

## TRANSNET'S NEW LEPHALALE RAILWAY YARD, AREA OF STEENBOKPAN, LEPHALALE LOCAL MUNICIPALITY, WATERBERG DISTRICT, LIMPOPO PROVINCE

SCOPING PHASE PUBLIC MEETING

## FOCUS GROUP MEETING MINUTES

MEETING DATE	26 November 2018
VENUE	Beestekraal, Brits
TIME	11:30HRS
MEETING	Focus Group Meeting with majority landowner

## 1. <u>MEETING ATTENDEES:</u>

Name & Surname	Position	Abbreviation		
Naledzi Environmental Consultants (NEC)				
Marissa Botha	EAP and Meeting Facilitator	MB		
Hendri Hills Boerdery CC				
Hendri Hills	Landowner farm Geelhoutkloof 359LQ, Buffelsjagt 317LQ	HH		
REFER TO ANNEXURE A FOR THE SIGNED ATTENDANCE REGISTER				

## 2. <u>INTRODUCTION</u>

## EAP, Marissa Botha\_NEC:

- 2.1 Naledzi recently hosted a public meeting in Lephalale at the Mogol Golf Club on 13 November 2018. The presentation of the meeting was presented to HH\_Annexure B;
- 2.2 During telephonic discussions it was indicated that you would not be able to attend the meeting since you were in the midst of planting season. NEC agreed to conduct a Focus Group Meeting to discuss key points for the project.
- 2.3 MB stated that Transnet seeks Environmental Authorisation from the Department of Environmental Affairs to develop a new proposed Lephalale Railway Yard south of the existing Lephalale-Thabazimbi railway track.
- 2.4 It will mainly be develop on the farm Geelhoutkloof 359LQ with minor sections thereof located on the farm Enkeldraai 314LQ and Pontes Estate 712LQ. The project will also require fill material from two proposed borrow pits. Borrow Area 1 is proposed on the farm Buffelsjagt 317LQ and Borrow Area 2 on the farm Pontes Estate 712LQ considerably further north of the existing railway track.
- 2.5 MB illustrated the location of the railway yard in relation to the mentioned farms including the portions of land to be acquired as per the 'Transnet Ellisras Acquisition Plan'-see Annexure C for Acquisition Plan.
- 2.6 The yard will be linear in design, 4km in length and will require a 60m wide strip of land south of the existing railway track. The new railway yard goes beyond Transnet servitude and requires approximately 22 hectares of land to be acquired. Most of the activity of the yard north of the

existing railway track will fall within existing Transnet servitude. Based on Transnet's land acquisition plan they will need to acquire 8.72 ha of Portion 1 and 9.05ha of the Remainder of the farm Geelhoutkloof 359LQ south of the existing railway track to develop the yard. This land as per the title deed searches and previous telephonic discussions Portion 1 and Remainder of the farm Geelhoutkloof 359LQ are registered to Hendri Hills Boerdery CC.

2.7 Importantly the Remainder of the farm Geelhoutkloof 359LQ is a declared the 'Koedoe Nature Reserve'. LEDET: Protected Areas division advised NEC that since it's a declared reserve, the landowner, HH, must ask for deproclamation of the farm or ask that the boundaries of the nature reserve be amended.

### Landowner, HH\_Hendri Hills Boerdery CC:

- 2.8 I am now majority landowner of the project site. I have recently acquired a portion of Pontes Estate 712LQ to incorporate into my farm Buffelsjagt 317LQ and Geelhoutkloof 359LQ. In addition I have also exchanged land with Tjaart Sauer of Enkeldraai 314LQ. This means I now also own the Enkeldraai 314LQ and Pontes Estate 317LQ portion of land south of the existing railway track.
- 2.9 HH illustrated the new land ownership by means of a satellite image. See Annexure D to the minutes for a Satellite image which sets out the discussed landownership.
- 2.10 There are now only two directly affected landowners namely I north and south of the railway yard and Tjaart Sauer north of the railway yard site.
- 2.110 Borrow Area 2 is located on Resgen Property.

### EAP, Marissa Botha\_NEC:

2.12 Thank you for the valuable information. We will record it as such and inform Transnet of the recent ownership changes.

## 3. NEED FOR EIA AND SCOPE OF PROJECT

### EAP, Marissa Botha\_NEC:

- 3.1 MB explained that the proposed railway yard triggers listed activities scheduled under National Environmental Management Act, 107 of 1998 (NEMA) and the EIA Regulations of 2014 (GNR. 326, GNR 324, GNR 325 and GNR 327 of 7 April 2018) thus requires an Environmental Authorisation (EA). The EA is subject to a full Scoping and Environmental Impact Assessment Study (EIA) including a public participation process.
- 3.2 Transnet lodged the application for EA to DEA on 5 November 2018.
- 3.3 The EIA Study is subject to a Scoping Report, Environmental Impact Report and Environmental Management Program. The draft Scoping Report is currently available for public review and comment until 27 November 2018. It can be downloaded from the Naledzi website.
- 3.4 Potential risks associated with the project are detailed in the draft Scoping Report. The most significant potential impacts identified relate to noise from hooting, shunting and ideling of locomotives, visual impact and impact on sense of place, quality of living and potential effect on tourism potential of the direct area.
- 3.5 MB stipulated the key components of the project as presented at the public meeting mainly three buildings namely an office building, administration building (North Facility) and maintenance &

repair building (South Facility), diesel storage and 4 service tracks-see Annexure D for Presentation referred to.

- 3.6 The yard will mainly operate to split train wagons from 200 into 100 wagon trains, conduct on track rolling stock inspections off the mainline. During the operational phase an estimated 50-100 people will work at the yard.
- 3.7 Water will be trucked in from a municipal source then pumped and stored in a steel reservoir. Mention was made by Social Specialist, Equispectives, that the option is also available to source borehole water from Geelhoutkloof 359LQ.
- 3.8 Waste water from wash basins, toilets and showers will be collected in conservancy tanks to be serviced. Yet based on the Lephalale WWTW overload alternatives are considered e.g. a small sewage treatment package plant may be considered to dispose of wastewater.
- 3.9 Electricity will be sourced from Eskom. A Mini-Substation will be developed at the Administration building to cater for electricity requirements.
- 3.10 Drainage around the site will comprise table drains in cuttings, pipes, manholes and culverts. Storm water will be directed away from the tracks and buildings and drained to stormwater channels and low-lying areas. The storm water management system will also cater for acidic stormwater resultant from coal dust onsite.

## 4. **DISCUSSIONS**

## Landowner, HH\_Hendri Hills Boerdery CC:

- 4.1 Economic growth is key to the development of the country. Development of infrastructure should actually be kept north of the existing railway line in the infrastructure corridor. The yard is just outside the corridor.
- 4.2 It is understood that the yard cannot be north since the land up to the power line is Eskom registered servitude.
- 4.3 I can provide the railway yard with dedicated borehole water at a tariff, which will be more cost efficient than trucking water to site.
- 4.4 I operate the farm Buffelsjagt 317LQ, Vergulde Helm, Enkeldraai 314LQ and Geelhoutkloof 359LQ as a unit of hunting farms. Security will be a major issue for me. The railway yard and access road pass through this unit of farms.
- 4.5 The railway yard cannot only provide access control from the start of the yard premises. There must be access control with a boom gate and camera already starting at the Afguns road turnoff the avoid strikes and uncontrolled access of employees/job seekers to/on my land. The entire Afguns road must be tarred. The dust from all the traffic settle on the veld and game will not feed on a large section of veld along the servitude.
- 4.6 Transnet must redesign the railway yard and shift it to an alternative location at Medupi power station where the ambient conditions are more suited for industrial activities.
- 4.7 If the rail yard requires a 60m width of land, there is a 80m width of land along the rail track at Medupi.

- 4.8 Transnet must first show they have considered the alternative yard location at Medupi and indicate if it's feasible or not. I am convinced it will be more financially viable than to develop the yard at Geelhoutkloof based on all the required mitigations to address the potential impacts on my land.
- 4.9 A pre-cast wall along the railway yard is not practical; the ammunition will penetrate the wall easily.
- 4.10 I am particularly concerned of hunting accidents and staff movement at the railway yard, poaching, theft of game, noise, lights from rail yard, uncontrolled access onto my land, dust, impact on tourism, my livelihood, security and safety and particularly strikes at the yard.
- 4.11 Transnet must first discuss and secure the purchase price for the servitude before any consideration will be given to amend the Koedoe Nature Reserve boundary. I strongly feel the yard should be shifted to Medupi.

## . EAP, Marissa Botha\_NEC:

- 4.12 MB thanked HH for his inputs and explained that the discussions would be recorded and included in the final Scoping Report.
- 4.13 The meeting was closed at 12:30pm.

## **ATTACHMENTS:**

## ANNEXURE A\_ ATTENDANCE REGISTER

## ANNEXURE B\_PUBLIC MEETING PRESENTATION

## ANNEXURE C\_ TRANSNET LAND ACQUISITION PLAN

## ANNEXURE D\_LANDOWNERSHIP MAP

## ANNEXURE A\_ATTENDANCE REGISTER



	LANDOWNER RROW PIT APPLICATION - TRANSNET'S N	GISTER – FOCUS GROUP MEETING – GEELHOUTKLOOF 359LQ EW LEPHALALE RAILWAY YARD, STEENBOKF MUNICIPALITY, LIMPOPO PROVINCE	PAN, LEPHALALE LOCAL N	IUNICIPALITY,
NAME	ORGANISATION	ADDRESS	PHONE	SIGNATURE
HJL HIS	Geelhoutskloot	Postal: Postals 73 Area: Voventoe 02.57 Email: hills Qabsamail.co za	0832325224	zu.
Манка Вотна	NALEDZI ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTANTS	Postal: Area: Email:	084 226 55	NG NG H
		Postal		

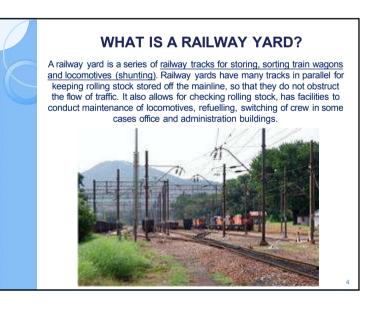
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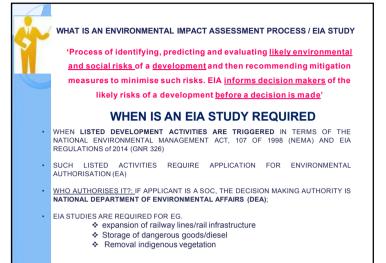
TRANSNEL



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12/12/2018



## PROJECT SCOPE AND LOCATION

- Transnet SOC Limited proposes to develop the new Lephalale Railway Yard alongside the existing Thabazimbi Lephalale railway line south west of Grootgeluk Mine to accommodate 200 train wagons off the mainline;
- The railway yard will go beyond Transnet servitude and requires 22 hectares of land to be acquired;
- Farms affected: Geelhoutkloof 359LQ, Enkeldraai 314LQ, Kringgatspruit 318LQ (now Pontes Estates 712LQ);
- Two borrow areas will also be created to source fill material to level the railway yard site, one on the farm Buffelsjagt 317LQ and one on the farm Kringgatspruit 318LQ(now 712LQ)



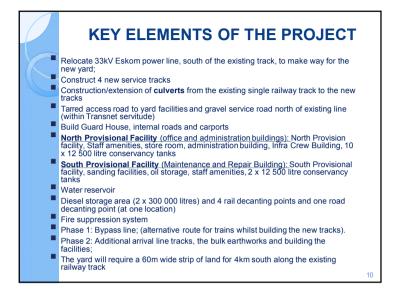


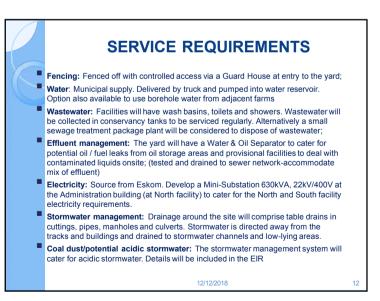
## MOTIVATION AND NEED FOR PROJECT

- There is a substantial growth in volume of high grade coal transported from Lephalale to other provinces.
- Further coal mines are planned at Lephalale. Resgen Boikarabelo coal mine is planned north-east of Lephalale. Sekoko mine is located along the Botswana border. These projects will result in the need for coal transportation when mining commences.
- To meet to transportation demand from the Waterberg region, additional freight capacity is required;
- Transnet identified the need to develop a Network Stabilisation Facility (NSF)/yard at Lephalale to increase rail capacity and decongest the mainline to allow more trains to enter and exit Lephalale;
- Strategic Infrastructure Project (SIP 1) of State: 'Unlocking the northern mineral belt of the Waterberg as a catalyst' by creating rail capacity to Mpumalanga and Richards Bay. The development of the new railway yard is instrumental to reaching this goal; (SIP project are of significant economic or social importance given priority for implementation to reach goals of the State.
- Boikarabelo Coal Mine are already building the first part of the railway yard to accommodate 100 train wagons
- Transnet will be undertaking several listed activities that require EA from DEA and is subject to a full EIA Process in terms of NEMA and the EIA Regulations

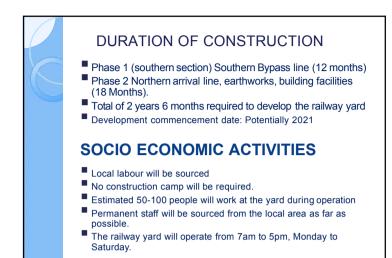
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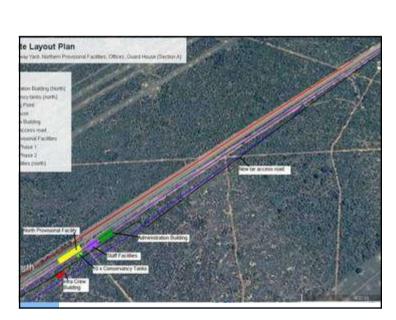


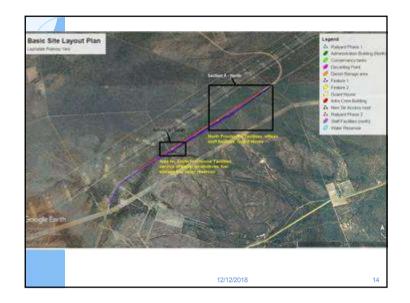


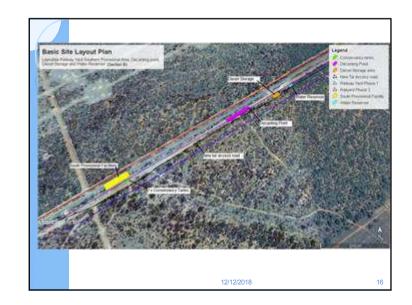
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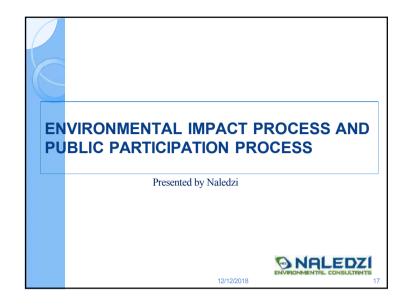


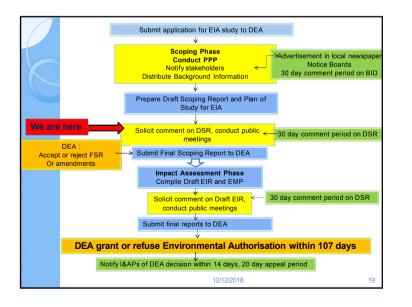
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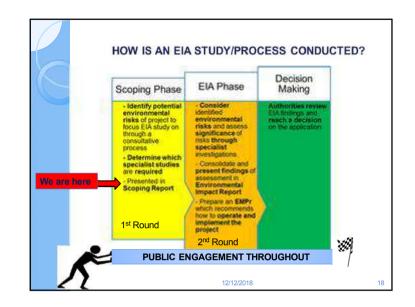


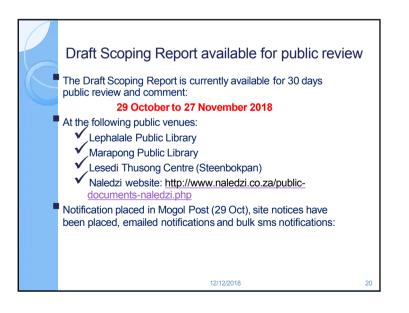












#### POTENTIAL IDENTIFIED ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL RISKS

- Environmental and social risks discussed in detail in draft Scoping Report
- Biodiversity: The site comprises indigenous vegetation. Impact on flora, fauna, habitats, are expected from clearing of vegetation for yard and will require removal of protected trees
- The site coincides with the Koedoe Nature Reserve, Ecological support areas. An impact on areas of biodiversity importance is expected.
- Visual: The development will alter landscape character result in visual intrusion;
- Noise: High risk of noise and vibration impact (infinite noise from activities at yard, hooting, shunting, idling of locomotives -Monday to Saturday);
- Ground and Surface Water: Low risk for surface and groundwater pollution due to fuel, hydrocarbon spillages from transport vehicles, diesel storage, septic spillages, acidic stormwater from coal dust). If the package plant for wastewater disposal is selected the impact will be reconsidered
- Generation, storage and disposal of waste (will be catered for in vard design)
- Traffic: Increased traffic staff trips to yard on daily basis, trucks delivering water and fuel, service providers;
- Socio-economic impact: Risk for change in sense of place, change in quality of living of direct landowners, may affect tourism potential in direct area, increased crime)
- Positive socio-economic impact (job creation in local area)
- **Safety impact:** Risk for influx of people to the area and access control to private land

12/12/2018

23

# MOST SIGNIFICANT RISKS Noise and vibration from yard activities, hooting, shunting, idling locomotives Visual impact (industrial viz. natural game farming) areas) Impact on sense of place, quality of living, affect on tourism potential of direct area 12/12/2018

Specialist Study	Specialist	Aspect
Biodiversity Impact Assessment	Holistic Environmental Services – Renier Terblanche	Fauna and Flora Wetland features
Heritage and archaeology Impact Assessment (Completed)	Millennium Heritage Group –Eric Mathoho (no heritage finds)	Cultural and He aspects
Visual Impact Assessment	To be appointed	Visual
Noise and Vibration Impact Assessment	dBAcoustics – Barend van der Merwe (Scoped the area)	Noise and Vibration
Hydrogeological Impact Assessment Study	Naledzi Waterworks – Duncan Munyai(Preliminary study done)	Surface Groundwater
Socio-Economic Impact Assessment	Equispectives Research and Consulting Services (Started assessment)	Socio-Economic
Traffic Impact Assessment	To be appointed	Traffic
Waste Management Plan	GCS Environmental Engineering – Pieter De Coning	Waste manageme

## OTHER PERMITS AND LICENSES

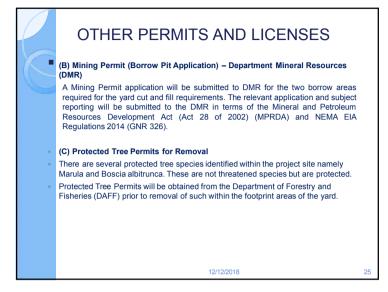
#### Water Use License - Department of Water and Sanitation

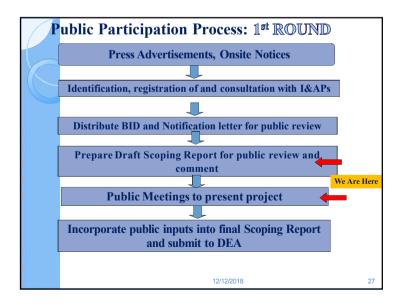
Section 21 (c), (i) and (g) water uses under the NWA. Requires a water use license from DWS. (Discharge wastewater into conservancy tanks, a septic tank, potential crossing of drainage lines with the new rail tracks and access roads.

Alternatively, if a small sewage treatment package plant is set up, the treated effluent can be used for irrigation of landscaped areas at the vard or reused in the vard process. The water uses that may be triggered by such alternatives include Section 21 (e) for irrigation with treated water or alternatively Section 21 (f), (c) and (i) if the treated water is discharged to the Sandloop River.

12/12/2018

24







DISCUSSION SESSION		
Naledzi Environmental Consultants		
Suite #320, Postnet Library Gardens		
Private Bag X9307, POLOKWANE, 0700		
Marissa Botha Phone: (015) 296 3988 Cell: 084 226 5584 Fax: (015) 296 4021 E-mail: <u>botham@naledzi.co.za</u>		
12/12/2018	28	

## WAY FORWARD AND CLOSURE

- Current: Public and Authority review of Draft Scoping Report until 27 November 2018;
- Prepare, distribute and finalise the public meeting minutes
- Minutes available for comment 7 days
- Inclusion of Authority and I&AP comments into final Scoping Report;
- Submit the final Scoping Report and Plan of Study for EIA to DEA
- DEA will approve or reject the Scoping Report within 43 days
- Commence with EIA Phase

12/12/2018

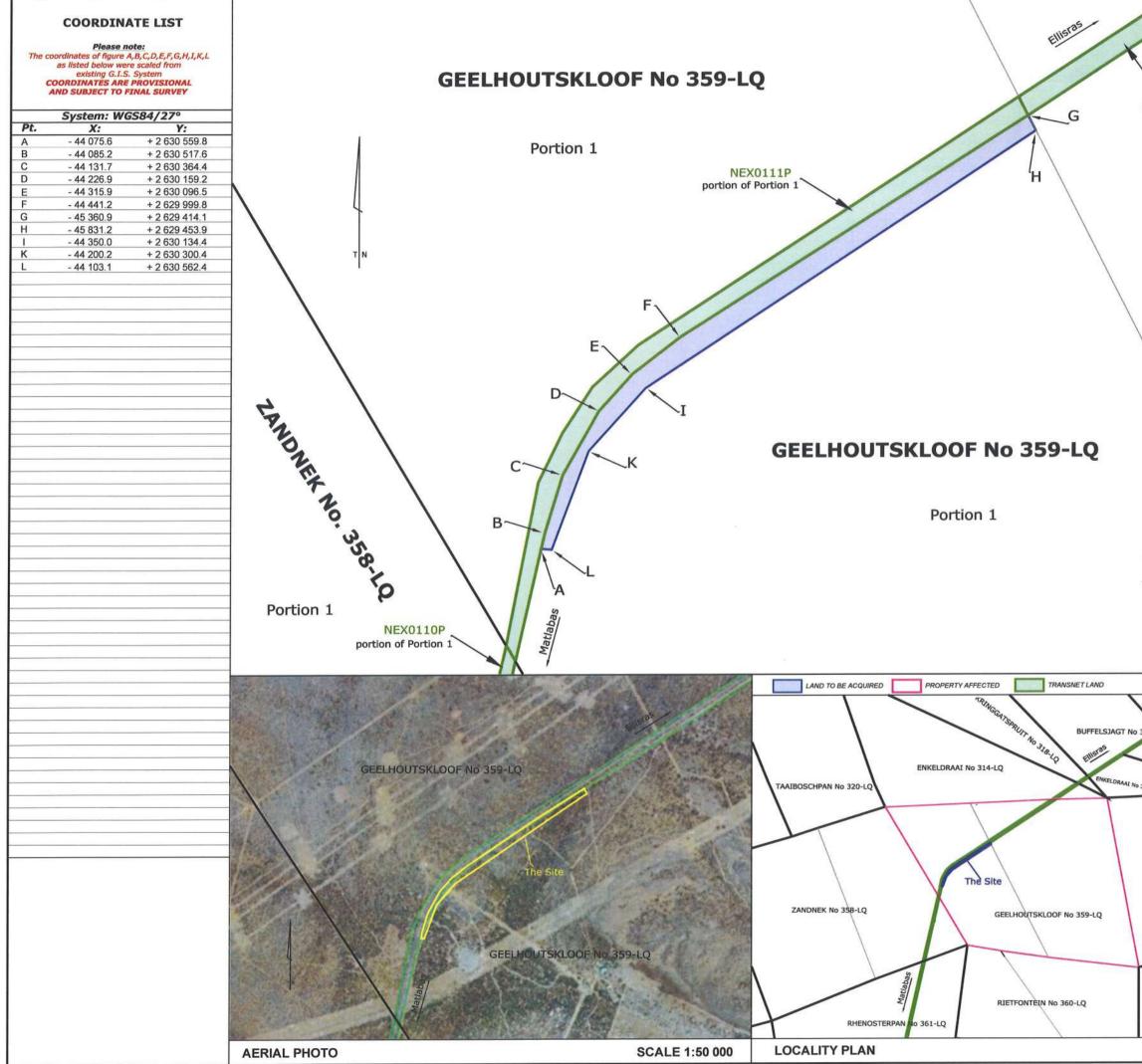
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MAIN ISSUES RECORDED DURING 1<sup>ST</sup> ROUND OF ENGAGEMENT (SOCIAL SCOPING)

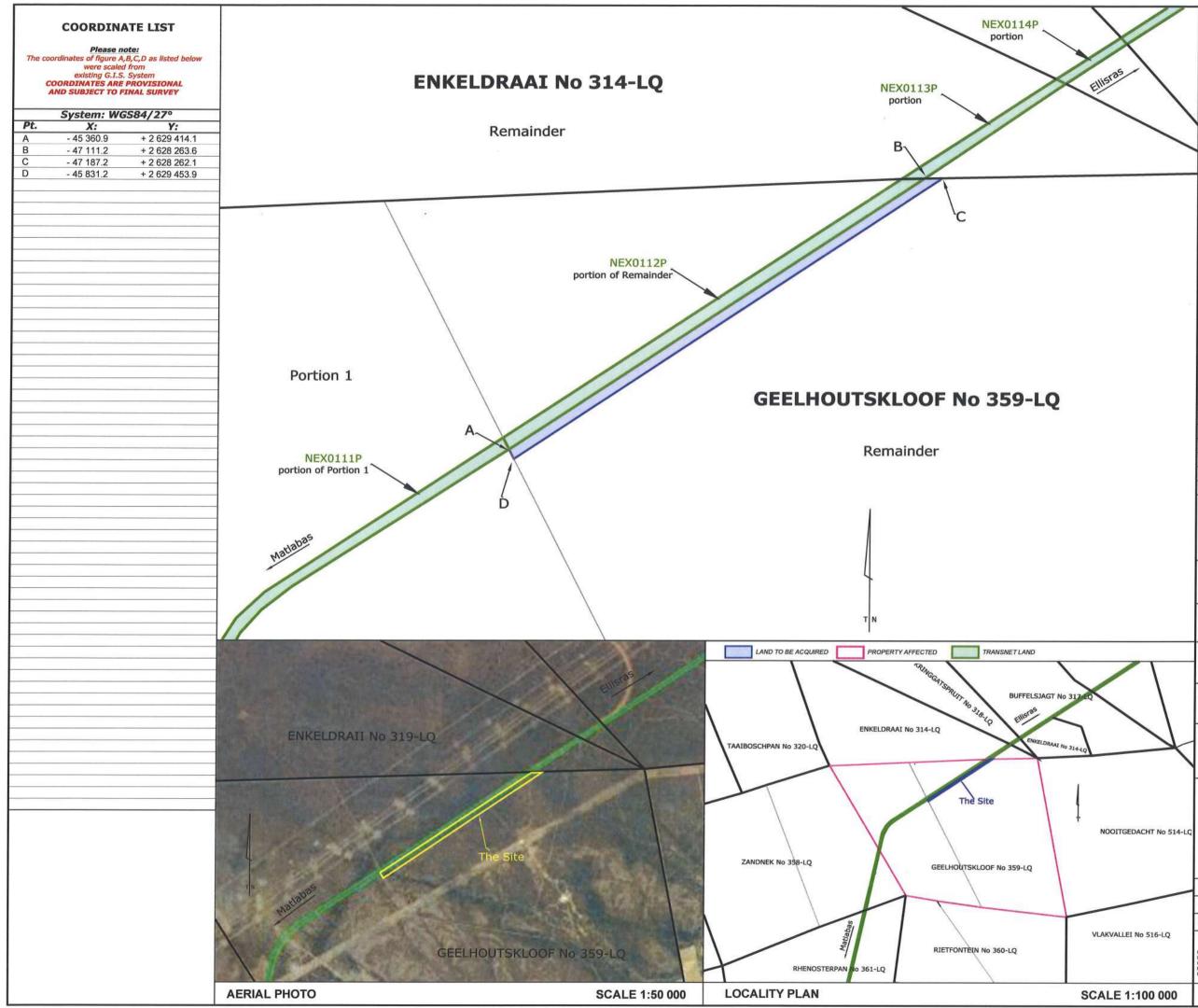
- Impact on sense of place (due to noise & visual)
- Impact on livelihoods in terms of hunting, farms exempted to hunt all year round;
- Railway yard result pose a safety risk (cannot hunt in direction of yard staff at yard)
- Safety and security Influx of people in the area and access control;
- Positive: Business community is keen for new business opportunities - they are hoping that there will be opportunities for local businesses;
- Steenbokpan community wants opportunities Yet there is no SLP, phased project

12/12/2018

30



	TRANSNE	Plan prepared for Geo-Spatial Services	
		35th Floor Carlton Centre	
		150 Commisioner Street	
<b>N</b>		Johannesburg 2000	
NEX0112P	LEGEND		
portion of Remainder			
	Transnet Freight Rail         Land to be Acquired ± 8,72 ha		
		o be Acquired $\pm 8,72$ ha	
Remainder	PROPERTY DETAIL		
	Property Description	Portion 1 of the farm GEELHOUTSKLOOF No. 359-LQ	
	Extend	± 838,3128 ha	
	Zonning	Agriculture	
	Current Use	Farming	
	Servitudes		
	Local Authority	LEPHALALE	
	OWNE	ERSHIP DETAIL	
	Current Owner	H J L HILLS BOERDERY CC	
	Property Description	Portion 1 of the farm GEELHOUTSKLOOF No. 359-LQ	
	Reg No.	200700673423	
	Local Authority	LEPHALALE	
	Company Name	H J L HILLS BOERDERY CC	
$\backslash$	Title Deed No.	T52917/2007	
/	Mineral Rights Owner		
1	Registration Date	2007/04/23	
1	Diagram Deed T3636/952		
	Constitution of the second	T3636/952	
	Diagram Deed	T3636/952	
	Diagram Deed		
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31/2-02	Diagram Deed NOTE: SELLER	DATE	
312402	Diagram Deed NOTE: SELLER	DATE	
317-00	Diagram Deed NOTE: SELLER TRANSNET SOC		
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NOOITGEDACHT No 514-LQ	Diagram Deed Diagram Deed NOTE:  TRANSNET SOC 1  Compiled: S.A.Y Checked: C.J.B Date: 2016-08-16	DATE  2. WITNESS  TRANSNET  CONTINUESS  CO	
NOOITGEDACHT No 514-LQ	Diagram Deed Diagram Deed NOTE: NOTE: SELLER TRANSNET SOC	The services  T	



Plan prepared for **TRANSNEF** Geo-Spatial Services 35th Floor Carlton Centre 150 Commisioner Street Johannesburg 2000

### LEGEND



Transnet Freight Rail

Land to be Acquired ± 9,05 ha

#### **PROPERTY DETAIL**

Portion of Remainder of the farm GEELHOUTSKLOOF No. 359-LQ
± 1228,7209 ha
Agriculture
Farming
LEPHALALE

#### **OWNERSHIP DETAIL**

Current Owner	GEELHOUTSKLOOF TRUST
Property Description	Remainder of the farm GEELHOUTSKLOOF No. 359-LQ
Reg No.	242/2005
Local Authority	LEPHALALE
Company Name	GEELHOUTSKLOOF TRUST
Title Deed No.	T53434/2005
Mineral Rights Owner	
Registration Date	2005/05/03
Diagram Deed	DB382/15

#### NOTE:

SELLER	<u>DATE</u>
 	2. WITNESS
TRANSNET SOC LTD.	DATE



## MATLABAS-ELLISRAS **ACQUISITION PLAN**

SHOWING LAND TO BE ACQUIRED OVER PORTION OF REMAINDER THE FARM **GEELHOUTSKLOOF NO.** 359-LQ

	Compiled: S.A.Y.	Rev.:
	Checked: C.J.B.	Signed:-
	Date: 2016-08-17	SCALE - 1 : 15 000
VLAKVALLEI No 516-LQ		Plan prepared by: D-SPATIAL SERVICES
	Room 518 NZASM Building 6 Minnaar Street PRETORIA 0002	PO Box 9842 Tel: (012) 315-2682 PRETORIA Fax: (012) 315-2316 0001 E-mail: ptaenquiries@transnet.ne

PLAN No.

**NEX0277E** 

