <p>DEFF will also be communicated with during the pre-application meeting to confirm if any other parties need to be included on the database of I&APs.</p>
(c) placing an advertisement in: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. one local newspaper; or ii. any official Gazette that is published specifically for the purpose of providing public notice of applications or other submissions made in terms of these Regulations; 	<p>In order to notify and inform the public of the proposed project, to invite I&APs to register on the project database, as well as to inform I&APs of the release of the Draft BA Reports for comment, the BA Process will be advertised in English and Afrikaans in two relevant local newspapers (one local and one national – see below) at the commencement of the 30-day comment period for the Draft BA Reports. The newspaper advertisement will also include the details of the project website, where information available on the project can be downloaded from. Proof of placement of the newspaper advertisements will be included in the Final BA Reports. The preliminarily identified local newspaper is Noordwester/Oewernuus.</p> <p>At this stage, there are no official Gazettes published specifically for the purpose of providing public notice of applications or other submissions made in terms of the 2014 NEMA EIA Regulations (as amended).</p>
(d) placing an advertisement in at least one provincial newspaper or national newspaper, if the activity has or may have an impact that extends beyond the boundaries of the metropolitan or district municipality in which it is or will be undertaken: Provided that this paragraph need not be complied with if an advertisement has been placed in an official referred to in paragraph (c)(ii); and	<p>In order to notify and inform the public of the proposed project, to invite I&APs to register on the project database, as well as to inform I&APs of the release of the Draft BA Reports for comment, the BA Process will be advertised in English and Afrikaans in two relevant local newspapers (one local and one national – see below) at the commencement of the 30-day comment period for the Draft BA Reports. The newspaper advertisement will also include the details of the project website, where</p>

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	<p>information available on the project can be downloaded from. Proof of placement of the newspaper advertisements will be included in the Final BA Reports.</p> <p>The preliminarily identified local newspaper is Sunday Times or City Press.</p>
<p>(e) using reasonable alternative methods, as agreed to by the competent authority, in those instances where a person is desirous of but unable to participate in the process due to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. illiteracy; ii. disability; or iii. any other disadvantage. 	<p>If during the BA Processes, persons are identified as desiring but unable to participate due to illiteracy, disability or any other disadvantage, then the EAP can arrange focus-group meetings with the relevant persons via telephone, teleconference or other appropriate means as required. Holding a teleconference can allow the EAP to verbally explain the project to the relevant person. The teleconference will be undertaken at no cost to the relevant person.</p>
<p>(3) A notice, notice board or advertisement referred to in subregulation (2) must:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (a) give details of the application or proposed application which is subjected to public participation; and (b) state: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. whether basic assessment or S&EIR procedures are being applied to the application; ii. the nature and location of the activity to which the application relates; iii. where further information on the application or proposed application can be obtained; and iv. the manner in which and the person to whom representations in respect of the application or proposed application may be made. 	<p>The notice boards to be placed and the newspaper advertisements to be published will fulfil the requirements of this regulation. Proof of placement of notice boards will be included in the Draft BA Report; and proof of placement of the newspaper advertisements will be included in the Final BA Report.</p>
<p>(4) A notice board referred to in subregulation (2) must:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (a) be of a size of at least 60cm by 42cm; and (b) display the required information in lettering and in a format as may be determined by the competent authority. 	<p>The notice boards to be placed will fulfil the requirements of this regulation. Proof of placement of notice boards will be included in the Draft BA Report.</p>
<p>(5) Where public participation is conducted in terms of this regulation for an application or proposed application, subregulation (2)(a), (b), (c) and (d) need not be complied with again during the additional public participation process contemplated in regulations 19(1)(b) or 23(1)(b) or the public participation process contemplated in regulation 21(2)(d), on condition that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (a) such process has been preceded by a public participation process which included compliance with subregulation (2)(a), (b), (c) and (d); and (b) written notice is given to registered interested and affected parties regarding where the: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. revised basic assessment report or, EMPr or closure plan, as contemplated in regulation 19(1)(b); ii. revised environmental impact assessment report or EMPr as contemplated in regulation 23(1)(b); or iii. environmental impact assessment report and EMPr as contemplated in regulation 21(2)(d); may be obtained, the manner in which and the person to whom representations on these reports or plans may be made and the date on which such representations are due. 	<p>Note that this regulation does not apply at this stage because Regulation 19 (1) (b) does not apply. However, if for any reason revised a Draft BA Report need to be released in terms of Regulation (1) (b), this regulation will be complied with.</p>
<p>(6) When complying with this regulation, the person conducting the public participation process must ensure that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (a) information containing all relevant facts in respect of the application or proposed application is made available to potential interested and affected parties; and 	<p>The BA Process will be founded on a basis of ethics and will ensure that all registered and potential I&APs will have access to all information that has or may have the potential to influence any decision or comment made, unless such access to information is protected by law.</p>

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<p>(b) participation by potential or registered interested and affected parties is facilitated in such a manner that all potential or registered interested and affected parties are provided with a reasonable opportunity to comment on the application or proposed application.</p>	<p>The EAP conducting the PPP will ensure that information containing all relevant facts regarding the proposed projects is made available to I&APs. No information will be purposefully withheld.</p> <p>Participation by I&APs will be facilitated in a manner whereby all potential or registered I&APs are provided with a reasonable opportunity to comment on the Draft BA Reports.</p>
<p>(7) Where an environmental authorisation is required in terms of these Regulations and an authorisation, permit or licence is required in terms of a specific environmental management Act, the public participation process contemplated in this Chapter may be combined with any public participation processes prescribed in terms of a specific environmental management Act, on condition that all relevant authorities agree to such combination of processes.</p>	<p>The proposed SKA fibre optic cable between Beaufort West and Carnarvon includes various watercourse (rivers and associated wetland) crossings. The activities associated with the installation of the cabling constitute Section 21 (c) and (i) water uses in terms of the National Water Act. As such, it is proposed that the need for a WUL and relevant data pertaining to the WULA be subjected to PPP together with the BA Report.</p> <p>This will be discussed and confirmed with the DEFF and Regional Department of Water and Sanitation Offices during pre-application consultations.</p>
<p><u>Register of Interested and Affected Parties</u></p> <p>Regulation 42:</p> <p>(1) A proponent or applicant must ensure the opening and maintenance of a register of interested and affected parties and submit such a register to the competent authority, which register must contain the names, contact details and addresses of:</p> <p>(a) all persons who, as a consequence of the public participation process conducted in respect of that application, have submitted written comments or attended meetings with the proponent, applicant or EAP;</p> <p>(b) all persons who have requested the proponent or applicant, in writing, for their names to be placed on the register; and</p> <p>(c) all organs of state which have jurisdiction in respect of the activity to which the application relates.</p>	<p>An initial Draft I&AP Database has been developed based on research, other project experience in the area, and interaction the Applicant.</p> <p>A detailed copy of the I&AP database will be included in the Draft BA Reports that will be released for a 30-day comment period to all I&APs, and it will also be included in the Final BA Reports that will be submitted to the DEFF for decision-making.</p> <p>The database will include the names and affiliations of the I&APs, as well as an indication of the interaction with I&APs, as well as all I&APs that have been added to the project database based on requests, submission of comments or based on research. The Final BA Report submitted to the DEFF for decision-making will also contain the contact details of I&APs in the database. The database will include the details of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Land owners of the affected farm portions; • The municipal councillor of the ward in which the proposed projects will be undertaken; • The municipalities which has jurisdiction in the area; • Relevant Organs of State that have jurisdiction in respect of any aspect of the activity; and • Any other party as required by the competent authority. <p>While I&APs will be encouraged to register their interest in the project from the start of the process, following the public announcements, the identification and registration of I&APs is ongoing for the duration of the BA.</p>
<p><u>Registered interested and affected parties entitled to comment on reports and plans</u></p> <p>Regulation 43:</p> <p>(1) A registered interested and affected party is entitled to comment, in writing, on all reports or plans submitted to such party during the public participation process contemplated in these Regulations and to bring to the attention of the proponent or applicant any issues which that party believes may be of significance to the consideration of the application, provided that the interested and affected</p>	<p>The Public Participation Process will fulfil the requirements of this regulation, using a combination of the mechanisms outlined in this plan.</p>

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<p>party discloses any direct business, financial, personal or other interest which that party may have in the approval or refusal of the application.</p> <p>(2) In order to give effect to section 24O of the Act, any State department that administers a law relating to a matter affecting the environment must be requested, subject to regulation 7(2), to comment within 30 days.</p>	
<p><u>Comments of interested and affected parties to be recorded in reports and plans</u></p> <p>Regulation 44:</p> <p>(1) The applicant must ensure that the comments of interested and affected parties are recorded in reports and plans and that such written comments, including responses to such comments and records of meetings, are attached to the reports and plans that are submitted to the competent authority in terms of these Regulations.</p> <p>(2) Where a person desires but is unable to access written comments as contemplated in subregulation (1) due to:</p> <p>(a) a lack of skills to read or write;</p> <p>(b) disability; or</p> <p>(c) any other disadvantage;</p> <p>reasonable alternative methods of recording comments must be provided for.</p>	<p>A key component of the BA Process is documenting and responding to the comments received from I&APs and the authorities during the 30-day comment period. Copies of all comments received during the review of the Draft BA Report will be included as an appendix to the Final BA Report. All comments received will be captured and responded to in a Comments and Response Report, which will be included as an appendix to the Final BA Report, which will be submitted to the DEFF.</p> <p>If during the BA Processes, persons are identified as desiring but unable to access written comments due to illiteracy, disability or any other disadvantage, then the EAP can arrange focus-group meetings with the relevant persons via telephone, teleconference or other appropriate means as required. Holding a teleconference can allow the EAP to verbally explain the project to the relevant person. The teleconference will be undertaken at no cost to the relevant person.</p>

Appendix A: Land portions traversed by the proposed fibre optic cable road reserve corridor (adjacent land portions)

Western Cape: The roads followed by the proposed fibre optic cable traverses sixty (60) land portions in the Western Cape Province.

Name	Erf No	SG Code
Beaufort West Town Allotment	Parcel RE/40	C0090001000004000000
Beaufort West Town Allotment	Parcel RE/224	C00900010000022400000
Beaufort West Town Allotment	Parcel RE/223	C00900010000022300000
Beaufort West Town Allotment	Parcel RE/949	C00900010000094900000
Beaufort West Town Allotment	Parcel RE/222	C00900010000022200000
Beaufort West Town Allotment	Parcel RE/221	C00900010000022100000
Beaufort West Town Allotment	Parcel RE/220	C00900010000022000000
Beaufort West Town Allotment	Parcel RE/5996	C00900010000599600000
Beaufort West Town Allotment	Parcel RE/219	C00900010000021900000
Beaufort West Town Allotment	Parcel RE/5995	C00900010000599500000
Beaufort West Town Allotment	Parcel RE/7583	C00900010000758300000
Beaufort West Town Allotment	Parcel RE/5994	C00900010000599400000
Beaufort West Town Allotment	Parcel RE/1478	C00900010000147800000
Beaufort West Town Allotment	Parcel RE/5993	C00900010000599300000
Beaufort West Town Allotment	Parcel RE/5997	C00900010000599700000
Beaufort West Town Allotment	Parcel RE/7396	C00900010000739600000
Beaufort West Town Allotment	Parcel RE/5992	C00900010000599200000
Beaufort West Town Allotment	Parcel RE/216	C00900010000021600000
Beaufort West Town Allotment	Parcel RE/5991	C00900010000599100000
Beaufort West Town Allotment	Parcel RE/5279	C00900010000527900000
Beaufort West Town Allotment	Parcel RE/41	C0090001000004100000
Beaufort West Town Allotment	Parcel RE/204	C00900010000020400000
Beaufort West Town Allotment	Parcel RE/203	C00900010000020300000
Beaufort West Town Allotment	Parcel RE/36	C00900010000003600000
Beaufort West Town Allotment	Parcel RE/87	C00900010000008700000
Beaufort West Town Allotment	Parcel RE/86	C00900010000008600000
Beaufort West Town Allotment	Parcel RE/7391	C00900010000739100000
Farm 185	Parcel RE/185	C00900000000018500000
Beaufort West Town Allotment	Parcel RE/7	C0090001000000700000
Farm 185	Parcel 16/185	C00900000000018500016
Beaufort West Town Allotment	Parcel RE/185	C0090001
Beaufort West Town Allotment	Parcel RE/3545	C0090001
Beaufort West Town Allotment	Parcel RE/1707	C00900010000170700000
Alwins Gate	Parcel 6/186	C00900000000018600006
Alwins Gate	Parcel RE/186	C00900000000018600000
Farm 185	Parcel 9/186	C00900000000018600009
Alwins Gate	Parcel 2/186	C00900000000018600002
Grootvlei	Parcel 193	C00900000000019300000
Alwynsgat	Parcel R/187	C00900000000018700000
Farm 437	Parcel RE/437	C00900000000043700000

Name	Erf No	SG Code
Matjes Valie	Parcel 1/103	C00900000000010300001
Wittehart	Parcel 96	C00900000000009600000
Waterval	Parcel 2/97	C00900000000009700002
Waterval	Parcel RE/97	C00900000000009700000
Waterval	Parcel RE/101	C00900000000010100000
Middle Kraal	Parcel RE/98	C00900000000009800000
Quaggafontein	Parcel 82	C00900000000008200000
Kaffers Kraal	Parcel 42	C00900000000004200000
Aangrensende Lapfontein	Parcel 41	C00900000000004100000
Lapfontein	Parcel 1/40	C00900000000004000001
Leeuw Kloof	Parcel 43	C00900000000004300000
Snydersfontein	Parcel RE/21	C00900000000002100000
Snydersfontein	Parcel 1/21	C00900000000002100001
Gert Adriaans Kraal	Parcel RE/18	C00900000000001800000
Gert Adriaans Kraal	Parcel 2/18	C00900000000001800002
Farm 7	Parcel 1/7	C00900000000000700001
Slangefontein	Parcel 1/6	C00900000000000600001
Duikerfontein	Parcel 1/5	C00900000000000500001
Duikerfontein	Parcel 3/5	C00900000000000500003
Duikerfontein	Parcel RE/5	C00900000000000500000

Northern Cape: The roads followed by the proposed fibre optic cable traverses thirty-eight (38) land portions in the Northern Cape Province.

Name	Erf No	SG Code
Muranda	Parcel RE/144	C08000000000014400000
Jackalls Dance	Parcel RE/143	C08000000000014300000
Loxton Town Allotment	Parcel RE/377	C08000010000037700000
Loxton Town Allotment	Parcel RE/374	C08000010000037400000
Loxton Town Allotment	Parcel RE/371	C08000010000037100000
Loxton Town Allotment	Parcel Uitspan Berg RE/359	C08000010000035900000
Loxton Town Allotment	Parcel RE/261	C08000010000026100000
Loxton Town Allotment	Parcel RE/250	C08000010000025000000
Loxton Town Allotment	Parcel RE/249	C08000010000024900000
Loxton Town Allotment	Parcel RE/241	C08000010000024100000
Loxton Town Allotment	Parcel RE/233	C08000010000023300000
Loxton Town Allotment	Parcel RE/240	C08000010000024000000
Uitspan Berg	Parcel RE/142	C08000000000014200000
Farm 570	Parcel 1/570	C01700000000057000001
Farm 570	Parcel 2/570	C01700000000057000002
Weltevreden	Parcel 1/571	C01700000000057100001
Farm 570	Parcel RE/582	C01700000000058200000
Rondom	Parcel RE/540	C01700000000054000000
Nieuwe Uitvlugt	Parcel 3/539	C01700000000053900003
Nieuwe Uitvlugt	Parcel 6/539	C01700000000053900006
Nieuwe Uitvlugt	Parcel RE/539	C01700000000053900000
Blaauw Krantz	Parcel 4/485	C01700000000048500004
Blaauw Krantz	Parcel 3/485	C01700000000048500003
Klipbanks Fontein	Parcel RE/533	C01700000000053300000

Name	Erf No	SG Code
Blaauw Krantz	Parcel 16/485	C0170000000048500016
Vrye Laagte	Parcel RE/530	C01700000000053000000
Blaauw Krantz	Parcel 29/485	C01700000000048500029
Blaauw Krantz	Parcel 13/485	C01700000000048500013
Blaauw Krantz	Parcel 33/485	C01700000000048500033
Carnarvon Town Allotment	Parcel Blaauw Krantz RE/353	C01700020000035300000
Farm 578	Parcel RE/311	C01700010000031100000
Carnarvon Town Allotment	Parcel RE/859	C01700010000085900000
Blaauw Krantz	Parcel RE/312	C01700010000031200000
Carnarvon Town Allotment	Parcel RE/810	C01700010000081000000
Carnarvon Town Allotment	Parcel RE/867	C01700010000086700000
Carnarvon Town Allotment	Parcel RE/452	C01700010000045200000
Carnarvon Town Allotment	Parcel RE/890	C01700010000089000000
Carnarvon Town Allotment	Parcel RE/353	C01700010000035300000

Appendix B: Draft I&AP Database Summary

Contacts for the following key organisations are included in the Draft I&AP Database. The list below is a summary of the entities / organisations that are currently included in the Draft I&AP Database and does not divulge the contact details of representatives of these entities / organisations.

- Agri Northern Cape
- Agri Western Cape
- Agricarnarvon farmer's association
- AgriSA
- Beaufort West Municipality (Beaufort West)
- BirdLife South Africa
- Breede-Gouritz Catchment Management Agency
- CapeNature
- Cell C
- Central Karoo District Municipality
- Civil Aviation Authority (CAA)
- Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (DAFF)
- Department of Environment, Forestry and Fisheries (DEFF / DEA)
- Department of Environment, Forestry and Fisheries (DEFF / DEA) - Biodiversity Unit
- Department of Rural Development and Land Reform (DRDLR)
- Department of Transport
- Department of Water and Sanitation (Northern Cape)
- Department of Water and Sanitation (Western Cape)
- Earthlife Africa
- Endangered Wildlife Trust (EWT)
- Eskom
- Heritage Western Cape (HWC)
- Independent Communications Authority of South Africa (ICASA)
- Kareeberg Municipality (Carnarvon)
- MTN
- National Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (DAFF)
- National Department of Economic Development
- National Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS / DHSWS)
- Northern Cape Chamber of Commerce and Industry

- Northern Cape Department of Agriculture, Land Reform & Rural Development
 - Northern Cape Department of Economic Development and Tourism
 - Northern Cape Department of Environment and Nature Conservation (DENC)
 - Northern Cape Department of Roads and Public Works
 - Northern Cape Department of Roads and Public Works (Roads)
 - Northern Cape Department of Transport, Safety and Liaison (Transport Operations)
 - Northern Cape Economic Development, Trade and Investment Promotion Agency (NCEDA)
 - Northern Cape Roads and Public Works
 - Nuveld Boerevereniging farmer's association
 - Pixley ka Seme District Municipality
 - SALT (The Southern African Large Telescope)
 - SANParks
 - Sentech
 - South African Astronomical Observatory (SAAO)
 - South African Bat Assessment Association (SABAA)
 - South African Environmental Observation Network (SAEON)
 - South African Heritage Resource Agency (SAHRA)
 - South African Local Government Association (SALGA) (Northern Cape)
 - South African Local Government Association (SALGA) (Western Cape)
 - South African National Research Network (SANReN)
 - South African National Roads Agency (SANRAL)
 - Southern African Large Telescope (SALT)
 - Square Kilometre Array South Africa (SKA) / South African Radio Astronomy Observatory (SARAO)
 - Telkom
 - Transnet
 - Ubuntu Municipality (Loxton)
 - Vodacom
 - Visual Impact Assessment Specialist (BOLA)
 - Western Cape Department of Agriculture
 - Western Cape Department of Economic Development and Tourism
 - Western Cape Department of Environmental Affairs and Development Planning (DEA&DP)
 - Western Cape Department of Transport and Public Works
 - Western Cape Roads Department
 - Wildlife and Environmental Society of South Africa (WESSA) (Environmental Governance Programme)
 - World Wide Fund South Africa (WWF-sa)
-