

TRANSNET



APPENDIX 5A: Public Participation Process — Comments Received

FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT REPORT

**SCOPING & ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT (S&EIA) FOR THE
PROPOSED 2 MEGALITRES PER DAY (MLD) SOLAR POWERED SEAWATER
DESALINATION PLANT IN THE PORT OF EAST LONDON, BUFFALO CITY
METROPOLITAN MUNICIPALITY, EASTERN CAPE PROVINCE, BY TRANSNET
NATIONAL PORTS AUTHORITY**

DFFE EA Application Reference Number: 14/12/16/3/3/2/2845

September 2026



ANCHOR
environmental

PART OF



Appendix 5A-1
Comments received as part of the 2026 New
Application Process (resubmission process):
Commenced in April 2026.

FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT REPORT

SCOPING & ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT (S&EIA) FOR
THE PROPOSED 2 MEGALITRES PER DAY (MLD) SOLAR POWERED
SEAWATER DESALINATION PLANT IN THE PORT OF EAST
LONDON, BUFFALO CITY METROPOLITAN MUNICIPALITY,
EASTERN CAPE PROVINCE, BY TRANSNET NATIONAL PORTS
AUTHORITY

DFFE EA Application Reference Number: 14/12/16/3/3/2/2845

**DFFE: Branch Regulatory Compliance and
Sector Monitoring —Integrated
Environmental Authorisations (Competent
Authority)**

Steve September

From: Cheruscha Swart
Sent: Friday, 24 July 2026 14:43
To: Steve September
Subject: FW: 14/12/16/3/3/2/2845

Kind Regards
Vriendelike Groete



CHERUSCHA SWART
TEAM LEAD
ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

cheruscha@anchorenmvironmental.co.za
Tel: +27 21 701 3420
8 Steenberg House, Silverwood Close
Tokai 7945, South Africa

EAPASA Reg no.2021/3298
Pr.Sci.Nat. 155305

From: Ephron Maradwa <EMaradwa@dffe.gov.za>
Sent: Thursday, 16 July 2026 13:27
To: Cheruscha Swart <cher@anchorenmvironmental.co.za>
Cc: Trisha Rene Pillay <tpillay@dffe.gov.za>; EIAAdmin <EIAAdmin@dffe.gov.za>
Subject: 14/12/16/3/3/2/2845

Good Day

14/12/16/3/3/2/2845

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF RECEIPT OF THE NEW APPLICATION AND DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT REPORT IN TERMS OF REGULATION 21(2) FOR ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION FOLLOWING A SCOPING ASSESSMENT PROCESS FOR THE PROPOSED 2 MLD SOLAR-POWERED SEAWATER DESALINATION PLANT IN THE PORT OF EAST LONDON, BUFFALO CITY METROPOLITAN MUNICIPALITY, EASTERN CAPE PROVINCE.

The Department confirms having received the Application form and Draft Environmental Impact Assessment Report for Environmental Authorisation for the abovementioned project on 16 July 2026. You have submitted these documents to comply with the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations, 2014, as amended.

Kindly note that your application for Environmental Authorisation falls within the ambit of an application applied for in terms of Part 3 of Chapter 4 of the EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended. You are therefore referred to Regulation 21 of the EIA Regulations, 2014 as amended.

Please take note of Regulation 40(3) of the EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended, which states that potential Interested & Affected Parties, including the Competent Authority, may be provided with an opportunity to comment on reports and plans contemplated in Regulation 40(1) of the EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended, prior to the

submission of an application but must be provided an opportunity to comment on such reports once an application has been submitted to the Competent Authority.

Note that in terms of Regulation 45 of the EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended, this application will lapse if the applicant fails to meet any of the time-frames prescribed in terms of these Regulations, unless an extension has been granted by the Department in terms of Regulation 3(7) of the EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended.

You are hereby reminded of Section 24F of the National Environmental Management Act, Act No. 107 of 1998, as amended, that no activity may commence prior to an Environmental Authorisation being granted by the Department.

Kindly quote the abovementioned reference number in any future correspondence in respect of the application.

EIA Applications

Integrated Environmental Authorisations
Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment

Please note that this email is for the receipt and processing of online applications only, and is not monitored for responses. All queries must be directed to EIAadmin@dffe.gov.za.

You are advised that this mailbox has a 48 hour response time.

Please note that this mailbox has a 5mb mail limit. No zip files are to be attached in any email.



Batho pele – putting people first

The processing of personal information by the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment is done lawfully and not excessive to the purpose of processing in compliance with the POPI Act, any codes of conduct issued by the Information Regulator in terms of the POPI Act and/or relevant legislation providing appropriate security safeguards for the processing of personal information of others.



forestry, fisheries & the environment

Department:
Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Private Bag X447, Pretoria, 0001, Environment House, 473 Steve Biko Road, Pretoria, 0002 Tel: +27 12 399 9000, Fax: +27 86 625 1042

DFFE Reference: 14/12/16/3/3/2/2845

Enquiries: Ms Trisha Pillay

Telephone: 012 399 9406 **Email:** TPillay@dfffe.gov.za

Ms Cheruscha Swart
Anchor Environmental Consultants (Pty) Ltd
Suite 8, Steenberg House
Silverwood Cl
Steenberg Office Park
Tokai
CAPE TOWN
7945

Telephone Number: (021) 701 3420
Email Address: cher@anchorencvironmental.co.za

PER EMAIL

Dear Ms Swart

COMMENTS ON THE DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT REPORT FOR THE PROPOSED 2ML/D SOLAR-POWERED SEAWATER DESALINATION PLANT IN THE PORT OF EAST LONDON, BUFFALO CITY METROPOLITAN MUNICIPALITY, EASTERN CAPE PROVINCE

The Application for Environmental Authorisation and the draft Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) received by the Department on 16 July 2026, refer.

This letter serves to inform you that the following information must be included in the final EIAR:

(a) Specific comments

- (i) The coordinates in the EIAR must be specific to each activity and infrastructure that is proposed on the site. The coordinates for each corner of the reverse osmosis plant, solar plant site, reservoir, pumphouse, water tank, parking, and the start, middle and end coordinates for the marine outfall pipelines, direct estuarine water intake pipeline, permeate pipeline and the overhead transmission line must be included in the report, i.e., we require that you provide us with the specific development footprints for each development parameter, and not an area outlining the entire site.



Batho pele – putting people first

Departement van Bosbou, Visserye en die Omgewing • Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment • UmNyango wezamaHlathi, zokuThiya neBhoduluko • iSebe lezamaHlathi, ezokuLoba noKusingqongileyo • Umnyango WezamaHlathi, Ezokudoba Nezemvelo • Kgoro ya Dithokgwa, Boreahlapi le Tikologo • Lefapha la Meru, Botshwasi ba ditlhapi le Tikoloho • Lefapha la Dikgwa, Ditlhapi le Tikologo • Litiko Letemahlatsi, Tinhlanti Netendzawo • Muhasho wa zwa Vhusima-magaka, Vhureakhovhe na Mupo • Ndzawulo ya Swihlahla, Vunjoveri na Mbango. The processing of personal information by the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment is done lawfully and not excessively for the purpose of processing in compliance with the POPI Act, any codes of conduct issued by the Information Regulator in terms of the POPI Act, and/or relevant legislation providing appropriate security safeguards for the processing of personal information of others.



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- (ii) Kindly ensure the development footprints (hectares/square metres) and specifications of all proposed infrastructure and associated infrastructure during all phases are included in the EIAR.
- (iii) The EIAR must clearly provide a detailed section which addresses the site sensitivity verification requirements where a specialist assessment is required but no specific assessment protocol has been prescribed, as well as the site sensitivity verification and minimum report content requirements for all specialist assessments undertaken, which was identified in the screening tool report. Kindly take note that this should be in the form of a report and should either confirm or dispute the sensitivity ratings for each theme identified by the screening tool report. Please refer to 1. Site sensitivity verification and minimum report content requirements of the Protocol document.
- (iv) A motivation must be provided in the EIAR as to why particular studies that were identified in the screening tool were not undertaken.
- (v) Comments must be obtained from this Department's Biodiversity Conservation Directorate at BCAdmin@dffe.gov.za.
- (vi) The development proposes marine outfall pipelines and an estuarine intake pipeline. Therefore, comments from this Department's Oceans and Coast unit must be obtained to confirm whether approval is required from this unit since the proposed development will impact the marine environment. Find below the contact details for personnel at this Department's Oceans and Coast Directorate:
 - a) Name: Funanani Ditinti
Telephone: 012 399 9847
Email: fditinti@dffe.gov.za / OCEIA@dffe.gov.za

(b) Listed Activities

- (i) Please ensure that all relevant listed activities are applied for, are specific and can be linked to the development activity or infrastructure as described in the project description. Only activities applicable to the development must be applied for and assessed.
- (ii) If the activities applied for in the application form differ from those mentioned in the final EIAR, an amended application form must be submitted.
- (iii) It is imperative that the relevant authorities are continuously involved throughout the environmental impact assessment process as the development property possibly falls within geographically designated areas in terms of numerous GN R. 985 Activities. Written comments must be obtained from the relevant authorities and submitted to this Department. In addition, a graphical representation of the proposed development within the respective geographical areas must be provided.

(c) Layout & Sensitivity Maps

- (i) The EIAR must provide a copy of the final preferred site layout map for the proposed development. All available biodiversity information must be used in the finalisation of the layout map, including the findings and recommendations made by the specialists. Existing infrastructure must be used as far as possible e.g., roads. The layout map must indicate the following:
 - a) Reverse osmosis plant;
 - b) Solar plant site;
 - c) Reservoir;
 - d) Pump house;
 - e) Water tank;
 - f) Parking;
 - g) Marine outfall pipelines;
 - h) Direct estuarine water intake pipeline;
 - i) Permeate pipeline;
 - j) Overhead transmission line;

- k) All existing infrastructure on the site, especially railway lines and roads; and
- l) Buildings, including accommodation.
- (ii) Please provide an environmental sensitivity map which indicates the following:
 - a) The location of sensitive environmental features identified on site, e.g. CBAs, protected areas, heritage sites, wetlands, drainage lines etc. that will be affected by the facility and its associated infrastructure;
 - b) Buffer areas; and
 - c) All “no-go” areas.
- (iii) The above layout map must be superimposed (overlain) with the sensitivity map and a cumulative map which shows neighbouring and existing infrastructure.
- (iv) Google maps will not be accepted.

(d) Specialist Declaration of Interest

- (i) Specialist Declaration of Interest forms must be attached to the final EIAR. You are therefore requested to submit original signed Specialist Declaration of Interest forms for each specialist study conducted. The forms are available on Department’s website (please use the Department’s template).

(e) Specialist Assessments

- (i) The EAP must ensure that the terms of reference for all the identified specialist studies must include the following:
 - a) A detailed description of the study’s methodology; indication of the locations and descriptions of the development footprint, and all other associated infrastructures that they have assessed and are recommending for authorisation.
 - b) Provide a detailed description of all limitations to the studies. All specialist studies must be conducted in the right season and providing that as a limitation will not be allowed.
 - c) Please note that the Department considers a ‘no-go’ area, as an area where no development of any infrastructure is allowed; therefore, no development of associated infrastructure including access roads is allowed in the ‘no-go’ areas.
 - d) Should the specialist definition of ‘no-go’ area differ from the Department’s definition; this must be clearly indicated. The specialist must also indicate the ‘no-go’ area’s buffer if applicable.
 - e) **All specialist studies must be final, and provide detailed/practical mitigation measures for the preferred alternative and recommendations, and must not recommend further studies to be completed post EA.**
 - f) Should a specialist recommend specific mitigation measures, these must be clearly indicated.
- (ii) Should the appointed specialists specify contradicting recommendations, the EAP must clearly indicate the most reasonable recommendation and substantiate this with defensible reasons; and where necessary, include further expert advice.
- (iii) Please ensure that all mitigation recommendations are in line with applicable and most recent guidelines.
- (iv) It is further brought to your attention that Procedures for the Assessment and Minimum Criteria for Reporting in identified Environmental Themes in terms of Sections 24(5)(a) and (h) and 44 of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998, when applying for Environmental Authorisation, which were promulgated in Government Notice No. 320 of 20 March 2020 (i.e. “the Protocols”) and in Government Notice No. 1150 of 30 October 2020 (i.e. protocols for terrestrial plant and animal species), have come into effect. **Please note that specialist assessments must be conducted in accordance with these protocols.**
- (v) Please also ensure that the final BAR includes the Site Verification Report and Compliance Statements (where applicable) as required by the relevant themes.

- (vi) Please note further that the protocols, if applicable, require certain specialists' to be SACNASP registered. Please ensure that the relevant specialist certificates are attached to the relevant reports.
- (vii) As such, the Specialist Declaration of Interest forms must also indicate the scientific organisation registration/member number and status of registration/membership for each specialist.

(f) Cumulative Assessment

- (i) A cumulative impact assessment for all identified and assessed impacts must be conducted to indicate the following:
 - a) Identified cumulative impacts must be clearly defined, and where possible the size of the identified impact must be quantified and indicated, i.e., hectares of cumulatively transformed land.
 - b) Detailed process flow and proof must be provided, to indicate how the specialist's recommendations, mitigation measures and conclusions from the various similar developments in the area were taken into consideration in the assessment of cumulative impacts and when the conclusion and mitigation measures were drafted for this project.
 - c) The cumulative impacts significance rating must also inform the need and desirability of the proposed development.
 - d) A cumulative impact environmental statement on whether the proposed development must proceed.

(g) Undertaking of an Oath

- (i) Please note that the final EIAr must have an undertaking under oath/ affirmation by the EAP.
- (ii) Based on the above, you are therefore required to include an undertaking under oath or affirmation by the EAP (administered by a Commissioner of Oaths) as per Appendix 3 of the NEMA EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended, which states that the EIAr must include:
"an undertaking under oath or affirmation by the EAP in relation to:
 - a) the correctness of the information provided in the reports;*
 - b) the inclusion of comments and inputs from stakeholders and I&APs;*
 - c) the inclusion of inputs and recommendations from the specialist reports where relevant; and*
 - d) any information provided by the EAP to interested and affected parties and any responses by the EAP to comments or inputs made by interested and affected parties".*

(h) Details and Expertise of the EAP

- (i) You are required to include the details and expertise of the EAP in the EIAr, including a curriculum vitae, in order to comply with the requirements of Appendix 3 of the NEMA EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended.

(i) Public Participation Process

- (i) The final EIAr must comply with all the conditions of the acceptance of the SR signed on 30 May 2025 and must address all comments contained in the final SR, the draft EIAr and this letter.
- (ii) The Public Participation Process must be conducted in terms of Regulation 39, 40, 41, 42, 43 and 44 of the EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended.
- (iii) Please ensure that comments from all relevant stakeholders are submitted to the Department with the EIAr. This includes but is not limited to the Eastern Cape Department of Economic Development and Environmental Affairs, the Buffalo City Metropolitan Municipality, the Eastern Cape Provincial Heritage Resources Authority (ECPHRA), the Department of Water and Sanitation, the DFFE: Oceans and Coast unit and the DFFE: Directorate Biodiversity and Conservation unit.

- (iv) Please ensure that all issues raised and comments received during the circulation of the draft SR and draft EIAr from registered Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) and organs of state (including this Department's Biodiversity unit), as listed in your I&APs Database, and others that have jurisdiction in respect of the proposed activity are adequately addressed and included in the final EIAr and are incorporated into a Comments and Response Report (CRR).
- (v) Copies of original comments received from I&APs and organs of state, which have jurisdiction in respect of the proposed activity are to be submitted to the Department with the final EIAr.
- (vi) Proof of correspondence with the various stakeholders must be included in the final EIAr. Should you be unable to obtain comments, proof should be submitted to the Department of the attempts that were made to obtain comments. In terms of Regulation 41(2)(b) of the EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended, please provide proof of written notice for the availability of the EIAr for comment.
- (vii) The CRR report must be a separate document from the main report and the format must be in the table format as indicated in Annexure 1 of this comments letter.
- (viii) Please refrain from summarising comments made by I&APs. All comments from I&APs must be copied verbatim and responded to clearly. Please note that a response such as "noted" is not regarded as an adequate response to I&AP's comments.
- (ix) Minutes and attendance registers (where applicable) of any physical/virtual meetings held by the Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP) with Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) and other role players must be included in the final EIAr.

(j) Environmental Management Programme

- (i) The EMPr must comply with Appendix 4 of the EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended.
- (ii) It is drawn to your attention that for substation and overhead electricity transmission and distribution infrastructure, when such facilities trigger activity 11 or 47 of the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations Listing Notice 1 of 2014, as amended, and any other listed and specified activities necessary for the realisation of such facilities, the generic Environmental Management Programme, contemplated in the Regulations must be used and submitted with the final report over and above the EMPr for the facility.

General

The EIAr must provide the technical details for the proposed facility in a table format as well as their description and/or dimensions. A sample of the minimum information required is listed under Annexure 2 of the EIA information required for solar energy facility as requested.

Please also ensure that the final EIAr includes the period for which the Environmental Authorisation is required and the date on which the activity will be concluded as per Appendix 3 of the NEMA EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended.

You are further reminded to comply with Regulation 23(1)(a) of the NEMA EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended, which states that: *"The applicant must within 106 days of the acceptance of the scoping report submit to the competent authority -*

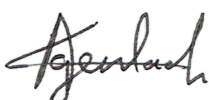
(a) an environmental impact assessment report inclusive of any specialist reports, an EMPr, a closure plan in the case of a closure activity and where the application is a mining application, the plans, report and calculations contemplated in the Financial Provisioning Regulations, which must have been subjected to a public participation process of at least 30 days and which reflects the incorporation of comments received, including any comments of the competent authority."

Should there be significant changes or new information that has been added to the EIAR or EMPr which changes or information was not contained in the reports or plans consulted on during the initial public participation process, you are required to comply with Regulation 23(1)(b) of the NEMA EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended, which states: *“The applicant must within 106 days of the acceptance of the scoping report submit to the competent authority – (b) a notification in writing that the documents contemplated in subregulation 1(a) will be submitted within 156 days of acceptance of the scoping report by the competent authority or where regulation 21(2) applies, within 156 days of receipt of the application by the competent authority, as significant changes have been made or significant new information has been added to the documents, which changes or information was not contained in the original documents consulted on during the initial public participation process contemplated in subregulation (1)(a), and that the revised documents contemplated in subregulation 1(a) will be subjected to another public participation process of at least 30 days”.*

Should you fail to meet any of the timeframes stipulated in Regulation 23 of the NEMA EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended, your application will lapse.

You are hereby reminded of Section 24F of the National Environmental Management Act, Act No. 107 of 1998, as amended, that no activity may commence prior to an Environmental Authorisation being granted by the Department.

Yours sincerely



Dr Sabelo Malaza

Chief Director: Integrated Environmental Authorisations

Department of Forestry, Fisheries & the Environment

Signed by: Mr Coenrad Agenbach

Designation: Deputy Director: Prioritised Infrastructure Projects

Date: 16 August 2026

cc.	Ms Nosicelo Biyana	Transnet SOC Ltd	Email: Nosicelo.Biyana@transnet.net
	Mr Briant Noncembu	Eastern Cape Department of Economic Development and Environmental Affairs	Email: Briant.Noncembu@dedea.gov.za
	Ms Jane Gallo	Buffalo City Metropolitan Municipality	Email: JaneG@buffalocity.gov.za

Annexure 1: Format for the Comments and Response Report

Date of comment, format of comment name of organisation/I&AP	Comment	Response from EAP/Applicant/Specialist
12/03/2026 Email Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment: Prioritised Infrastructure Projects (John Doe)	Please record CRR in this format Please update the contact details of the provincial environmental authority	EAP: (Noted) The CRR has been updated into the desired format, see Appendix K EAP: Details of provincial authority have been updated, see page 16 of the Application form

Annexure 2: Sample of technical details for the proposed facility

Component	Description / dimensions
Location of the site	
The total area of the site	
Total disturbance footprint	
Maximum generation capacity for solar plant	
Footprint of solar plant	
Reservoir Capacity and Footprint	
Overhead Powerline (Length, width, voltage)	
Reverse Osmosis Plant Footprint	
Intake Pipelines lengths and footprints	
Outfall Pipelines lengths and footprints for all alternatives	

DFFE: Branch Forestry Management

Steve September

From: Zinzile Mtotywa <zmtotywa@dfpe.gov.za>
Sent: Thursday, 16 July 2026 14:34
To: Steve September
Cc: Thobani Vetsheza
Subject: RE: INVITATION TO PARTICIPATE: SCOPING AND EIA FOR THE PROPOSED SOLAR DESALINATION PLANT IN PORT OF EAST LONDON

Dear Steve,

Your correspondence is noted and referred herein to the relevant office. Mr Vetsheza copied herein above, will handle the submission as it falls within his area of jurisdiction. I am responsible for EIAs in Sarah Baartman District, Nelson Mandela, OR Tambo, Alfred Nzo and Joe Gqabi districts.

Hope this finds you well ,

Regards

Zinzile Mtotywa
Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment
Directorate: Forest Resource Protection
Chief Directorate: Forest Policy Management
Branch: Forestry Management
54 Paterson Road
North End
Gqeberha/Port Elizabeth
6001
Tel: 041 407 4032
Cell: 063 750 4427
E-mail: ZMtotywa@dfpe.gov.za



DFPE Call Centre: 086 111 2468 or callcentre@dfpe.gov.za
DFPE Fraud & Corruption e-mail: whistleblower@dfpe.gov.za



ACT 84 of 1998 & ACT 101 of 1998

SARAH BAARTMAN DISTRICT and NELSON MANDELA METRO

From: Steve September <steve@anchorenvironmental.co.za>
Sent: Thursday, 16 July 2026 13:43
To: Steve September <steve@anchorenvironmental.co.za>

Subject: INVITATION TO PARTICIPATE: SCOPING AND EIA FOR THE PROPOSED SOLAR DESALINATION PLANT IN PORT OF EAST LONDON

Dear Interested and Affected Party,

Notice in terms of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations, 2014, National Environmental Management Act (107 of 1998) (NEMA) and National Environmental Management: Integrated Coastal Management Act (24 of 2008) (ICMA) for:

THE PROPOSED 2 MEGALITRES PER DAY (MLD) SOLAR POWERED SEAWATER DESALINATION PLANT IN THE PORT OF EAST LONDON, BUFFALO CITY METROPOLITAN MUNICIPALITY, EASTERN CAPE PROVINCE

APPLICANT: *Transnet SOC Limited—Division Transnet National Ports Authority (TNPA)*

PROJECT DETAILS: Transnet SOC Limited, through its division TNPA, proposes a solar-powered seawater desalination plant in the Port of East London, Buffalo City Metropolitan Municipality. Water will be abstracted from the estuary and desalinated to produce 2 million litres of fresh water per day for port operations, including drinking water, reducing reliance on municipal supply. The brine by-product will be discharged into the ocean.

Environmental Authorisation (EA) is required from Department of Forestry, Fisheries and Environment (DFFE) in terms of the NEMA EIA Regulations for:

- **Listing Notice 1** (GN R983 of 2014): Activities 14, 16, 17, 19A, 25, & 27
- **Listing Notice 2** (GN R984 of 2014): Activities 6 & 14
- **Listing Notice 3** (GN R985 of 2014): Activities 2, 4 & 12

A Scoping & EIA (S&EIA) process is required to assess potential environmental, social and other impacts before the project may proceed. A Coastal Waters Discharge Permit (CWDP) is also required under ICMA for the marine discharge of brine. Anchor Environmental Consultants (Pty) Ltd has been appointed to undertake the S&EIA.

You are herewith invited to review the Draft EIAR and supporting documents and provide your comments on the proposed development and discharge of brine into the marine environment during 30-day public participation:

From 18 July 2026 to 23:59 on 18 August 2026

Documents are available as follows:

- **Online:** <https://anchorenvironmental.co.za/public-documents>
- **Hardcopy:** West Bank Library (Hood St, West Bank Village, East London)

To submit comments or questions, or to register for project updates, contact the Environmental Assessment Practitioner below:

Disclosure of interest

When registering as an I&AP or submitting comments, please provide your name, contact details, and details of any business, financial, personal, or other interest you may have in the application.

Protection of Personal Information

Anchor Environmental Consultants complies with the Protection of Personal Information Act, 2013 (Act No. 4 of 2013). Comments received and responses thereto will be included in a Comments and Responses Report, which will form part of the application submitted to the Competent Authority and will be publicly available. If you object to your name, email address, or the name of the organisation you represent being included in this report, please notify us when submitting comments. If no objection is received, it will be assumed that you consent to the inclusion of these details.

Kind Regards,
Steve September



STEVE SEPTEMBER
CONSULTANT
ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

steve@anchorenvironmental.co.za
Tel: +27 21 701 3420
8 Steenberg House, Silverwood Close
Tokai 7945, South Africa

Candidate Environment Assessment Practitioner (EAPASA: 2023/7868)

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Steve September

From: Luyolo Tayi <LTayi@dffe.gov.za>
Sent: Friday, August 21, 2026 11:00 AM
To: Steve September
Subject: Comments for Solar Powered Seawater Desalination Plant In The Port Of East London

Good day,

Kindly receive comments from forestry for your attention:

- Section 2(xx) of the National Forests Amendment Act, 2022 defines “**natural forest**” as a “group of predominantly indigenous trees- (a) whose crowns are largely contiguous in its undisturbed state; (b) which may represent any successional stage or state of forest degradation, in which case crowns may not be contiguous; (c) which occur in association with characteristic plants or animals recognised in vegetation science as diagnostic species of a specific natural forest type; or (d) which have been declared by the Minister to be a natural forest in accordance with section 7(2).
The area consists of a patch of forest that meets the definition of a forest. A licence must be applied to remove the patch of the forest.
- Section 3(3)(a) of the National Forests Act, (Act No. 84 of 1998) (“NFA”) states that “**natural forests** must not be destroyed save in exceptional circumstances where, in the opinion of the Minister, a proposed new land use is preferable in terms of its economic, social or environmental benefits. The onus to prove “exceptional circumstances” rests on the applicant. The National Forests Amendment Act, 2022 defines “**destruction of natural forest**” as “any action where one or more trees in a natural forest is felled or caused to die, or the undergrowth removed, for the purpose of land use or resource use.” In conclusion more than one tree will be felled in this regard, hence a licence should be applied for to Bhisho forestry office.

Kind Regards

Mr. Luyolo Tayi
Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment
Corner Independent Avenue and Circular Drive
Bhisho
5605
Cell: 0716071958
Tel: 0404920201
E-mail: ltayi@dffe.gov.za



DFFE: Branch Oceans and Coasts

Steve September

From: Jacoline Mans <Jmans@dffe.gov.za>
Sent: Monday, 20 July 2026 11:03
To: Thobani Vetsheza; Zinzile Mtotywa
Cc: Steve September; Mulalo Sundani
Subject: FW: INVITATION TO PARTICIPATE: SCOPING AND EIA FOR THE PROPOSED SOLAR DESALINATION PLANT IN PORT OF EAST LONDON

Dear Colleagues

I see the project mentioned below is in the Eastern Cape Province. Please forward to the relevant official for comments.

Kind Regards, Jacoline

From: Steve September <steve@anchorenenvironmental.co.za>
Sent: Thursday, July 16, 2026 1:43 PM
To: Steve September <steve@anchorenenvironmental.co.za>
Subject: INVITATION TO PARTICIPATE: SCOPING AND EIA FOR THE PROPOSED SOLAR DESALINATION PLANT IN PORT OF EAST LONDON

Dear Interested and Affected Party,

Notice in terms of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations, 2014, National Environmental Management Act (107 of 1998) (NEMA) and National Environmental Management: Integrated Coastal Management Act (24 of 2008) (ICMA) for:

THE PROPOSED 2 MEGALITRES PER DAY (MLD) SOLAR POWERED SEAWATER DESALINATION PLANT IN THE PORT OF EAST LONDON, BUFFALO CITY METROPOLITAN MUNICIPALITY, EASTERN CAPE PROVINCE

APPLICANT: *Transnet SOC Limited—Division Transnet National Ports Authority (TNPA)*

PROJECT DETAILS: Transnet SOC Limited, through its division TNPA, proposes a solar-powered seawater desalination plant in the Port of East London, Buffalo City Metropolitan Municipality. Water will be abstracted from the estuary and desalinated to produce 2 million litres of fresh water per day for port operations, including drinking water, reducing reliance on municipal supply. The brine by-product will be discharged into the ocean.

Environmental Authorisation (EA) is required from Department of Forestry, Fisheries and Environment (DFFE) in terms of the NEMA EIA Regulations for:

- **Listing Notice 1** (GN R983 of 2014): Activities 14, 16, 17, 19A, 25, & 27
- **Listing Notice 2** (GN R984 of 2014): Activities 6 & 14
- **Listing Notice 3** (GN R985 of 2014): Activities 2, 4 & 12

A Scoping & EIA (S&EIA) process is required to assess potential environmental, social and other impacts before the project may proceed. A Coastal Waters Discharge Permit (CWDP) is also required under ICMA for the marine discharge of brine. Anchor Environmental Consultants (Pty) Ltd has been appointed to undertake the S&EIA.

You are herewith invited to review the Draft EIAR and supporting documents and provide your comments on the proposed development and discharge of brine into the marine environment during 30-day public participation:

From 18 July 2026 to 23:59 on 18 August 2026

Documents are available as follows:

- **Online:** <https://anchorenvironmental.co.za/public-documents>
- **Hardcopy:** West Bank Library (Hood St, West Bank Village, East London)

To submit comments or questions, or to register for project updates, contact the Environmental Assessment Practitioner below:

Disclosure of interest

When registering as an I&AP or submitting comments, please provide your name, contact details, and details of any business, financial, personal, or other interest you may have in the application.

Protection of Personal Information

Anchor Environmental Consultants complies with the Protection of Personal Information Act, 2013 (Act No. 4 of 2013). Comments received and responses thereto will be included in a Comments and Responses Report, which will form part of the application submitted to the Competent Authority and will be publicly available. If you object to your name, email address, or the name of the organisation you represent being included in this report, please notify us when submitting comments. If no objection is received, it will be assumed that you consent to the inclusion of these details.

Kind Regards,
Steve September



STEVE SEPTEMBER
CONSULTANT
ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

steve@anchorenvironmental.co.za
Tel: +27 21 701 3420
8 Steenberg House, Silverwood Close
Tokai 7945, South Africa

Candidate Environment Assessment Practitioner (EAPASA: 2023/7868)

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Steve September

From: Xolani Myanga <XMyanga@dffe.gov.za>
Sent: Tuesday, August 18, 2026 2:56 PM
To: Cheruscha Swart
Cc: Steve September
Subject: Re: S&EIA REPORT - 2 MLD SOLAR POWERED SEAWATER DESALINATION PLANT IN THE PORT OF EAST LONDON, BUFFALO CITY METROPOLITAN MUNICIPALITY, EASTERN CAPE

Dear Cheruscha,

I hope you are well.

Please note that the comments have been compiled and are currently awaiting approval. I would kindly request an extension until Thursday at the latest to allow for the approval process to be completed.

My apologies for any inconvenience caused, and thank you for your understanding.

Thanks & Regards 

Xolani Myanga
Specilised Environmental Officer
Directorate: Coastal Development & Coordination
Chief Directorate: Integrated Coastal Management
Branch: Oceans and Coasts
V&A Waterfront,
Cape Town,
8001

Tel: (+27) 21 493 7064
Cell: (+27) 76 819 2935
Email: xmyanga@dffe.gov.za



**forestry, fisheries
& the environment**

Department:
Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

From: Xolani Myanga <XMyanga@dffe.gov.za>
Sent: Monday, August 03, 2026 10:25
To: Steve September <steve@anchorenenvironmental.co.za>
Cc: Cheruscha Swart <cheruscha@anchorenenvironmental.co.za>; Tabisile Mhlana <tmhlana@dffe.gov.za>

Subject: Re: S&EIA REPORT - 2 MLD SOLAR POWERED SEAWATER DESALINATION PLANT IN THE PORT OF EAST LONDON, BUFFALO CITY METROPOLITAN MUNICIPALITY, EASTERN CAPE

Good morning Steve,

Thank you for the update.

No problem at all. I already have the relevant information from the site visit, so there is no need to send the additional information.

Thank you, and I appreciate the feedback.

Thanks & Regards 

Xolani Myanga
Specilised Environmental Officer
Directorate: Coastal Development & Coordination
Chief Directorate: Integrated Coastal Management
Branch: Oceans and Coasts
V&A Waterfront,
Cape Town,
8001

Tel: (+27) 21 493 7064
Cell: (+27) 76 819 2935
Email: xmyanga@dffe.gov.za



forestry, fisheries
& the environment

Department:
Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

From: Steve September <steve@anchorencvironmental.co.za>

Sent: Monday, August 03, 2026 06:55

To: Xolani Myanga <XMyanga@dffe.gov.za>

Cc: Cheruscha Swart <cheruscha@anchorencvironmental.co.za>; Tabisile Mhlana <tmhlana@dffe.gov.za>

Subject: RE: S&EIA REPORT - 2 MLD SOLAR POWERED SEAWATER DESALINATION PLANT IN THE PORT OF EAST LONDON, BUFFALO CITY METROPOLITAN MUNICIPALITY, EASTERN CAPE

Good morning Xolani

I hope this email finds you well.

We will forward the minutes and all extra information of the site visit vir Tabisile somewhere in the week to you.

Apologies for the wait.

Kind Regards,
Steve September



STEVE SEPTEMBER
CONSULTANT
ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

steve@anchorenvironmental.co.za
Tel: +27 21 701 3420
8 Steenberg House, Silverwood Close
Tokai 7945, South Africa

Candidate Environment Assessment Practitioner (EAPASA: 2023/7868)

From: Xolani Myanga <XMyanga@dffe.gov.za>
Sent: Thursday, July 30, 2026 5:31 AM
To: Steve September <steve@anchorenvironmental.co.za>
Cc: Cheruscha Swart <cheruscha@anchorenvironmental.co.za>; Tabisile Mhlana <tmhlana@dffe.gov.za>
Subject: Re: S&EIA REPORT - 2 MLD SOLAR POWERED SEAWATER DESALINATION PLANT IN THE PORT OF EAST LONDON, BUFFALO CITY METROPOLITAN MUNICIPALITY, EASTERN CAPE

Hi Steve,

Thank you for bringing that to my attention. Since Tabisile has already done it, it doesn't make sense to do it again.

Kindly share the minutes 😊

Regards
Xolani

From: Steve September <steve@anchorenvironmental.co.za>
Sent: Wednesday, July 29, 2026 2:54 PM
To: Xolani Myanga <XMyanga@dffe.gov.za>
Cc: Cheruscha Swart <cheruscha@anchorenvironmental.co.za>; Tabisile Mhlana <tmhlana@dffe.gov.za>
Subject: RE: S&EIA REPORT - 2 MLD SOLAR POWERED SEAWATER DESALINATION PLANT IN THE PORT OF EAST LONDON, BUFFALO CITY METROPOLITAN MUNICIPALITY, EASTERN CAPE

Dear Xolani

I hope this email finds you well.

A site visit was conducted by Tabisile during the previous PP. Is it possible for those minutes and information to be shared with you, or are you required to conduct a new site visit?

Thank you in advance

Kind Regards,
Steve September



STEVE SEPTEMBER
CONSULTANT
ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

steve@anchorenvironmental.co.za
Tel: +27 21 701 3420
8 Steenberg House, Silverwood Close
Tokai 7945, South Africa

Candidate Environment Assessment Practitioner (EAPASA: 2023/7868)

From: Xolani Myanga <XMyanga@dffe.gov.za>
Sent: Wednesday, 29 July 2026 14:39
To: Steve September <steve@anchorenvironmental.co.za>
Cc: Cheruscha Swart <cheruscha@anchorenvironmental.co.za>
Subject: S&EIA REPORT - 2 MLD SOLAR POWERED SEAWATER DESALINATION PLANT IN THE PORT OF EAST LONDON, BUFFALO CITY METROPOLITAN MUNICIPALITY, EASTERN CAPE

Hi Steve,

Thank you for your response and for bringing this to my attention.

My apologies for the erroneous subject line. The email was in fact intended for you.

Thanks & Regards 

Xolani Myanga
Specilised Environmental Officer
Directorate: Coastal Development & Coordination
Chief Directorate: Integrated Coastal Management
Branch: Oceans and Coasts
V&A Waterfront,
Cape Town,
8001

Tel: (+27) 21 493 7064
Cell: (+27) 76 819 2935
Email: xmyanga@dffe.gov.za



From: Steve September <steve@anchorenvironmental.co.za>
Sent: Wednesday, July 29, 2026 14:22
To: Xolani Myanga <XMyanga@dffe.gov.za>
Cc: Cheruscha Swart <cheruscha@anchorenvironmental.co.za>
Subject: RE: Request for Site Visit - Draft Basic Assessment Report for the proposed alterations and additions to a residence on Erf 266 Umtentweni (Ref: DC21/0010/2026).

Good afternoon Xolani

I hope this email finds you well.

I think you might have sent this to the wrong Steve, as we (Anchor Environmental Consultants) do not have an EIA project in Umtentweni, KZN.

Kind Regards,

Steve September



STEVE SEPTEMBER
CONSULTANT
ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

steve@anchorenvironmental.co.za
Tel: +27 21 701 3420
8 Steenberg House, Silverwood Close
Tokai 7945, South Africa

Candidate Environment Assessment Practitioner (EAPASA: 2023/7868)

From: Xolani Myanga <XMyanga@dffe.gov.za>
Sent: Wednesday, 29 July 2026 14:18

To: Steve September <steve@anchorenvironmental.co.za>

Subject: Request for Site Visit - Draft Basic Assessment Report for the proposed alterations and additions to a residence on Erf 266 Umtentweni (Ref: DC21/0010/2026).

Dear Steve,

I hope you are well.

The Oceans and Coasts Branch is currently reviewing the Draft Basic Assessment Report. To assist with the review, I would like to undertake a site visit. Kindly advise whether a site visit can be arranged on either **05 or 06 August 2026**, depending on what would be most convenient for you.

Please let me know your preferred date and time, as well as any site access arrangements that need to be made.

My apologies for the short notice. Given that the due date for the submission of comments is **18 August 2026**, a site visit prior to this date would greatly assist in informing the Branch's review and comments.

Thank you for your assistance. I look forward to your response.

Thanks & Regards 

Xolani Myanga

Specilised Environmental Officer

Directorate: Coastal Development & Coordination

Chief Directorate: Integrated Coastal Management

Branch: Oceans and Coasts

V&A Waterfront,

Cape Town,

8001

Tel: (+27) 21 493 7064

Cell: (+27) 76 819 2935

Email: xmyanga@dffe.gov.za



forestry, fisheries & the environment

Department:
Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



forestry, fisheries & the environment

Department:
Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Private Bag X 447 · PRETORIA · 0001 · Environment House · 473 Steve Biko Road, Arcadia, PRETORIA

Reference: EDMS 276181

Inquiries: Mr. Xolani Myanga

E-mail: OCEIA@dfpe.gov.za

Telephone: (+27) 76 819 2935

Ms Cheruscha Swart
Anchor Environmental Consultants (Pty) Ltd
8 Steenberg House
Silverwood Close
Tokai

Telephone Number: 0217013420

Email Address: cheruscha@anchorenvironmental.co.za

Dear Ms. Swart

COMMENTS ON THE DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT REPORT FOR THE PROPOSED 2 MEGALITRES PER DAY (MLD) SOLAR POWERED SEAWATER DESALINATION PLANT IN THE PORT OF EAST LONDON, BUFFALO CITY METROPOLITAN MUNICIPALITY, EASTERN CAPE PROVINCE, BY TRANSNET NATIONAL PORTS AUTHORITY

The Department of Forestry, Fisheries, and the Environment (DFPE), Branch Oceans & Coasts (O&C) appreciates the opportunity granted to provide comments and recommendations on the Draft Environmental Impact Report (Draft EIR) in the subject of this letter. This Branch will provide comments based on the provisions of Section 240 (2) the National Environmental Management Act 107 of 1998 ("NEMA") and Section 5 of the National Environmental Management: Integrated Coastal Management Act 24 of 2008 ("ICM Act").

The Branch O&C has the mandate to ensure the holistic management of the coast, estuarine areas and maintenance of the coastal landscapes to realise that the development and use of natural resources are sustainable. The Branch further ensures that the ecological integrity, natural character, and economic, social,

and aesthetic value of the coastal zone are maintained to protect people, properties, and economic activities against the impacts of dynamic coastal processes.

The O&C Branch reviewed the Draft EIR from the perspective of the ICM Act and provides the following comments and recommendations:

Based on the Comments on the Draft EIR submitted by Oceans and Coasts and the information contained in the Comments and Responses Report and Marine & Estuarine Impact Assessment, most of the key Oceans and Coasts comments appear to have been addressed. However, there remain several matters that require strengthening from an Integrated Coastal Management Act (ICM Act) perspective.

1. Intake design and entrainment mitigation
 - 1.1. The specialist report and responses confirm that the intake will include a strainer barrier and maintain intake velocities below 0.15 m/s to reduce entrainment and impingement of marine organisms.
2. Marine outfall and brine discharge
 - 2.1. A detailed dispersion modelling was undertaken.
 - 2.2. A Coastal Waters Discharge Permit (CWDP) application is acknowledged as a requirement.
 - 2.3. Modelling indicates compliance with water quality guidelines at the recommended mixing zone.
3. Construction and operational monitoring
 - 3.1. Long-term monitoring of brine discharge, water quality and marine ecological conditions is proposed.
 - 3.2. Baseline sediment and benthic surveys have been completed.
4. Alternative 3 near Potters Pass Nature Reserve
 - 4.1. Alternative 3 was removed from consideration following comments from Protected Areas.
5. Need for CWDP
 - 5.1. The specialist report clearly recognises that a CWDP is required under section 69 of the ICM Act before any discharge may occur.
6. The applicant should note that no discharge of brine may occur prior to obtaining the required Coastal Waters Discharge Permit (CWDP) in terms of Section 69 of the ICM Act. Ongoing monitoring should be undertaken in accordance with permit conditions to verify modelling assumptions, confirm compliance with

water quality guidelines and support adaptive management should exceedances or unforeseen impacts be detected.

7. The specialist report indicates that salinity guideline exceedances may occur under certain wave and surf-zone conditions, while the modelling does not explicitly account for full-capacity discharge volumes. The applicant should therefore demonstrate that compliance with water quality requirements and ecological acceptability will be maintained at maximum operational discharge rates, and provide further information on the frequency, duration and potential ecological consequences of any exceedance events. Potential short-term exceedances should not be discounted solely because most modelled scenarios remain compliant.
8. While the proposed abstraction volume is relatively small, the Buffalo River Estuary is already classified as a heavily modified system (Present Ecological State D). The EIR should provide further assessment of cumulative impacts associated with abstraction, taking into account existing water resource pressures, reduced freshwater inflows, climate change, drought conditions, and future water demands. This assessment should demonstrate that the abstraction will not contribute to further deterioration of the estuary's ecological condition.

The Branch further notes that the cumulative impact assessment focuses primarily on cumulative effects associated with other brine discharges. However, the receiving environment is already subject to existing pressures from wastewater inputs, stormwater runoff, industrial activities, elevated nutrient concentrations, microbiological contamination, and broader water quality concerns documented for the Buffalo River Estuary and surrounding marine environment. The applicant is advised to demonstrate how these existing pollution pressures and baseline water quality conditions have been incorporated into the assessment of assimilative capacity and the cumulative effects of the proposed brine discharge. This is necessary to demonstrate that the receiving environment can accommodate the discharge without contributing to further deterioration of water quality or ecological functioning.

9. Although the project is located within an existing port environment, limited attention is given to long-term climate resilience. In accordance with Sections 7 and 63 of the ICM Act, the applicant should provide a climate risk assessment addressing sea-level rise, increased storm intensity, coastal flooding, infrastructure resilience, and potential operational risks associated with changing estuarine and coastal processes over the lifespan of the facility.
10. The Draft EIR should explicitly commit to a contingency response plan for accidental releases of chemicals, fuel, treatment agents, and concentrated brine. Such plans should include notification procedures,

emergency response measures, monitoring requirements, and remediation actions consistent with the duty of care provisions contained in Section 58 of the ICM Act and Section 28 of NEMA.

11. While the Draft EIR addresses the potential impacts, it does not adequately assess potential impacts on recreational fishing activities occurring near the proposed outfall location. While recreational fishing is acknowledged, no clear management framework is provided regarding access restrictions, safety exclusion zones, or operational impacts. The applicant is advised to demonstrate how coastal users will continue to exercise lawful access and use of the coastal environment, consistent with the principles contained in Sections 11 and 13 of the ICM Act.

The Branch notes that the Buffalo River Estuary remains an ecologically important system despite its classification as a heavily modified estuary. Historical transformation and the presence of port infrastructure should not be used to discount the ongoing biodiversity value of the estuary and surrounding coastal environment. Specialist information indicates the presence, or moderate to high likelihood of occurrence, of several threatened waterbird species, including the Endangered Cape Cormorant, Vulnerable Caspian Tern and Near Threatened African Darter. The applicant should therefore demonstrate how construction and operational activities will avoid, minimise and manage disturbance to avifauna and associated habitats, and ensure that the ecological functioning and conservation value of the receiving environment are maintained.

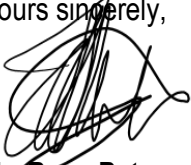
12. The specialist report notes that the project falls within the Algoa-Amathole Ecologically or Biologically Significant Area (EBSA) and an Ecological Support Area (ESA). Additional justification should be provided demonstrating how the development supports the ecosystem approach promoted by the ICM Act and how the project will avoid undermining ecosystem functioning and ecological connectivity within these nationally recognised biodiversity features.

The Branch notes that the majority of the Oceans and Coasts comments have been incorporated, particularly those relating to intake design, marine outfall design, CWDP requirements, monitoring, and protection of marine resources. As such, the Branch has no objection to the proposed development subject to the provision of additional information and compliance with the relevant provisions of the ICM Act and other relevant environmental legislation.

The Branch reserves the right to revise its comments based on new or additional information received. All correspondence, documentation, and/or requests (hard copy and an electronic copy) should be submitted to our office via email to OCEIA@dfe.gov.za / or **Physical Address: Department of Forestry, Fisheries & the**

Environment (DFFE), Branch: Oceans and Coast, 2 East Pier Building, East Pier Road, Victoria and Alfred Waterfront, Cape Town, 8001

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mr. Ryan Peter', written over a circular stamp or seal.

Mr. Ryan Peter

Director: Coastal Development & Coordination

Department of Forestry, Fisheries, and the Environment

Date: 20/08/2026

DFFE: Biodiversity Conservation

Steve September

From: Khuliso KKP. Khomari <KKhomari@dffe.gov.za>
Sent: Friday, July 31, 2026 2:21 PM
To: Steve September
Cc: Portia Makitla; Mthokozese Nsizwane; BC Admin
Subject: RE: INVITATION TO PARTICIPATE: SCOPING AND EIA FOR THE PROPOSED SOLAR DESALINATION PLANT IN PORT OF EAST LONDON

Dear Sir/Madam

RE: Department of Forestry Fisheries and the Environment Directorate: Biodiversity Conservation hereby acknowledge receipt of the invitation on the 16th of July 2026 for review and comment on the project mentioned in the subject line.

Kindly note that the project has been allocated to Ms P Makitla and Mr Mthokozese Nsizwane (Copied in this email).

Note, all Public Participation Process documents related to Biodiversity EIA review and Biodiversity EIA queries must be submitted to the Directorate: Biodiversity Conservation by email: BCAdmin@dffe.gov.za for attention of Mr Seoka Lekota.

Regards,
Ms Khuliso Khomari

Directorate: Biodiversity Conservation
Sub-Directorate: Policy Development Mainstreaming EIA
Email: KKhomari@dffe.gov.za
Cell: 076 741 6937
Website: www.environment.gov.za
National Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment
Environment House, 473 Steve Biko, Arcadia, Pretoria, 0083



forestry, fish
& the envirc
Department:

From: Steve September <steve@anchorenvironmental.co.za>
Sent: Thursday, July 16, 2026 1:43 PM
To: Steve September <steve@anchorenvironmental.co.za>
Subject: INVITATION TO PARTICIPATE: SCOPING AND EIA FOR THE PROPOSED SOLAR DESALINATION PLANT IN PORT OF EAST LONDON

Dear Interested and Affected Party,

Notice in terms of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations, 2014, National Environmental Management Act (107 of 1998) (NEMA) and National Environmental Management: Integrated Coastal Management Act (24 of 2008) (ICMA) for:

THE PROPOSED 2 MEGALITRES PER DAY (MLD) SOLAR POWERED SEAWATER DESALINATION PLANT IN THE PORT OF EAST LONDON, BUFFALO CITY METROPOLITAN MUNICIPALITY, EASTERN CAPE PROVINCE

APPLICANT: *Transnet SOC Limited—Division Transnet National Ports Authority (TNPA)*

PROJECT DETAILS: Transnet SOC Limited, through its division TNPA, proposes a solar-powered seawater desalination plant in the Port of East London, Buffalo City Metropolitan Municipality. Water will be abstracted from the estuary and desalinated to produce 2 million litres of fresh water per day for port operations, including drinking water, reducing reliance on municipal supply. The brine by-product will be discharged into the ocean.

Environmental Authorisation (EA) is required from Department of Forestry, Fisheries and Environment (DFFE) in terms of the NEMA EIA Regulations for:

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- **Listing Notice 3** (GN R985 of 2014): Activities 2, 4 & 12

A Scoping & EIA (S&EIA) process is required to assess potential environmental, social and other impacts before the project may proceed. A Coastal Waters Discharge Permit (CWDP) is also required under ICMA for the marine discharge of brine. Anchor Environmental Consultants (Pty) Ltd has been appointed to undertake the S&EIA.

You are herewith invited to review the Draft EIAR and supporting documents and provide your comments on the proposed development and discharge of brine into the marine environment during 30-day public participation:

From 18 July 2026 to 23:59 on 18 August 2026

Documents are available as follows:

- **Online:** <https://anchorenvironmental.co.za/public-documents>
- **Hardcopy:** West Bank Library (Hood St, West Bank Village, East London)

To submit comments or questions, or to register for project updates, contact the Environmental Assessment Practitioner below:

Disclosure of interest

When registering as an I&AP or submitting comments, please provide your name, contact details, and details of any business, financial, personal, or other interest you may have in the application.

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being included in this report, please notify us when submitting comments. If no objection is received, it will be assumed that you consent to the inclusion of these details.

Kind Regards,
Steve September



STEVE SEPTEMBER
CONSULTANT
ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

steve@anchorenvironmental.co.za
Tel: +27 21 701 3420
8 Steenberg House, Silverwood Close
Tokai 7945, South Africa

Candidate Environment Assessment Practitioner (EAPASA: 2023/7868)

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DFFE: Protected Areas

Steve September

From: Mashudu Mudau <MaMudau@dffe.gov.za>
Sent: Friday, August 7, 2026 1:58 PM
To: Steve September
Cc: Thivhulawi Nethononda; Nompumelelo Mtshali
Subject: RE: INVITATION TO PARTICIPATE: SCOPING AND EIA FOR THE PROPOSED SOLAR DESALINATION PLANT IN PORT OF EAST LONDON

Dear Steve

The Directorate: Protected Area Planning and Management Effectiveness would like to thank you for the opportunity to review the Draft Environmental Impact Report for the proposed development of the proposed Two (2) Megalitre Per Day (MLD) Solar Powered Seawater Desalination Plant in the Port of East London, Buffalo City Metropolitan Municipality, Eastern Cape Province.

The Directorate has noted that there are no changes to the location of the proposed development, as previously indicated in the Directorate's comments provided during the preceding public participation processes:

The Directorate acknowledges that the applicant has removed Alternative 3 (Outfall), which was previously located within the Potters Pass Nature Reserve, in order to avoid potential degradation of the protected area.

However, the proposed development remains within the buffer zones of both the Potters Pass Nature Reserve and the Amathole Marine Protected Area. The EAP is therefore required to further consult the relevant management authorities of the affected protected areas and incorporate their comments and recommendations into the assessment and subsequent reporting.

*Regards,
Mashudu Mudau*

Protected Areas Planning and Management Effectiveness
Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment
Environment House
473 Steve Biko and Soutpansberg Streets
PRETORIA
Tel: (012) 399 9945
E-mail: mamudau@dffe.gov.za

From: Steve September <steve@anchorenenvironmental.co.za>
Sent: Thursday, 16 July 2026 13:43
To: Steve September <steve@anchorenenvironmental.co.za>
Subject: INVITATION TO PARTICIPATE: SCOPING AND EIA FOR THE PROPOSED SOLAR DESALINATION PLANT IN PORT OF EAST LONDON

Dear Interested and Affected Party,

Notice in terms of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations, 2014, National Environmental Management Act (107 of 1998) (NEMA) and National Environmental Management: Integrated Coastal Management Act (24 of 2008) (ICMA) for:

THE PROPOSED 2 MEGALITRES PER DAY (MLD) SOLAR POWERED SEAWATER DESALINATION PLANT IN THE PORT OF EAST LONDON, BUFFALO CITY METROPOLITAN MUNICIPALITY, EASTERN CAPE PROVINCE

APPLICANT: *Transnet SOC Limited—Division Transnet National Ports Authority (TNPA)*

PROJECT DETAILS: Transnet SOC Limited, through its division TNPA, proposes a solar-powered seawater desalination plant in the Port of East London, Buffalo City Metropolitan Municipality. Water will be abstracted from the estuary and desalinated to produce 2 million litres of fresh water per day for port operations, including drinking water, reducing reliance on municipal supply. The brine by-product will be discharged into the ocean.

Environmental Authorisation (EA) is required from Department of Forestry, Fisheries and Environment (DFFE) in terms of the NEMA EIA Regulations for:

- **Listing Notice 1** (GN R983 of 2014): Activities 14, 16, 17, 19A, 25, & 27
- **Listing Notice 2** (GN R984 of 2014): Activities 6 & 14
- **Listing Notice 3** (GN R985 of 2014): Activities 2, 4 & 12

A Scoping & EIA (S&EIA) process is required to assess potential environmental, social and other impacts before the project may proceed. A Coastal Waters Discharge Permit (CWDP) is also required under ICMA for the marine discharge of brine. Anchor Environmental Consultants (Pty) Ltd has been appointed to undertake the S&EIA.

You are herewith invited to review the Draft EIAR and supporting documents and provide your comments on the proposed development and discharge of brine into the marine environment during 30-day public participation:

From 18 July 2026 to 23:59 on 18 August 2026

Documents are available as follows:

- **Online:** <https://anchorenvironmental.co.za/public-documents>
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To submit comments or questions, or to register for project updates, contact the Environmental Assessment Practitioner below:

Disclosure of interest

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Kind Regards,
Steve September



STEVE SEPTEMBER
CONSULTANT
ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

steve@anchorenvironmental.co.za
Tel: +27 21 701 3420
8 Steenberg House, Silverwood Close
Tokai 7945, South Africa

Candidate Environment Assessment Practitioner (EAPASA: 2023/7868)

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**South African Heritage Resources Agency
(SAHRA)**

Steve September

From: Nokukhanya Khumalo <nkhumalo@sahra.org.za>
Sent: Wednesday, 08 April 2026 13:01
To: Steve September
Subject: RE: Intention to resubmit application for Environmental Authorisation - Solar-Powered Desalination Plant in the Port of East London by TNPA - 14/12/16/3/3/2/2675
Attachments: image002.wmz

Good afternoon

Please note that if a new DEFFE number is issued then a new SAHRIS application must be created in order for the SAHRA to provide new comments in terms of section 38(8) for sections of the development located below the Maritime High Water mark.

Kind Regards,
Nokukhanya Khumalo

From: Steve September <steve@anchorenenvironmental.co.za>
Sent: Wednesday, 08 April 2026 12:23
Subject: Intention to resubmit application for Environmental Authorisation - Solar-Powered Desalination Plant in the Port of East London by TNPA - 14/12/16/3/3/2/2675

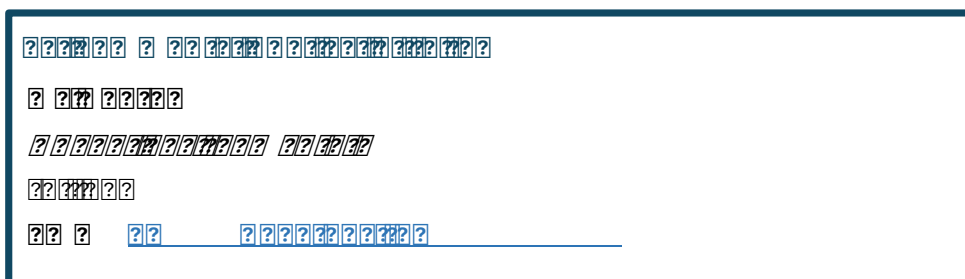
Dear Stakeholder / Interested and Affected Party,

NOTICE: INTENTION TO RESUBMIT APPLICATION FOR ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION

Project: Scoping & Environmental Impact Assessment (S&EIA) for the Proposed 2 MLD Solar-Powered Seawater Desalination Plant in the Port of East London, Buffalo City Metropolitan Municipality, Eastern Cape Province

DEFFE Reference Number: 14/12/16/3/3/2/2675

This email serves to notify all registered and potential new Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) of the intention to resubmit the application for Environmental Authorisation for the above-mentioned project. Please find the formal notice attached, which provides further details.



To remain informed and receive future updates, please register as an I&AP.

Nokukhanya Khumalo

Senior Heritage Officer: Development
Applications Unit



T: +27 21 462 4502/ 8654

M:

E: NKhumalo@sahra.org.za

A: SAHRA, 111 Harrington Street, Cape Town, 8001,
Western Cape, ZA

www.sahra.org.za

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SAHRA PRIVACY POLICY

SAHRA FRAUD HOTLINE

Steve September

From: Nokukhanya Khumalo <nkhumalo@sahra.org.za>
Sent: Wednesday, 22 July 2026 10:39
To: Steve September
Subject: Re: INVITATION TO PARTICIPATE: SCOPING AND EIA FOR THE PROPOSED SOLAR DESALINATION PLANT IN PORT OF EAST LONDON

Good day,

Please note that all development applications are processed via our online portal, the South African Heritage Resources Information System (SAHRIS) found at the following link: <http://sahra.org.za/sahris/>. We do not accept emailed, posted, hardcopy, faxed, website links or DropBox links as official submissions.

Please create an application on SAHRIS for each EA application and upload all documents pertaining to the Environmental Authorisation Application Process. As per section 24(4)b(iii) of NEMA and section 38(8) of the National Heritage Resources Act, Act 25 of 1999 (NHRA), an assessment of heritage resources must form part of the process and the assessment must comply with section 38(3) of the NHRA.

For offshore applications, on the Application Selector, please choose “Get a comment or decision on a development (S38)”. Then please choose the “Offshore” option under the “In which province” query and follow the prompts for the s38 web form.

If a case already exists on SAHRIS regarding the development, please upload the documents to that case using the "Make an additional submission to an existing case" in the application selector wizard <https://sahris.org.za/form/application-selector>. Please ensure that all documents produced as part of the EA process are submitted as part of the application.

****PLEASE NOTE****

An application fee is now required for all section 38 applications. Please ensure that the SAHRIS application contains a proof of payment as per the notice at the following link: <https://www.sahris.org.za/node/383817>. Please make separate payments per application with the specific reference numbers. Applications that do not include a proof of payment will be considered incomplete and will not be processed until proof of payment is provided. Please make use of the auto generated payment reference that can be found within the application form Please upload the PoP using the "Make an additional submission to an existing case" in the application selector wizard <https://sahris.org.za/form/application-selector>. The case officer assigned to your case will approve the submission and begin to process the case.

Kind regards,

From: Steve September <steve@anchorenvironmental.co.za>
Sent: Thursday, 16 July 2026 13:43
To: Steve September <steve@anchorenvironmental.co.za>
Subject: INVITATION TO PARTICIPATE: SCOPING AND EIA FOR THE PROPOSED SOLAR DESALINATION PLANT IN PORT OF EAST LONDON

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THE PROPOSED 2 MEGALITRES PER DAY (MLD) SOLAR POWERED SEAWATER DESALINATION PLANT IN THE PORT OF EAST LONDON, BUFFALO CITY METROPOLITAN MUNICIPALITY, EASTERN CAPE PROVINCE

APPLICANT: *Transnet SOC Limited—Division Transnet National Ports Authority (TNPA)*

PROJECT DETAILS: Transnet SOC Limited, through its division TNPA, proposes a solar-powered seawater desalination plant in the Port of East London, Buffalo City Metropolitan Municipality. Water will be abstracted from the estuary and desalinated to produce 2 million litres of fresh water per day for port operations, including drinking water, reducing reliance on municipal supply. The brine by-product will be discharged into the ocean.

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A Scoping & EIA (S&EIA) process is required to assess potential environmental, social and other impacts before the project may proceed. A Coastal Waters Discharge Permit (CWDP) is also required under ICMA for the marine discharge of brine. Anchor Environmental Consultants (Pty) Ltd has been appointed to undertake the S&EIA.

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Kind Regards,
Steve September

Candidate Environment Assessment Practitioner (EAPASA: 2023/7868)

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Nokukhanya Khumalo

Senior Heritage Officer: Development
Applications Unit



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Western Cape, ZA
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SAHRA PRIVACY POLICY
SAHRA FRAUD HOTLINE

Steve September

From: Nokukhanya Khumalo <nkhumalo@sahra.org.za>
Sent: Friday, September 11, 2026 9:17 AM
To: Steve September
Cc: Natasha Higgitt; Briege Williams; Cheruscha Swart
Subject: RE: INVITATION TO PARTICIPATE: SCOPING AND EIA FOR THE PROPOSED SOLAR DESALINATION PLANT IN PORT OF EAST LONDON

Good morning

Any substantial amendments the heritage specialist was supposed to review, write an addendum to the MUCHIA, and that report was supposed to be resubmitted to SAHRA for comments. All the amendment documents were supposed to have been resubmitted to SAHRA for comments and an amendment fee of R1000 to process the additional documents. I suggest you apply to DFFE to extend the EIA process to allow for the additional 30 days for commenting.

Kind Regards,
Nokukhanya Khumalo

From: Steve September <steve@anchorencvironmental.co.za>
Sent: Thursday, 10 September 2026 11:53
To: Nokukhanya Khumalo <nkhumalo@sahra.org.za>
Cc: Natasha Higgitt <nhiggitt@sahra.org.za>; Briege Williams <bwilliams@sahra.org.za>; Cheruscha Swart <cheruscha@anchorencvironmental.co.za>
Subject: RE: INVITATION TO PARTICIPATE: SCOPING AND EIA FOR THE PROPOSED SOLAR DESALINATION PLANT IN PORT OF EAST LONDON

Dear Nokukhanya

Thank you for your response.

Substantial amendments were made to the proposed layout, but in our opinion, will have a smaller impact on the offshore heritage resources, as the newly proposed outlet pipeline will not go as deep into the ocean, but just under the high water mark.

The previous (Final) comments issued in 2025 were considered and incorporated into the S&EIAR, EMPr and relevant specialist reports and appendices. Furthermore, the ECPHRA did also provide comments during this latest PPP.

Based on what I said in this email, can you please confirm if the SAHRA still need to provide comments, and if not, confirmation via email can be accepted?

Thank you in advance.

Kind Regards,
Steve September



STEVE SEPTEMBER
CONSULTANT
ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

steve@anchorenvironmental.co.za
Tel: +27 21 701 3420
8 Steenberg House, Silverwood Close
Tokai 7945, South Africa

Candidate Environment Assessment Practitioner (EAPASA: 2023/7868)

From: Nokukhanya Khumalo <nkhumalo@sahra.org.za>
Sent: Thursday, September 10, 2026 10:45 AM
To: Steve September <steve@anchorenvironmental.co.za>
Cc: Natasha Higgitt <nhiggitt@sahra.org.za>; Briege Williams <bwilliams@sahra.org.za>; Cheruscha Swart <cheruscha@anchorenvironmental.co.za>
Subject: Re: INVITATION TO PARTICIPATE: SCOPING AND EIA FOR THE PROPOSED SOLAR DESALINATION PLANT IN PORT OF EAST LONDON

Good morning

My apologies, the notification was not clear as to it being a new application or an existing one and the SAHRIS case Id's were not quoted in the notification email. That is why I included a section stating that any additional documents must be uploaded through an additional submission to the existing case.

When SAHRA issues a final comment it means there will be no further comments issued unless there are substantive amendments or errors that must be corrected. However, we do require the final EIAr and appendices for record keeping purposes.

I hope this explanation helps.

Kind regards,
Nokukhanya Khumalo

Sent from [Outlook for Android](#)

From: Steve September <steve@anchorenvironmental.co.za>
Sent: Thursday, 10 September 2026 08:58:46
To: Nokukhanya Khumalo <nkhumalo@sahra.org.za>
Cc: Natasha Higgitt <nhiggitt@sahra.org.za>; Briege Williams <bwilliams@sahra.org.za>; Cheruscha Swart <cheruscha@anchorenvironmental.co.za>
Subject: RE: INVITATION TO PARTICIPATE: SCOPING AND EIA FOR THE PROPOSED SOLAR DESALINATION PLANT IN PORT OF EAST LONDON

Good morning Nokukhanya

I hope this email finds you well.

Please see email chain below.

We conducted a Public Participation (PP) from **18 July 2026 to 18 August 2026** for the Scoping and EIAR. As informed by you, we were required to make a SAHRIS submission, which we did (Case ID: 29519) on 28 July 2026, with the ECPHRA providing comments on the SAHRIS submission on 14 August 2026. Please see comments attached.

As this PP was for the resubmission of the S&EIAR, a previous PP was conducted in 2025, with SAHRA (Case ID: 24752) providing comments on 28 November 2025. Please see comments attached.

Could you please advise if SAHRA still needs to comment on Case ID 29519, and by when we can expect comments, as we are in the process of finalising the Final EIAR and planning on submitting it in the coming week?

Thank you in advance and I hope to hear from you soon.

Kind Regards,
Steve September



STEVE SEPTEMBER
CONSULTANT
ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

steve@anchorenmvironmental.co.za
Tel: +27 21 701 3420
8 Steenberg House, Silverwood Close
Tokai 7945, South Africa

Candidate Environment Assessment Practitioner (EAPASA: 2023/7868)

From: Nokukhanya Khumalo <nkhumalo@sahra.org.za>

Sent: Wednesday, July 22, 2026 10:39 AM

To: Steve September <steve@anchorenmvironmental.co.za>

Subject: Re: INVITATION TO PARTICIPATE: SCOPING AND EIA FOR THE PROPOSED SOLAR DESALINATION PLANT IN PORT OF EAST LONDON

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From: Steve September <steve@anchorencvironmental.co.za>

Sent: Thursday, 16 July 2026 13:43

To: Steve September <steve@anchorencvironmental.co.za>

Subject: INVITATION TO PARTICIPATE: SCOPING AND EIA FOR THE PROPOSED SOLAR DESALINATION PLANT IN PORT OF EAST LONDON

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APPLICANT: *Transnet SOC Limited—Division Transnet National Ports Authority (TNPA)*

PROJECT DETAILS: Transnet SOC Limited, through its division TNPA, proposes a solar-powered seawater desalination plant in the Port of East London, Buffalo City Metropolitan Municipality. Water will be abstracted from the estuary and desalinated to produce 2 million litres of fresh water per day for port operations, including drinking water, reducing reliance on municipal supply. The brine by-product will be discharged into the ocean.

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Kind Regards,
Steve September



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Candidate Environment Assessment Practitioner (EAPASA: 2023/7868)

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Nokukhanya Khumalo

Senior Heritage Officer: Development
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**THE PROPOSED 2 MEGALITRES PER DAY (MLD) SOLAR POWERED
SEAWATER DESALINATION PLANT IN THE PORT OF EAST LONDON,
BUFFALO CITY METROPOLITAN MUNICIPALITY, EASTERN CAPE PROVINCE,
BY TRANSNET NATIONAL PORTS AUTHORITY**



an agency of the
Department of Arts and Culture

T: +27 21 462 4502 | F: +27 21 462 4509 | E: info@sahra.org.za
South African Heritage Resources Agency | 111 Harrington Street | Cape Town
P.O. Box 4637 | Cape Town | 8001
www.sahra.org.za

Enquiries: Nokukhanya Khumalo
Tel: 021 462 4502
Email: nkhumalo@sahra.org.za
Case ID: 30171

Date: Monday, 21 September, 2026

Final Comment

In terms of Section 38(8) of the National Heritage Resources Act (Act 25 of 1999)

Steve September
Anchor Environmental Consultants
Suite 8, Steenberg House
Silverwood Cl
Tokai, Cape Town
7945

Transnet (SOC) Ltd (division Transnet National Ports Authority (TNPA)) is proposing to construct a 2ML/day solar powered reverse osmosis desalination plant in the Port of East London; East London; Buffalo City Metropolitan Municipality of the Eastern Cape Province. 5.5 Megalitres of saline water a day from the Buffalo River Estuary will be extracted, either using beach wells (beach boreholes) and land-based boreholes near the marine environment, or directly from the ocean via a direct intake pipeline. The brine, a by-product of desalination with elevated salt concentrations, will be discharged via a pipeline to a marine outfall where rapid dilution with ocean water is expected. The plant will consist of an intake pump station, beach well and intake pipeline, and effluent pipeline. The intake pipe made from High-Density Polyethylene (HDPE) will be 315 mm in diameter and will be about ~13–18 m in length from the edge of existing wall and extend 1 m below water surface. The intake head will include a strainer barrier to prevent fish and other organisms from being drawn into the pipe. The outfall pipeline assumes a corridor width of 8 m passing over breakwater, and the internal diameter is 200 mm and outlet diameter 150 mm. The desalinated water will be stored in a 1ML tank before use by TNPA.

Anchor Environmental Consultants (Pty) Ltd has been appointed to undertake a Scoping and Environmental Impact Assessment (S&EIA) application process in terms of the National Environmental Management Act, 28 of 1998) (as amended), for listed activities in the 2014 NEMA EIA Regulations as amended. The initial EIA was completed last year but the project lapsed, and a new application was applied for with the finalised plans assessed in the current EIAr.

The SAHRA issued a Final Comment dated 28/11/2025 requesting the submission of the Maritime and Underwater Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment (MUCHIA) and Palaeontological Impact Assessment (PIA) as well as the submission of the draft EIA report before providing further comments on the proposed development. The MUCHIA report by TerraMare Archaeology (Pty) Ltd and the PIA report by Prof. M Bamford



an agency of the
Department of Arts and Culture

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South African Heritage Resources Agency | 111 Harrington Street | Cape Town
P.O. Box 4637 | Cape Town | 8001
www.sahra.org.za

was submitted on 02/10/2025 for commenting in terms of section 38(8) of the National Heritage Resources Act, Act 25 of 1999 (NHRA).

Gribble, J. September 2025. HERITAGE IMPACT ASSESSMENT FOR THE PROPOSED TWO MEGALITRE PER DAY SOLAR POWERED SEAWATER DESALINATION PLANT IN THE PORT OF EAST LONDON, BUFFALO CITY METROPOLITAN MUNICIPALITY, EASTERN CAPE PROVINCE.

The desktop study noted that there are no known Early Stone Aged (ESA) artefacts around East London, there are some significant Middle Stone Aged (MSA) sites just north of the port, after the Buffalo River at Nahoon point, and some background scatter of MSA lithics that are not in their original position. Later Stone Aged (LSA) sites could be well defined coastal dune sites with potentially significant deposits. However, the desalination plant will be built on a recently upgraded artificial rock revetment and boulder beach, and the outfall pipeline will be on the constructed rocky beach, both these locations are considered disturbed, and the likelihood of coastal submerged archaeology is low. The intake pipeline will be constructed on the Buffalo River which has previously been dredged, and the west bank widened. There are records noting the possibility of 90 shipwrecks within 1km radius of the outfall and intake pipelines, but the locations of these wrecks are vague. Due to recent dredging and river widening activities near the intake pipeline, the likelihood of any artefacts or wrecks being impacted in this area is negligible. The outfall pipeline is located close to the area formally known Castle Point which, according to historic records, saw a number of marine casualties but the positions of these wrecks are uncertain, and they may have already been impacted by past revetment construction. The outfall pipeline will lie on the surface of the rocky beach and may impact any wreck material present within the surf zone. The author recommends the following:

Any newly confirmed locations of shipwrecks should be avoided during construction and operations of the desalination plant;

If any shipwreck or related artefacts are identified during any pre-construction ground-truthing of the marine outfall site, they must be reported to a suitably qualified maritime archaeologist and SAHRA must be notified;

The mitigation measures and chance finds procedures must be included in the EMPr;

Bamford, M. September 2025. Palaeontological Impact Assessment for the proposed 2ML/D Solar powered seawater desalination plant at the Port of East London, for Transnet National Ports Authority, Eastern Cape Province.

**THE PROPOSED 2 MEGALITRES PER DAY (MLD) SOLAR POWERED
SEAWATER DESALINATION PLANT IN THE PORT OF EAST LONDON,
BUFFALO CITY METROPOLITAN MUNICIPALITY, EASTERN CAPE PROVINCE,
BY TRANSNET NATIONAL PORTS AUTHORITY**



an agency of the
Department of Arts and Culture

T: +27 21 462 4502 | F: +27 21 462 4509 | E: info@sahra.org.za
South African Heritage Resources Agency | 111 Harrington Street | Cape Town
P.O. Box 4637 | Cape Town | 8001
www.sahra.org.za

Enquiries: Nokukhanya Khumalo

Tel: 021 462 4502

Email: nkhumalo@sahra.org.za

Case ID: 30171

Date: Monday, 21 September, 2026

The southern half of proposed Port of East London desalination plant project site is located mainly on the Nanaga Formation aeolianites, northern half of the project site is underlain by the Permian Middleton Formation. Both are of Very High palaeontological significance. The fossils in the Nanaga Formation are frequently very weathered due to extensive post-depositional diagenesis, the author recommends a low palaeosensitivity for the formation. There are no recorded fossils for the Middleton Formation in this area, the sensitivity rating is more appropriate further inland, therefore, it is recommended to be of low significance. Overall, the potential impacts are low, and the author recommends chance finds procedures.

The amended HIA was submitted for comments in terms of section 38(8).

Gribble, J. July 2026. HERITAGE IMPACT ASSESSMENT FOR THE PROPOSED TWO MEGALITRE PER DAY SOLAR POWERED SEAWATER DESALINATION PLANT IN THE PORT OF EAST LONDON, BUFFALO CITY METROPOLITAN MUNICIPALITY, EASTERN CAPE PROVINCE.

The assessment of the finalised plans found that there will be a very low impact to heritage resources because the area of the intake pipe has previously been dredged for the widening of the Buffalo River, and the area around the outfall pipe has been changed with the construction of the breakwater, recently upgraded artificial rock revetment and boulder beach. Any shipwrecks in the vicinity are highly speculative with a low chance. The author recommends the following:

There is a small chance that fossils may occur in the Nanaga Formation aeolianites and the Middleton Formation bedrock. It is recommended, therefore, that a palaeontological Chance Find Protocol is implemented under the EMP.

Final Comment

The following comments are made as a requirement in terms of section 3(4) of the NEMA Regulations and section 38(8) of the NHRA in the format provided in section 38(4) of the NHRA and must be included in the Final BAR:

- 38(4)a – The SAHRA Development Application Unit (DAU) has no objections to the proposed development;
- 38(4)b – The recommendations provided by the heritage specialists are supported and must be adhered to. These further additional comments apply:
- If any shipwrecks and/or artefacts related to shipwrecks in the region are uncovered, the findings must

**THE PROPOSED 2 MEGALITRES PER DAY (MLD) SOLAR POWERED
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Enquiries: Nokukhanya Khumalo

Tel: 021 462 4502

Email: nkhumalo@sahra.org.za

Case ID: 30171

Date: Monday, 21 September, 2026

be reported to a maritime archaeologist appointed to inspect potential finds. A report on this inspection must be submitted to SAHRA for further recommendations;

- The Fossil Chance Finds Procedure must be included in the EMPr;
- 38(4)c(i) – If any evidence of archaeological sites or remains (e.g. remnants of stone-made structures, indigenous ceramics, bones, stone artefacts, ostrich eggshell fragments, charcoal and ash concentrations), fossils or other categories of heritage resources are found during the proposed development, SAHRA DAU (Nokukhanya Khumalo/Natasha Higgitt 021 202 8660) must be alerted as per section 35(3) of the NHRA. Non-compliance with section of the NHRA is an offence in terms of section 51(1)e of the NHRA and item 5 of the Schedule;
- 38(4)c(ii) – If unmarked human burials are uncovered, the SAHRA DAU (Nokukhanya Khumalo/Natasha Higgitt 021 202 8660), must be alerted immediately as per section 36(6) of the NHRA. Non-compliance with section of the NHRA is an offence in terms of section 51(1)e of the NHRA and item 5 of the Schedule;
- 38(4)d – See section 51(1) of the NHRA;
- 38(4)e – The following conditions apply with regards to the appointment of specialists:
 - i) If heritage resources are uncovered during the course of the development, a professional archaeologist or palaeontologist, depending on the nature of the finds, must be contracted as soon as possible to inspect the heritage resource. If the newly discovered heritage resources prove to be of archaeological or palaeontological significance, a Phase 2 rescue operation may be required subject to permits issued by SAHRA;
- The Final EIAr and EMPr must be submitted to SAHRA for record purposes;
- The decision regarding the EA Application must be communicated to SAHRA and uploaded to the SAHRIS Case application.

Should you have any further queries, please contact the designated official using the case number quoted above in the case header.

Yours faithfully

**THE PROPOSED 2 MEGALITRES PER DAY (MLD) SOLAR POWERED
SEAWATER DESALINATION PLANT IN THE PORT OF EAST LONDON,
BUFFALO CITY METROPOLITAN MUNICIPALITY, EASTERN CAPE PROVINCE,
BY TRANSNET NATIONAL PORTS AUTHORITY**



an agency of the
Department of Arts and Culture

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South African Heritage Resources Agency | 111 Harrington Street | Cape Town
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Enquiries: Nokukhanya Khumalo
Tel: 021 462 4502
Email: nkhumalo@sahra.org.za
Case ID: 30171

Date: Monday, 21 September, 2026

Nokukhanya Khumalo
Senior Heritage Officer
South African Heritage Resources Agency

Natasha Higgitt
Manager: Development Applications Unit
South African Heritage Resources Agency

Terms & Conditions:

1. This approval does not exonerate the applicant from obtaining local authority approval or any other necessary approval for proposed work.
2. If any heritage resources, including graves or human remains, are encountered they must be reported to SAHRA immediately.
3. SAHRA reserves the right to request additional information as required.

ADMIN:

Direct URL to case: <https://sahris.org.za/node/413200>

**Eastern Cape Provincial Heritage Resources
Authority (ECPHRA)**



EASTERN CAPE
PROVINCIAL HERITAGE
RESOURCES AUTHORITY
Focusing on Untapped Heritage in the Province

No. 17 Commissioner St.
East London CBD
5201
043 492 1941
info@ecphra.org.za

ROPOSED 2ML/D SOLAR POWERED SEAWATER DESALINATION PLANT IN THE PORT OF EAST LONDON, BCMM

Enquiries: Ayanda Mncwabe-Mama

Date: Thursday, 6 August, 2026

Tel: 043 492 1370

Email: ayanda.mncwabe-mama@ecsrac.gov.za

Case ID: 29519

Response to NID (Notification of Intent to Develop)

In terms of Section 38 of the National Heritage Resources Act (Act 25 of 1999)

Steve September Anchor Environmental Consultants Suite 8, House, Tokai Silverwood Cl Tokai, Cape Town 7945

Transnet SOC Limited (division Transnet National Ports Authority (TNPA)) is proposing to build and operate a two MLD solar-powered Reverse Osmosis (RO) seawater desalination plant within the Port of East London, Buffalo City Metropolitan Municipality, Eastern Cape Province. Saline water will be abstracted and desalinated (salt removed) at the plant and two megalitres of fresh water produced per day. This fresh water will be used by TNPA to support operations within the port. The highly saline water which is produced by the plant during the desalination process, will be transported through a pipeline to a marine outfall. Water will be discharged through this marine outfall into the ocean to rapidly disperse and mix with ocean waters.

ECPHRA acknowledges receipt of the revised project's Draft EIAR, EMP, Heritage Impact Assessment (Gribble, J. May 2026) and the Paleontological impact Assessment (Bamford, M. May 2026).

Following review of the reports, in line with **Section 38 of the National Heritage Resources Act of 1999**, reports are acceptable and there are no objections to the proposed development however, the specialist and following ECPHRA recommendations must be adhered to:

ECPHRA General pre/construction phase requirements:

- The project proponent/representative must notify ECPHRA of the date of commencement of the project or share the project schedule and the Environmental Authorisation (EA), if applicable.
- Heritage induction and training for all ground crew, must include identification of archaeological, palaeontological, historical, and burial-related material. This ensures lawful heritage compliance during all phases of the project.
- A *Heritage & Fossil Chance Finds Protocol* must be adhered to.
- There must be monitoring during vegetation clearing and excavations.

Post Construction phase requirements:





EASTERN CAPE
PROVINCIAL HERITAGE
RESOURCES AUTHORITY
SOUTH AFRICA
Focusing on Untapped Heritage in the Province

 No. 17 Commissioner St.
East London CBD
5201
 043 492 1941
 info@ecphra.org.za

ROPOSED 2ML/D SOLAR POWERED SEAWATER DESALINATION PLANT IN THE PORT OF EAST LONDON, BCMM

Enquiries: Ayanda Mncwabe-Mama

Date: Thursday, 6 August, 2026

Tel: 043 492 1370

Email: ayanda.mncwabe-mama@ecsrac.gov.za

Case ID: 29519

Upon completion of the project, a final heritage compliance report, to be submitted to ECPHRA.

Project Payments:

NID fee (R 500 - paid)

HIA fee (R 1 500 - paid)

Should you have any further queries, please contact the designated official using the case number quoted above in the case header.

Yours faithfully



ROPOSED 2ML/D SOLAR POWERED SEAWATER DESALINATION PLANT IN THE PORT OF EAST LONDON, BCMM

Enquiries: Ayanda Mncwabe-Mama

Date: Thursday, 6 August, 2026

Tel: 043 492 1370

Email: ayanda.mncwabe-mama@ecsrac.gov.za

Case ID: 29519



Ayanda Mncwabe-Mama
Archaeologist
Eastern Cape Provincial Heritage Resources Authority



1. This approval does not exonerate the applicant from obtaining local authority approval or any other necessary approval for proposed work.



 No. 17 Commissioner St.
East London CBD
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ROPOSED 2ML/D SOLAR POWERED SEAWATER DESALINATION PLANT IN THE PORT OF EAST LONDON, BCMM

Enquiries: Ayanda Mncwabe-Mama

Date: Thursday, 6 August, 2026

Tel: 043 492 1370

Email: ayanda.mncwabe-mama@ecsrac.gov.za

Case ID: 29519

2. If any heritage resources, including graves or human remains, are encountered they must be reported to ECPHRA immediately.
3. ECPHRA reserves the right to request additional information as required.

ADMIN:

Direct URL to case: <https://sahris.org.za/408364>

**Department of Economic Development,
Environmental Affairs and Tourism
(DEDEAT)**

Steve September

From: Jackoleen Breetzke <Jackoleen.Breetzke@dedea.gov.za>
Sent: Wednesday, 08 April 2026 15:44
To: Thina Thandani; Ndileka Nazo; Reinaldo Bishop
Cc: Steve September
Subject: FW: Intention to resubmit application for Environmental Authorisation - Solar-Powered Desalination Plant in the Port of East London by TNPA - 14/12/16/3/3/2/2675
Attachments: image004.wmz; image005.wmz; image006.wmz; image007.wmz; image008.wmz; image010.wmz; image001.wmz; Notice_Resubmission of Application 8.4.2026.pdf

Good day

Kindly find the email below and the attached for your attention.

Kind regards

Jacky Breetzke

043 707 4002
0864829426
083 2945842
jackoleen.breetzke@dedea.gov.za
www.dedea.gov.za



Alderwood House, Palm Square Office Park,
Bonza Bay Road, Beacon Bay, EAST LONDON, 5241
Private Bag X9060, East London, 5200
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

From: Steve September <steve@anchorenenvironmental.co.za>
Sent: Wednesday, 08 April 2026 12:23
Subject: Intention to resubmit application for Environmental Authorisation - Solar-Powered Desalination Plant in the Port of East London by TNPA - 14/12/16/3/3/2/2675

Some people who received this message don't often get email from steve@anchorenenvironmental.co.za. [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear Stakeholder / Interested and Affected Party,

NOTICE: INTENTION TO RESUBMIT APPLICATION FOR ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION

Project: Scoping & Environmental Impact Assessment (S&EIA) for the Proposed 2 MLD Solar-Powered Seawater Desalination Plant in the Port of East London, Buffalo City Metropolitan Municipality, Eastern Cape Province

DFFE Reference Number: 14/12/16/3/3/2/2675

This email serves to notify all registered and potential new Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) of the intention to resubmit the application for Environmental Authorisation for the above-mentioned project. Please find the formal notice attached, which provides further details.

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To remain informed and receive future updates, please register as an I&AP.

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Comments from other I&APs

Comment Letter

Subject: Comments on Draft EMPr – Proposed 2MLD Solar-Powered Seawater Desalination Plant, Port of East London

To: Mr. Steve September, Anchor Environmental Consultants (Pty) Ltd

Email: steve@anchorenvironmental.co.za

16 July 2026

Dear Mr. September,

I appreciate the opportunity to review and comment on the Draft Environmental Management Programme (EMPr) prepared for the proposed 2MLD solar-powered seawater desalination plant in the Port of East London. I commend Transnet National Ports Authority and Anchor Environmental Consultants for integrating renewable energy into critical water infrastructure. However, I wish to raise the following points for consideration and inclusion in the final EMPr:

Marine Ecology Protection

- The brine discharge into the ocean poses risks to marine biodiversity. The EMPr should strengthen monitoring requirements under the Coastal Waters Discharge Permit, including salinity, temperature, and chemical composition testing at regular intervals.
- Adaptive management measures should be specified in case monitoring reveals adverse ecological impacts.

Estuarine Impact

- Water abstraction from the estuary may alter hydrological balance and affect estuarine species. The EMPr should include seasonal abstraction limits and ecological flow requirements to safeguard estuarine functionality.

Community and Social Aspects

- While the project reduces reliance on municipal water, the EMPr should clarify how surplus potable water, if available, could benefit surrounding communities.
- Engagement with local stakeholders must be ongoing, not limited to the initial consultation phase.

Operational Monitoring and Compliance

- Section 3 outlines monitoring and reporting, but the EMPr should specify independent third-party audits at least annually to ensure transparency.
- A public-facing compliance register should be maintained to build trust with affected communities.

Climate Resilience and Sustainability

- The integration of solar photovoltaic (PV) technology is commendable. However, the EMPr should include contingency measures for energy supply during low solar yield periods to ensure uninterrupted water production.
- Opportunities for further renewable integration (e.g., battery storage) should be explored.

Emergency Preparedness

- Section 3.8 outlines incident management, but more detail is needed on spill response protocols, fire management, and coordination with local emergency services.

Conclusion

I support the principle of renewable-powered desalination as a sustainable solution for water security. However, the above concerns should be addressed to ensure that the project achieves its objectives without compromising ecological integrity, community well-being, or regulatory compliance.

Thank you for considering these comments. I look forward to the continued engagement process.

Yours sincerely,



Ndzonelelo Mbadu

mn.mbadu@gmail.com

Steve September

From: Janine Greeff <janineg@l2b.co.za>
Sent: Tuesday, 21 July 2026 13:08
To: Steve September
Cc: Cheruscha Swart
Subject: Re: Solar Powered Desalination Plant, East London

Hi Steve,

Yes, I can access the documents now, thank you so much 😊

Have a lovely day.

Kind Regards

Janine Greeff | Regional Content Researcher Projects

T : +27 86 083 6337 | F: +27 33 343 5882 | E: JanineG@L2B.co.za | W: www.L2B.co.za



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On 2026/07/21 12:59, Steve September (steve@anchorenvironmental.co.za) wrote:

CAUTION - EXTERNAL SENDER - Be careful when opening links or attachments! L2B IT Department.

Dear Janine

The documents have been reuploaded. Can you please check and let us know if you can access it.

Thank you in advance.

Kind Regards,
Steve September



STEVE SEPTEMBER
CONSULTANT
ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

steve@anchorenvironmental.co.za
Tel: +27 21 701 3420
8 Steenberg House, Silverwood Close
Tokai 7945, South Africa

Candidate Environment Assessment Practitioner (EAPASA: 2023/7868)

From: Janine Greeff <janineg@l2b.co.za>
Sent: Tuesday, 21 July 2026 12:03
To: Steve September <steve@anchorenvironmental.co.za>
Cc: Cheruscha Swart <cheruscha@anchorenvironmental.co.za>
Subject: Re: Solar Powered Desalination Plant, East London

Hi Steve,

Thank you so much.

I am not able to open any of the documents for this projects. I tried clicking on all the documents but nothing opens. My colleague and I both tried using Chrome and Firefox but neither work. I can open the documents for other projects though, but there seems to be a problem with this one.



Kind Regards

Janine Greeff | Regional Content Researcher Projects

T : +27 86 083 6337 | F: +27 33 343 5882 | E: JanineG@L2B.co.za | W: www.L2B.co.za



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On 2026/07/21 11:05, Steve September (steve@anchorenvironmental.co.za) wrote:

CAUTION - EXTERNAL SENDER - Be careful when opening links or attachments! L2B IT Department.

Good morning Janine

I hope this email finds you well.

Please accept this email as confirmation of receipt that you have been registered as an Interested and Affected Party (I&AP).

All relevant documents can be found on Anchor website at <https://anchorenvironmental.co.za/public-documents>

Please let me know if you have any questions or require further information.

Disclosure of interest

When registering as an I&AP or submitting comments, please provide your name, contact details, and details of any business, financial, personal, or other interest you may have in the application.

Protection of Personal Information

Anchor Environmental Consultants complies with the Protection of Personal Information Act, 2013 (Act No. 4 of 2013). Comments received and responses thereto will be included in a Comments and Responses Report, which will form part of the application submitted to the Competent Authority and will be publicly available. If you object to your name, email address, or the name of the organisation you represent being included in this report, please notify us when submitting comments. If no objection is received, it will be assumed that you consent to the inclusion of these details.

Kind Regards,
Steve September



STEVE SEPTEMBER
CONSULTANT
ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

steve@anchorenvironmental.co.za
Tel: +27 21 701 3420
8 Steenberg House, Silverwood Close
Tokai 7945, South Africa

Candidate Environment Assessment Practitioner (EAPASA: 2023/7868)

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From: Janine Greeff <janineg@l2b.co.za>
Sent: Tuesday, 21 July 2026 10:26
To: Steve September <steve@anchorenvironmental.co.za>
Subject: Solar Powered Desalination Plant, East London

Good morning Steve,

I hope you are well.

I came across a public participation notice for the "**proposed solar-powered desalination plant in the Port of East London**"

I do not have any objections but would like to please be registered as an interested party as I follow building and construction related projects from conceptual / feasibility up until completion.

Please can you email me a copy of the background information document or motivating memorandum or any other documents or reports for this project.

Thank you very much.

--

Kind Regards

Janine Greeff | Regional Content Researcher Projects

T : +27 86 083 6337 | F: +27 33 343 5882 | E:

JanineG@L2B.co.za | W: www.L2B.co.za



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Appendix 5A-2
Comments received as part of the First
Application Process: 22 August 2024 to 31
October 2025

Includes comments on the Draft and Final
Scoping Reports and first application Draft EIA
Report

FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT REPORT

SCOPING & ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT (S&EIA) FOR
THE PROPOSED 2 MEGALITRES PER DAY (MLD) SOLAR POWERED
SEAWATER DESALINATION PLANT IN THE PORT OF EAST
LONDON, BUFFALO CITY METROPOLITAN MUNICIPALITY,
EASTERN CAPE PROVINCE, BY TRANSNET NATIONAL PORTS
AUTHORITY

DFFE EA Application Reference Number: 14/12/16/3/3/2/2845

From: [Trisha Rene Pillay](#)
To: [Cheruscha Swart](#)
Subject: Request for additional information regarding the pre-feasibility study
Date: Friday, 13 September 2024 11:00:19
Attachments: [2024_08_22-Request for Pre-app Meeting Desal Plant.pdf](#)

Dear Ms Swart

1. Please provide additional information pertaining to the applicability of the Listed Activities mentioning the Ports development footprint:
 - The EIA Regulations define "development footprint" as any evidence of physical alteration as a result of the undertaking of any activity. Can you kindly provide admissible proof that there has been alteration in terms of infilling, depositing, dredging, excavation, removal or moving of material at the proposed site (where the proposed access road is to be placed, and the proposed drilling sites. Or are the specific sites for the access roads and drilling site areas underlain by concrete, a manmade depression.
2. Kindly note to determine whether the proposed site is regarded as a Coastal Public Property DFFE Oceans and Coast would have to be consulted please find details below;
 - Name: Adv. Radia Razack: Integrated Coastal Management
Email Address: RRazack@dffe.gov.za
 - Name: Yazeed Peterson: Director Coastal Pollution Management
Email: YPeterson@dffe.gov.za
Telephone No.: 0214937054
3. Kindly be aware since you are proposing to construct an access road on the coastal zone therefore tractor loader backhoe will be used in the coastal zone you may require an ORV Permit as well. Find details below:
 - ORV Permitting:
Queries should be directed to the Sub-Directorate: Coastal Protection and Development
Telephone No.: 021 819 2598
Email: ORVPermitting@environment.gov.za

Kindly submit the additional information by Tuesday @12pm or sooner if possible.

Kind Regards,

Ms. Trisha Pillay

Environmental Officer: Priority Infrastructure Projects

Registered Environmental Assessment Practitioner: 2021/3791

Integrated Environmental Authorisations

Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment

Private Bag X447

Pretoria

0001

☎ (066) 430 1595

💻 tpillay@dffe.gov.za



forestry, fisheries
and the environment

Department:
Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

From: [Trisha Rene Pillay](#)
To: [Cheruscha Swart](#)
Cc: [Coenrad Agenbach](#); [Mmamohale Kabasa](#)
Subject: Recording and contact details of DFFE directorates- 2024-08-0028 The proposed 2ml/d Solar Powered Seawater Desalination Plant at the Port of East London, Eastern Cape Province
Date: Thursday, 26 September 2024 12:42:55
Attachments: [image002.png](#)
[transcript.docx](#)

Dear Cheruscha

Please find attached the transcription for today's meeting as well as a link to access the recording of the meeting below. I have also included the relevant details of the directorates within DFFE to obtain comments from.

 https://environmentza-my.sharepoint.com/:v:/g/personal/tpillay_environment_gov_za/ER8nhewTtqNCnBtx7fbbPyoBnhuT72XpO1BcxsC6wQTL7w?e=7Gfbqu&nav=eyJyZWZlcnJhbEluZm8iOnsicmVmZXJyYWxBcHAIiJdHJlYW1XZWJBcHAIiLCJyZWZlcnJhbFZpZXciOiJTaGFyZURpYWxvZy1MaW5rliwicmVmZXJyYWxBcHBQbGF0Zm9ybSI6IldlYiIsInJlZmVycmFsTW9kZSI6InZpZXcifX0%3D

DFFE contact list of respective units

DFFE Protected Areas Directorate:

- a. Name: Mr Rofhiwa
Telephone no.: 012 399 8801
Email: RMagodi@dfpe.gov.za; and
- b. Name: Tshwanelo Leballo
Telephone no.: 012 399 9561
Email: tleballo@dfpe.gov.za

DFFE Oceans and Coast Directorate:

- a. Name: Funanani Ditinti
Telephone: 0123999847
Email: fditinti@dfpe.gov.za/ OCEIA@dfpe.gov.za

DFFE Biodiversity Conservation Directorate:

- a. Email: BCAdmin@dfpe.gov.za

Kind Regards,

Ms. Trisha Pillay

Environmental Officer: Priority Infrastructure Projects

Registered Environmental Assessment Practitioner: 2021/3791

Integrated Environmental Authorisations

Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment

 Private Bag X447

Pretoria

0001

☎ (066) 430 1595

💻 tpillay@dffe.gov.za



forestry, fisheries
and the environment

Department:
Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Cheruscha Swart

From: Tabisile Mhlana <tmhlana@dfpe.gov.za>
Sent: Friday, 04 October 2024 09:49
To: Michael Armitage
Cc: Cheruscha Swart; Makwarela Mnwana
Subject: RE: Query on the Delineation of the Coastal Public Property in the Port of East London

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Good day, Michael,

I hope this email finds you well and please accept my apologies for the late response.

There is no delineated CPP boundary for ports as they do not form part of the CPP see the provision from the ICM Act.

Composition of coastal public property

(2) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (1), coastal public property does **not** include-

- (a) any-
 - (ii) installation or infrastructure located in a port or harbor, whether located on land or the seabed, lawfully constructed by an organ of the state.

Kind Regards

*Tabisile Mhlana
Dept, Forestry, Fisheries & the Environment
Oceans And Coasts -
Coastal Development & Protection.
Tel: 021 4937049
Cell:0614863177
Email: tmhlana@dfpe.gov.za*

From: Michael Armitage <michael@anchorenenvironmental.co.za>
Date: Monday, 16 September 2024 at 14:20
To: "Adv. Radia Razack" <RRazack@dfpe.gov.za>
Cc: Yazeed Peterson <YPeterson@dfpe.gov.za>, Cheruscha Swart <cheruscha@anchorenenvironmental.co.za>
Subject: Query on the Delineation of the Coastal Public Property in the Port of East London

Good Afternoon Adv. Razack and Dr Peterson

Anchor Environmental Consultants is preparing a Scoping and Environmental Impact Assessment (S&EIA) for a desalination plant development in the Port of East London (for Transnet National Ports Authority, TNPA).

We are busy clarifying the environmental Listed Activities potentially triggered by the proposed development, and would like clarity as to whether there is a delineated Coastal Public Property (CPP) boundary within the Port, and if so, where this boundary lies. We were advised by the DFFE case officer, Ms. Trisha Pillay, that you would likely be able to assist us. This boundary is of relevance for the project as it may influence which activities are triggered.

Any assistance you could provide would be greatly appreciated.

Kind Regards

Michael Armitage



MICHAEL ARMITAGE
CONSULTANT

+27 21 701 3420 (tel)
michael@anchorenvironmental.co.za
8 Steenberg House, Silverwood Close
Tokai 7945, South Africa



water & sanitation

Department:
Water and Sanitation
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

P.O.BOX 7019, EAST LONDON, 5200

☎ 043 701 0275

Enquiries: Ms L Mdhuli

E-mail: MdhuliL@dws.gov.za

Anchor Environmental Consultants (Pty) Ltd
08 Steenberg House
Silverwood Close
TOKAI
7945

Dear Sisanda Dalasile,

RE: AUTHORISATION REQUIREMENTS FOR A SOLAR POWERED DESALINATION PLANT WITHIN THE PORT OF EAST LONDON

This Department hereby acknowledges receipt of your inquiry letter regarding the proposed activity mentioned above. The outcome of the analysis of the information as provided by your Office indicates that:

Background:

The proposed development is for a two (2) megalitre per day (MLD) solar-powered desalination plant within the Port of East London. Water required for the plant will be sourced from the lowest portion of the Buffalo River Estuary (within the Estuarine Functional Zone (EFZ), which will either be abstracted via beach wells (boreholes) on a small beach located near to the harbour mouth (Preferred Intake option) or pumped directly from the estuary via a direct intake pipeline (Alternative Intake Option 1). Water will then be desalinated at the desalination plant which is situated in the EFZ (Preferred Plant Site).

Comments from the Department:

The proposed activities will occur in an estuarine environment, and according to the National Water Act 36 of 1998 (NWA), estuaries are not classified as watercourses. Consequently, the proposed activity does not require a water use authorisation in terms of Section 21 (c) and (i) of the NWA.

Furthermore, the Department does not consider the abstraction of water at the end of the EFZ as a section 21 (a) water use, since this area is marine-dominated with relatively minimal freshwater influence. Therefore the Department concurs with your view, that the proposed activities fall under the NEMA and the ICMA.

Should you have any questions or require further guidance, please do not hesitate to contact the Department.

Yours Sincerely

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR: WATER USE AUTHORISATION

DATE 17/10/2024

Cheruscha Swart

From: Sisanda Dalasile
Sent: Thursday, 17 October 2024 15:05
To: Cheruscha Swart; Michael Armitage
Subject: Fw: Inquiry about the Licensing Requirements for a Solar Powered desalination Plant within the Port of East London
Attachments: DWS Response letter Solar Powered Desalination Plant Port of EL.pdf

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From: Fourie Lizna (ELS) <FourieL4@dws.gov.za>
Sent: Thursday, October 17, 2024 2:29:16 PM
To: Sisanda Dalasile <sisanda@anchorenenvironmental.co.za>
Cc: Mdhuli Lucrecia Mosobelela (ELS) <MdhuliL@dws.gov.za>; Moodley Dheegan (ELS) <MoodleyD@dws.gov.za>
Subject: FW: Inquiry about the Licensing Requirements for a Solar Powered desalination Plant within the Port of East London

Dear Sisanda

Herewith the response letter from the Department regarding the Solar Powered Desalination Plant within the Port of East London

Kind Regards

Lizna Fourie

From: Sisanda Dalasile <sisanda@anchorenenvironmental.co.za>
Sent: Monday, 07 October 2024 12:02
To: Fourie Lizna (ELS) <FourieL4@dws.gov.za>
Cc: Mdhuli Lucrecia Mosobelela (ELS) <MdhuliL@dws.gov.za>; Cheruscha Swart <cheruscha@anchorenenvironmental.co.za>; Michael Armitage <michael@anchorenenvironmental.co.za>
Subject: RE: Inquiry about the Licensing Requirements for a Solar Powered desalination Plant within the Port of East London

Dear Lizna,

I hope you're doing well.

I wanted to follow up regarding Ms Mdhuli. Since she was expected to return from her training session by 07 August 2024, I wanted to check if she has had an opportunity to discuss our inquiry concerning the licensing requirements for a solar-powered desalination plant within the Port of East London.

Kind regards,
Sisanda

From: Sisanda Dalasile
Sent: Monday, 05 August 2024 13:50
To: Fourie Lizna (ELS) <FourieL4@dws.gov.za>
Cc: Mdhuli Lucrecia Mosobelela (ELS) <MdhuliL@dws.gov.za>; Cheruscha Swart

<cheruscha@anchorenmvironmental.co.za>; Michael Armitage <michael@anchorenmvironmental.co.za>

Subject: RE: Inquiry about the Licensing Requirements for a Solar Powered desalination Plant within the Port of East London

Hi Lizna,

Thank you for your prompt response. When she gets back to us, could she please contact Cheruscha Swart, who is Cc'd on this email?

Kind regards,
Sisanda

From: Fourie Lizna (ELS) <FourieL4@dws.gov.za>

Sent: Monday, August 5, 2024 1:45 PM

To: Sisanda Dalasile <sisanda@anchorenmvironmental.co.za>

Cc: Mdhluli Lucrecia Mosobeleda (ELS) <MdhluliL@dws.gov.za>; Cheruscha Swart

<cheruscha@anchorenmvironmental.co.za>; Michael Armitage <michael@anchorenmvironmental.co.za>

Subject: RE: Inquiry about the Licensing Requirements for a Solar Powered desalination Plant within the Port of East London

Sisanda

I will ask Ms Mdhluli to make contact with you. She is in a training session but will be back on Wednesday

Regards

Lizna

From: Sisanda Dalasile <sisanda@anchorenmvironmental.co.za>

Sent: Monday, August 5, 2024 10:48 AM

To: Fourie Lizna (ELS) <FourieL4@dws.gov.za>

Cc: Mdhluli Lucrecia Mosobeleda (ELS) <MdhluliL@dws.gov.za>; Cheruscha Swart

<cheruscha@anchorenmvironmental.co.za>; Michael Armitage <michael@anchorenmvironmental.co.za>

Subject: RE: Inquiry about the Licensing Requirements for a Solar Powered desalination Plant within the Port of East London

Some people who received this message don't often get email from sisanda@anchorenmvironmental.co.za. [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear Lizna,

I wanted to follow up on the previous email regarding consultation with your specialists. Are there any updates that you can share? We are keen to move forward and greatly appreciate your expertise on this matter. Please let me know if you need any further information from our side to aid the discussion.

Kind regards,
Sisanda

Sent: Monday, July 29, 2024 12:42 PM

To: Sisanda Dalasile <sisanda@anchorenmvironmental.co.za>

Cc: Mdhluli Lucrecia Mosobeleda (ELS) <MdhluliL@dws.gov.za>

Subject: RE: Inquiry about the Licensing Requirements for a Solar Powered desalination Plant within the Port of East London

Dear Sisanda

I will discuss with our specialists and will revert back to you

Regards

Lizna Fourie

From: Sisanda Dalasile <sisanda@anchorenvironmental.co.za>

Sent: Monday, July 29, 2024 12:15 PM

To: Fourie Lizna (ELS) <FourieL4@dws.gov.za>

Subject: Inquiry about the Licensing Requirements for a Solar Powered desalination Plant within the Port of East London

You don't often get email from sisanda@anchorenvironmental.co.za. [Learn why this is important](#)

Good day

RE: Confirmation of the requirement for a Water Use License (WUL) or General Authorisation (GA) under the National Water Act (NWA, Act 36 of 1998) for a proposed desalinisation plant.

Anchor Environmental Consultants (Pty) Ltd (Anchor) has been appointed to apply for the required environmental authorisations/ permits and licences (including the Environmental Authorisation (EA), Coastal Water Discharge Permit (CWDP) and WUL (if applicable)) for a two (2) megalitre per day (MLD) solar-powered desalination plant within the Port of East London. The proposed plant is being commissioned by Transnet National Ports Authority (TNPA).

Brief project Description

Please refer to the map below indicating the preferred development layout in addition to the alternatives layouts in terms of the desalination plant site, intake and outfall.

Water required for the plant will be sourced from the lowest portion of the Buffalo River Estuary (within the Estuarine Functional Zone (EFZ)), which will either be abstracted via beach wells (boreholes) on a small beach located near to the harbour mouth (yellow polygon and line - this is the **Preferred Intake option**) or pumped directly from the estuary via a direct intake pipeline (black line – this is **Alternative Intake Option 1**). Water will then be desalinated at the desalination plant which is situated in the EFZ (red polygon = **Preferred Plant Site**). Also see the potential Alternative plant sites which include Alternative plant site 1 (green polygon – outside of EFZ); Alternative plant site 2 (blue polygon – outside of EFZ); and Alternative plant site 3 (purple polygon – outside of EFZ).

The desalinated water (freshwater) will be stored on site in several relatively small storage tanks of 500 cubic metres and 1000 cubic metres, respectively, before being pumped to Transnet and another nearby factory. The brine produced during the desalination process will be stored on site in a small holding tank, prior to it being released into the offshore marine environment via a marine outfall pipeline. The **Preferred Outfall Option** for discharging brine will be via a new outfall pipeline and discharge point (red line and dot) extending approximately 500 m offshore into the marine environment. Alternatively, brine will be discharged via an existing Municipal Pipeline (Alternative 1) and discharge point (dark pink line and dot). This pipeline is located approximately 1.5 km to the southwest of the site, with the pipeline and discharge point extending over a kilometre offshore. This option would require constructing a connecting pipeline (light purple line) from the preferred desalination plant site to the existing municipal outfall pipeline.

The second alternative for discharge (Alternative 2) is via a breakwater outfall pipeline and discharge point (orange line and dot). Note that no effluent will be discharged into the estuarine environment from either the Preferred or Municipal Outfalls (Alternative 1). Due to the possibility of brine washing into the estuary from the breakwater outfall (Alternative 2), this option is not recommended (and will potentially be screened out during the EIA process).

Given that the plant requires a marine outfall within coastal waters, this project does require a CWDP, under the National Environmental Management: Integrated Coastal Management Act (NEM:ICMA, Act 24 of 2008). Anchor is currently in the process of applying for this permit.



Considering the information provided above, it appears that several components of the project could potentially be classified as water uses under Section 21 of the NWA. However, based on our understanding of the legislation and past experience with similar projects in comparable environments (such as desalination plants in EFZs), the management of coastal waters (including estuaries), and hence this project and its associated activities, would be governed by the NEM: ICMA under the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE), rather than the NWA under the Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS). Therefore, it is our view that a WUL or GA would not be required. The rationale behind our statement follows below.

Despite sourcing water for the plant from the Buffalo River Estuary (either via beach wells or directly from the estuary), the water will primarily consist of highly saline seawater due to the proposed intake locations at the estuary's lowest portion (mouth) and near the port breakwater. This abstraction is expected to have no or negligible impacts on estuary conditions and will not alter the natural freshwater supply to the Buffalo River System. In addition, the proposed beach wells are situated within a beach area near the port breakwater, and the groundwater component is likely to be rapidly-recharging seawater. Consequently, this is not anticipated to affect the fresh groundwater table or pose a risk of saline intrusion in the surrounding areas.

Furthermore, despite storing desalinated (fresh) water and highly saline brine in storage tanks on-site, this process will not impact the natural freshwater supply to the Buffalo River System. Additionally, the desalinated water will not be connected to the municipal water supply but will be pumped via a closed circuit to users within Transnet and the nearby factory.

There might be some nuance in the case of effluent discharged directly into an estuarine environment, with Section 69(1) of ICMA stating that: *"No person may discharge effluent that originates from a source on land into coastal waters except in terms of a general discharge authorisation contemplated in subsection (2) or a coastal waters discharge permit issued under this section by the Minister after consultation with the Minister responsible for water affairs in instances of discharge of effluent into an estuary."* However, given that the project will not have an estuarine outfall, and will not result in any waste being discharged into the estuarine environment (including any portion of the EFZ) this regulation should not be applicable. Although the plant is located near the mouth of the Buffalo River within the EFZ, the brine produced during desalination will be discharged into the offshore marine environment via either an existing marine outfall (The Municipal Outfall: Alternative 1) extending over a kilometre offshore, or via a new outfall located approximately 500 meters offshore (Preferred Option). No effluent will be discharged into the estuarine environment, thus mitigating any impact of brine discharge into the estuarine environment.

Furthermore, although the construction of the various saltwater intake options could possibly be considered an alteration of the bed or banks of a river, the direct intake pipeline option (Intake Alternative 1) will only consist of a very short length of pipe protruding from a current vertical concrete port wall (which has no riparian value and will not alter the hydrodynamics of the estuary), and the beach well option (Preferred Intake Option) will only result in minor alterations to an already highly disturbed (and potentially artificial) beach area.

In conclusion, considering the project's occurrence in a highly disturbed and marine-dominated port environment with relatively minimal freshwater influence and negligible practical significance to any riparian habitat, and given that estuary management falls under ICMA, it is our opinion that it would not be appropriate for this project to require either a GA or WUL under the NWA. Instead, the activities should fall under the NEMA and ICMA (with only an EA and CWDP being required).

We would greatly appreciate your confirmation regarding whether the DWS aligns with the interpretation provided above, indicating that a WUL and GA are not required for the proposed development, or its alternative options/layouts.

Thank you in advance

Kind regards,



SISANDA DALASILE
RESEARCH TECHNICIAN

+27 21 701 3420 (tel)
sisanda@anchorenvironmental.co.za
8 Steenberg House, Silverwood Close
Tokai 7945, South Africa

Cheruscha Swart

From: Cheruscha Swart
Sent: Friday, 10 May 2024 11:07
To: register@dws.gov.za; WULAinfo@dws.gov.za
Cc: Michael Armitage; Cheruscha Swart
Subject: Inquiry about the Licensing Requirements for a Solar Powered desalination Plant within the Port of East London

Good day

RE: Confirmation of the requirement for a Water Use License (WUL) or General Authorisation (GA) under the National Water Act (NWA, Act 36 of 1998) for a proposed desalinisation plant.

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Brief project Description

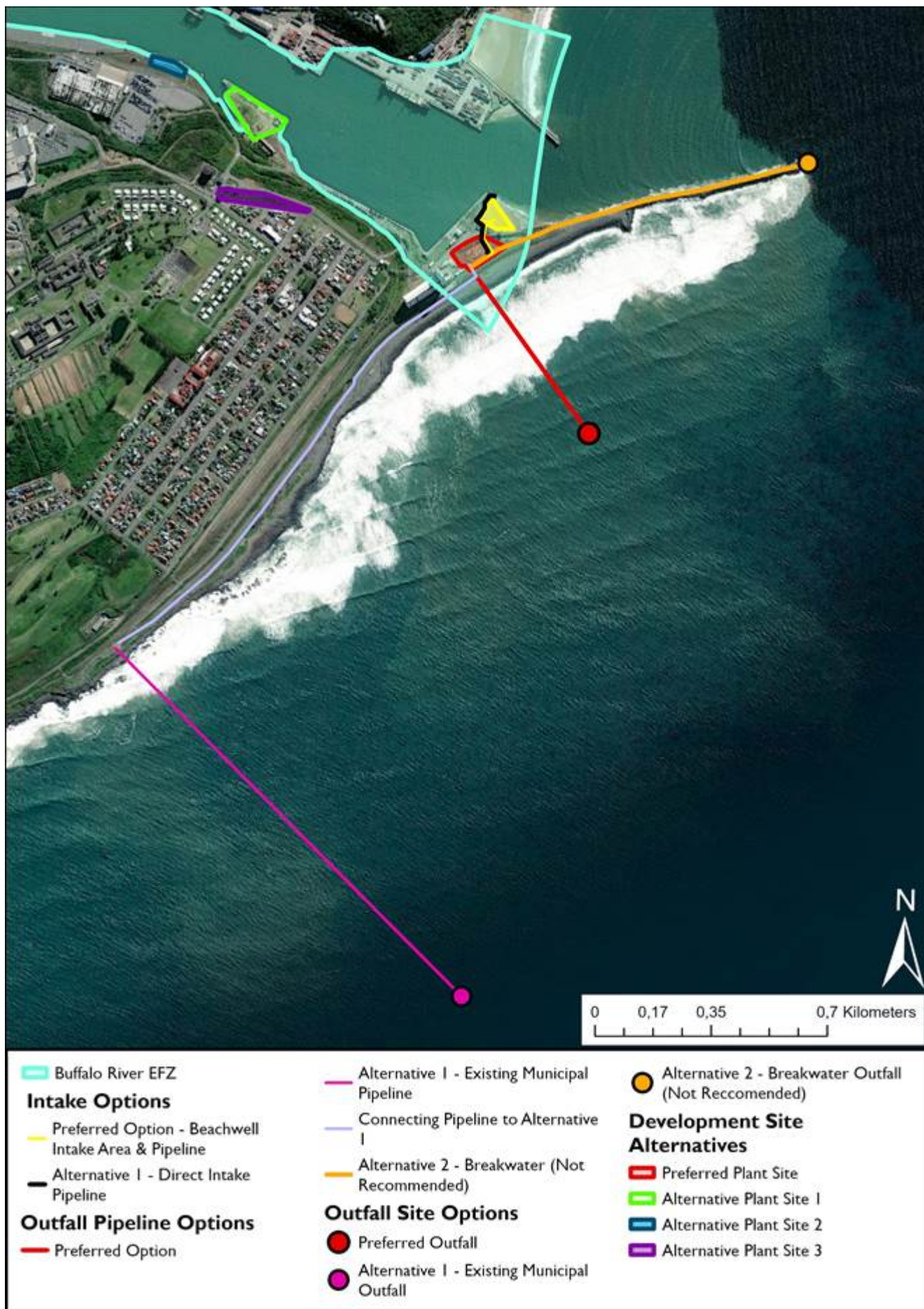
Please refer to the map below indicating the preferred development layout in addition to the alternatives layouts in terms of the desalination plant site, intake and outfall.

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Given that the plant requires a marine outfall within coastal waters, this project does require a CWDP, under the National Environmental Management: Integrated Coastal Management Act (NEM:ICMA, Act 24 of 2008). Anchor is currently in the process of applying for this permit.



Considering the information provided above, it appears that several components of the project could potentially be classified as water uses under Section 21 of the NWA. However, based on our understanding of the legislation and past experience with similar projects in comparable

environments (such as desalination plants in EFZs), the management of coastal waters (including estuaries), and hence this project and its associated activities, would be governed by the NEM: ICMA under the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE), rather than the NWA under the Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS). Therefore, it is our view that a WUL or GA would not be required. The rationale behind our statement follows below.

Despite sourcing water for the plant from the Buffalo River Estuary (either via beach wells or directly from the estuary), the water will primarily consist of highly saline seawater due to the proposed intake locations at the estuary's lowest portion (mouth) and near the port breakwater. This abstraction is expected to have no or negligible impacts on estuary conditions and will not alter the natural freshwater supply to the Buffalo River System. In addition, the proposed beach wells are situated within a beach area near the port breakwater, and the groundwater component is likely to be rapidly-recharging seawater. Consequently, this is not anticipated to affect the fresh groundwater table or pose a risk of saline intrusion in the surrounding areas.

Furthermore, despite storing desalinated (fresh) water and highly saline brine in storage tanks on-site, this process will not impact the natural freshwater supply to the Buffalo River System. Additionally, the desalinated water will not be connected to the municipal water supply but will be pumped via a closed circuit to users within Transnet and the nearby factory.

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Furthermore, although the construction of the various saltwater intake options could possibly be considered an alteration of the bed or banks of a river, the direct intake pipeline option (Intake Alternative 1) will only consist of a very short length of pipe protruding from a current vertical concrete port wall (which has no riparian value and will not alter the hydrodynamics of the estuary), and the beach well option (Preferred Intake Option) will only result in minor alterations to an already highly disturbed (and potentially artificial) beach area.

In conclusion, considering the project's occurrence in a highly disturbed and marine-dominated port environment with relatively minimal freshwater influence and negligible practical significance to any riparian habitat, and given that estuary management falls under ICMA, it is our opinion that it would not be appropriate for this project to require either a GA or WUL under the NWA. Instead, the activities should fall under the NEMA and ICMA (with only an EA and CWDP being required).

We would greatly appreciate your confirmation regarding whether the DWS aligns with the interpretation provided above, indicating that a WUL and GA are not required for the proposed development, or its alternative options/layouts.

Thank you in advance

Kind Regards

Vriendelike Groete



CHERUSCHA SWART
SENIOR CONSULTANT

+27 21 701 3420 (tel)
cheruscha@anchorenmvironmental.co.za
8 Steenberg House, Silverwood Close
Tokai 7945, South Africa

EAPASA Reg no.2021/3298
Pr.Sci.Nat. 155305

From: [Sindiswa Dlomo](#)
To: [Cheruscha Swart](#); [Screening](#)
Subject: RE: EIA Query related to selecting a Category
Date: Wednesday, 13 November 2024 09:10:33
Attachments: [image004.png](#)
[image005.png](#)

Afternoon Ms Swart,

Please run the screening tool twice and submit both reports with the request for a pre application meeting and or application for environmental authorisation. Site Sensitivity verification (SSV) will need to be undertaken for all theme to confirm or dispute the findings of the screening tool. The SSV will assist in making a determination regarding which specialist studies are required for the proposed project as per the requirements of the protocols.

Regards,

Ms. Sindiswa (Sindi) Dlomo
EAPASA Registration: 2022/5730
Designation: Deputy Director: National Infrastructure Projects
Chief Directorate: Integrated Environmental Authorisations
Department of Forestry, Fisheries, and the Environment
Tel: 012 399 9390
Cell: 076 940 5716
Email: SDlomo@environment.gov.za

From: Cheruscha Swart <cheruscha@anchorenvironmental.co.za>
Sent: Wednesday, 13 November 2024 08:27
To: [Screening](#) <Screening@dfpe.gov.za>; Sindiswa Dlomo <SDLOMO@dfpe.gov.za>
Subject: RE: EIA Query related to selecting a Category

Dear Lisa,

Thank you very much.

Kind Regards
Vriendelike Groete



CHERUSCHA SWART
SENIOR CONSULTANT

+27 21 701 3420 (tel)
cher@anchorenvironmental.co.za
8 Steenberg House, Silverwood Close
Tokai 7945, South Africa

EAPASA Reg no.2021/3298
Pr.Sci.Nat. 155305

From: [Screening](#) <Screening@dfpe.gov.za>
Sent: Tuesday, 12 November 2024 16:04
To: Sindiswa Dlomo <SDLOMO@dfpe.gov.za>
Cc: Cheruscha Swart <cheruscha@anchorenvironmental.co.za>; [Screening](#) <Screening@dfpe.gov.za>
Subject: FW: EIA Query related to selecting a Category

Good day Cheruscha

I am forwarding your query to the **EIA section**.

@ [Sindiswa](#) – please look at the mail below for your opinion and advise to [Cheruscha](#).

Kind regards

Lisa Pretorius

Directorate: Environmental Spatial Information
Office Number: 012 399 9301

From: Cheruscha Swart <cheruscha@anchorenvironmental.co.za>
Sent: Tuesday, 12 November 2024 13:13
To: Screening <Screening@dfpe.gov.za>
Cc: Michael Armitage <michael@anchorenvironmental.co.za>; Cheruscha Swart <cheruscha@anchorenvironmental.co.za>
Subject: Query related to selecting a Category

Good day,

Re: Query related to selecting a Category

I trust this email finds you well.

The project in question will be a desalination plant (this is the main activity). However, the desal plant will be powered by solar power and will therefore also have a solar plant (PV) (see the image of the layout below).

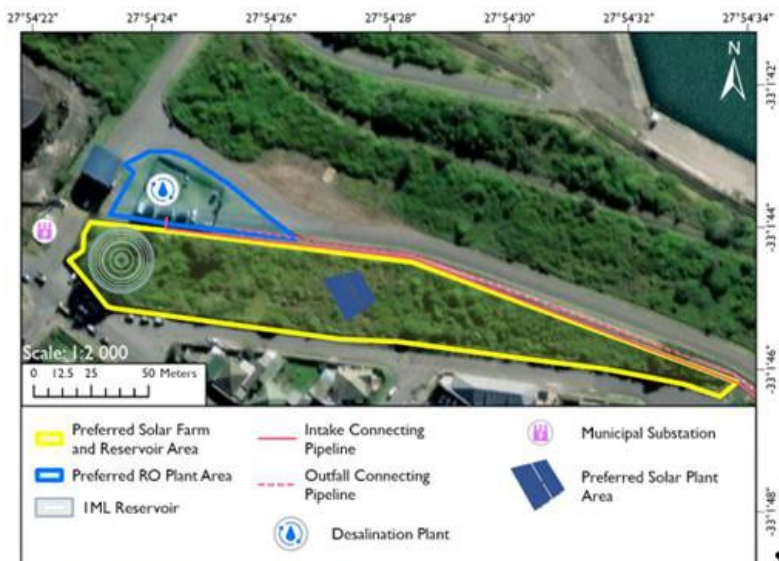


Figure 4.1: Locality map of the preferred Site

My question is, do we select the desalination category (Services | Water Services | Desalination) or do we select the Solar Power category (Utilities Infrastructure | Electricity | Generation | Renewable | Solar | PV). The Proposed Development Area Environmental Sensitivity themes and some of the ratings as well as the Specialist assessments identified are different between the two. See below. Or do we run the screening tool twice and use both reports for the EIA?

Desalination:

Theme	Very High sensitivity	High sensitivity	Medium sensitivity	Low sensitivity
Agriculture Theme		X		
Animal Species Theme		X		
Aquatic Biodiversity Theme	X			
Archaeological and Cultural Heritage Theme	X			
Civil Aviation Theme	X			
Defence Theme	X			
Paleontology Theme	X			
Plant Species Theme			X	
Terrestrial Biodiversity Theme	X			

1. Agricultural Impact Assessment
2. Archaeological and Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment
3. Palaeontology Impact Assessment
4. Terrestrial Biodiversity Impact Assessment
5. Aquatic Biodiversity Impact Assessment
6. Marine Impact Assessment
7. Hydrology Assessment
8. Noise Impact Assessment
9. Geotechnical Assessment
10. Plant Species Assessment
11. Animal Species Assessment

Solar:

Theme	Very High sensitivity	High sensitivity	Medium sensitivity	Low sensitivity
Agriculture Theme		X		
Animal Species Theme		X		
Aquatic Biodiversity Theme	X			
Archaeological and Cultural Heritage Theme	X			
Avian Theme				X
Civil Aviation (Solar PV) Theme			X	
Defence Theme				X
Landscape (Solar) Theme	X			
Paleontology Theme	X			
Plant Species Theme			X	
RFI Theme			X	
Terrestrial Biodiversity Theme	X			

1. Agricultural Impact Assessment
2. Landscape/Visual Impact Assessment
3. Archaeological and Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment
4. Palaeontology Impact Assessment
5. Terrestrial Biodiversity Impact Assessment
6. Aquatic Biodiversity Impact Assessment
7. Civil Aviation Assessment
8. Defense Assessment
9. RFI Assessment
10. Geotechnical Assessment
11. Socio-Economic Assessment
12. Plant Species Assessment
13. Animal Species Assessment

Your assistance will be greatly appreciated.
Thank you in advance

Kind Regards
Vriendelike Groete



EAPASA Reg no.2021/3298
Pr.Sci.Nat. 155305

CHERUSCHA SWART
SENIOR CONSULTANT

+27 21 701 3420 (tel)
cher@anchorenmvironmental.co.za
8 Steenberg House, Silverwood Close
Tokai 7945, South Africa

Cheruscha Swart

From: Thivhulawi Nethononda <TNETHONONDA@dffe.gov.za>
Sent: Tuesday, 04 February 2025 15:07
To: Cheruscha Swart
Cc: Mashudu Mudau
Subject: FW: EIA Project: Query Regarding Potential Overlap of Project's Outfall Pipeline Alternative with Potters Pass Nature Reserve Protected Area and Permit/Authorisation Requirements
Attachments: 2025_02_03 Query regarding potential overlap with Protected Area.pdf

Hi Ms Swart

Our yesterday telephone conversation as reference

The directorate: Protected Areas Planning and Management Effectiveness would like to advise that you must remove alternative 3 (blue line) from your development proposal. The reason to remove the alternative 3, is that the area is highly sensitive and it include the boundary of the Potters Pass Nature Reserve that is going to be affected by the development. We also support the preferred alternative 1 as suggested by the report.

Hope our inputs will provide necessary guidance to your process.

Thanks
Thivhulawi

From: Cheruscha Swart <cheruscha@anchorencvironmental.co.za>
Sent: Monday, February 3, 2025 2:01 PM
To: Thivhulawi Nethononda <TNETHONONDA@dffe.gov.za>
Subject: FW: EIA Project: Query Regarding Potential Overlap of Project's Outfall Pipeline Alternative with Potters Pass Nature Reserve Protected Area and Permit/Authorisation Requirements



Kind Regards
Vriendelike Groete



CHERUSCHA SWART
SENIOR CONSULTANT

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cher@anchorenmvironmental.co.za
8 Steenberg House, Silverwood Close
Tokai 7945, South Africa

EAPASA Reg no.2021/3298
Pr.Sci.Nat. 155305

From: Cheruscha Swart

Sent: Monday, 03 February 2025 13:05

To: 'RMagodi@dfre.gov.za' <RMagodi@dfre.gov.za>; 'Tnethononda@dfre.gov.za' <Tnethononda@dfre.gov.za>

Cc: 'adana@dfre.gov.za' <adana@dfre.gov.za>; 'smampe@dfre.gov.za' <smampe@dfre.gov.za>; Michael Armitage <michael@anchorenmvironmental.co.za>; Cheruscha Swart <cheruscha@anchorenmvironmental.co.za>; Sisanda Dalasile <sisanda@anchorenmvironmental.co.za>

Subject: FW: EIA Project: Query Regarding Potential Overlap of Project's Outfall Pipeline Alternative with Potters Pass Nature Reserve Protected Area and Permit/Authorisation Requirements

Good afternoon,

I trust you are well.

Subject: Query Regarding Potential Overlap of Project's Outfall Pipeline Alternative with Potters Pass Nature Reserve Protected Area and Permit/Authorisation Requirements

Transnet SOC Limited is in the process of applying for Environmental Authorisation for a 2 MLD solar-powered Reverse Osmosis (RO) desalination plant within the Port of East London, Buffalo City Metropolitan Municipality. Anchor Environmental Consultants (Pty) Ltd (Anchor) has been appointed to conduct the Scoping and Environmental Impact Assessment (S&EIA) for this project.

We seek your guidance on the following:

1. Whether one of the project's Marine Pipeline & Outfall Alternatives overlaps with the Potters Pass Nature Reserve Protected Area.
2. If such an overlap exists, whether permits or authorisations are required from your Directorate.

We have attached the project description and details of our query for your review.

Your guidance and clarity on this matter would be greatly appreciated. Please let us know if any additional information is required to assist with your review.

Thank you in advance

Kind Regards
Vriendelike Groete



CHERUSCHA SWART
SENIOR CONSULTANT

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cher@anchorenmvironmental.co.za
8 Steenberg House, Silverwood Close
Tokai 7945, South Africa

EAPASA Reg no.2021/3298
Pr.Sci.Nat. 155305

3 February 2025

DFFE Protected Areas Directorate
To whom it may Concern

Good day,

RE: Potential Overlap of Project's Outfall Pipeline Alternative with Potters Pass Nature Reserve Protected Area and Permit/Authorisation Requirements

Brief Project Background:

Transnet SOC Limited (Transnet National Ports Authority) is in the process of applying for Environmental Authorisation for a two (2) megalitre per day (MLD) solar-powered Reverse Osmosis (RO) desalination plant within the Port of East London, Buffalo City Metropolitan Municipality. Anchor Environmental Consultants (Pty) Ltd (Anchor) has been contracted to conduct the Scoping and Environmental Impact Assessment (S&EIA) prior to the construction and operation of the plant.

Please refer to Figure 1 below, which shows the preferred development layout (marked in red) for the RO desalination plant, solar plant, reservoir, and proposed water intake and outfall pipelines and locations. The map also shows the alternative layouts for the development. The preferred intake method involves beach boreholes (beachwells) (Preferred Alternative 1). Alternatively, water may be pumped from either the estuary (Intake Alternatives 2 or 5) or directly from the marine environment (Intake Alternatives 3 or 4). A total of 5 265 cubic metres of seawater will be abstracted daily, processed at the RO plant, and 2 000 cubic metres of freshwater will be produced. The remaining brine (3 260 cubic metres daily) will be transported via an Outfall Connecting Pipeline and discharged into the marine environment through a Marine Outfall & Pipeline.

Outfall Alternative 3 proposes the use of the existing Municipal Hood Point Outfall & Pipeline. However, this would require the construction of a new pipeline (indicated as a thick blue line in Figure 1) from the Outfall Connecting Pipeline to the existing Hood Point Outfall Pipeline. A small section of this new pipeline, just before it links to the existing municipal pipeline, may traverse the Potter's Pass Nature Reserve Protected Area, as depicted in (Figure 2).

We seek your guidance on the following:

1. Confirmation of Protected Area Boundary:

According to the **Eastern Cape Biodiversity and Conservation Plan¹ (ECBCP)** GIS layer (Figure 2), the Potters Pass Nature Reserve extends over the railway line up to the High Water Mark (HWM). If accurate, the upper portion of the existing Municipal Hood Point Outfall Pipeline, as well as a section of the newly proposed pipeline for Outfall Alternative 3, would traverse the protected area. However, the **South African Protected Areas Database² (SAPAD)** GIS layer (Figure 3) shows the reserve boundary ending above the railway line, excluding the existing and proposed pipelines. Please could you confirm which GIS layer accurately represents the boundary of the Potters Pass Nature Reserve?

2. Permit/Authorisation Requirements:

If there is overlap with the reserve (per the ECBCP layer), are there any authorisations, permissions, or permits required from your Directorate for the proposed Outfall Alternative 3?

We greatly appreciate your assistance and guidance on this matter. Please let us know if further clarification or information is needed.

Thank you in advance for your time

Yours sincerely,



Cheruscha Swart
Senior Consultant
Environmental Assessment Practitioner
(EAPASA Reg no.2021/3298)

¹ Hawley & Desmet.P.2020. Eastern Cape Biodiversity and Conservation Plan, Freshwater CBA [shape file] version 5.2020. Eastern Cape South Africa: The Eastern Cape Department of Economic Development, Environment Affairs and Tourism

² South Africa Protected Areas Database Citation Information: Originator: Department of Forestry, Fisheries, and the Environment Publication Date: 2024/06/28 Title: South Africa Protected Areas Database (SAPAD_OR_2024_Q1) Geospatial Data Presentation Form: Vector digital data Other Citation Details: The South Africa Protected Areas Database is provided for download as a zip file containing shape files for major types of protected areas. The zip file also includes a definitions document, Protected Areas Definition & SAPAD Data Release Schedule 2023/2024. Online Linkage: <http://egis.environment.gov.za>.

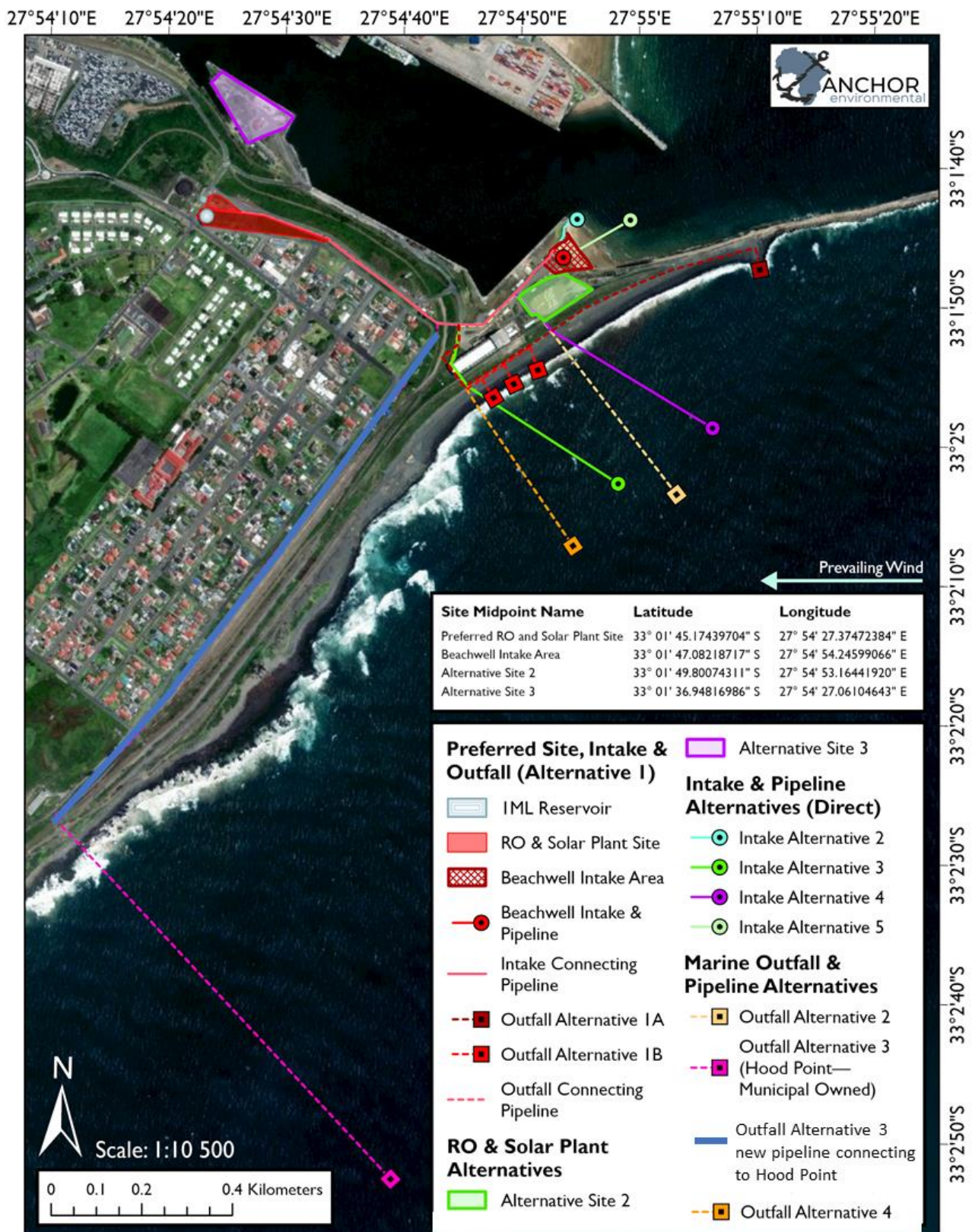


Figure 1. Preferred and alternative development layouts for the proposed RO desalination plant and pipeline routes.

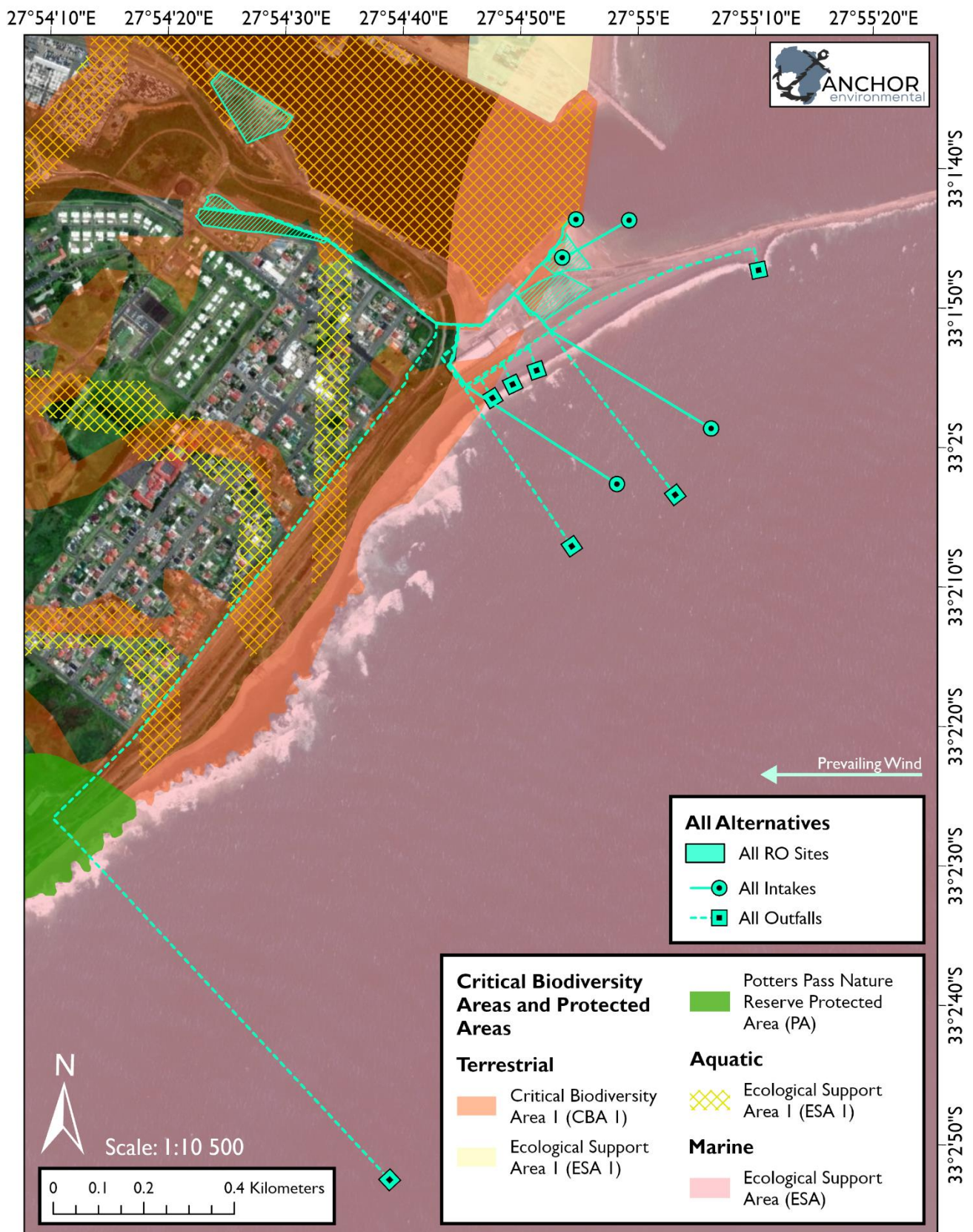


Figure 2. Preferred and alternative development layouts for the proposed RO desalination plant and pipeline routes in relation to Critical Biodiversity and Protected Areas (Source: Hawley & Desmet, P. 2020. Eastern Cape Biodiversity and Conservation Plan (ECBCP)).

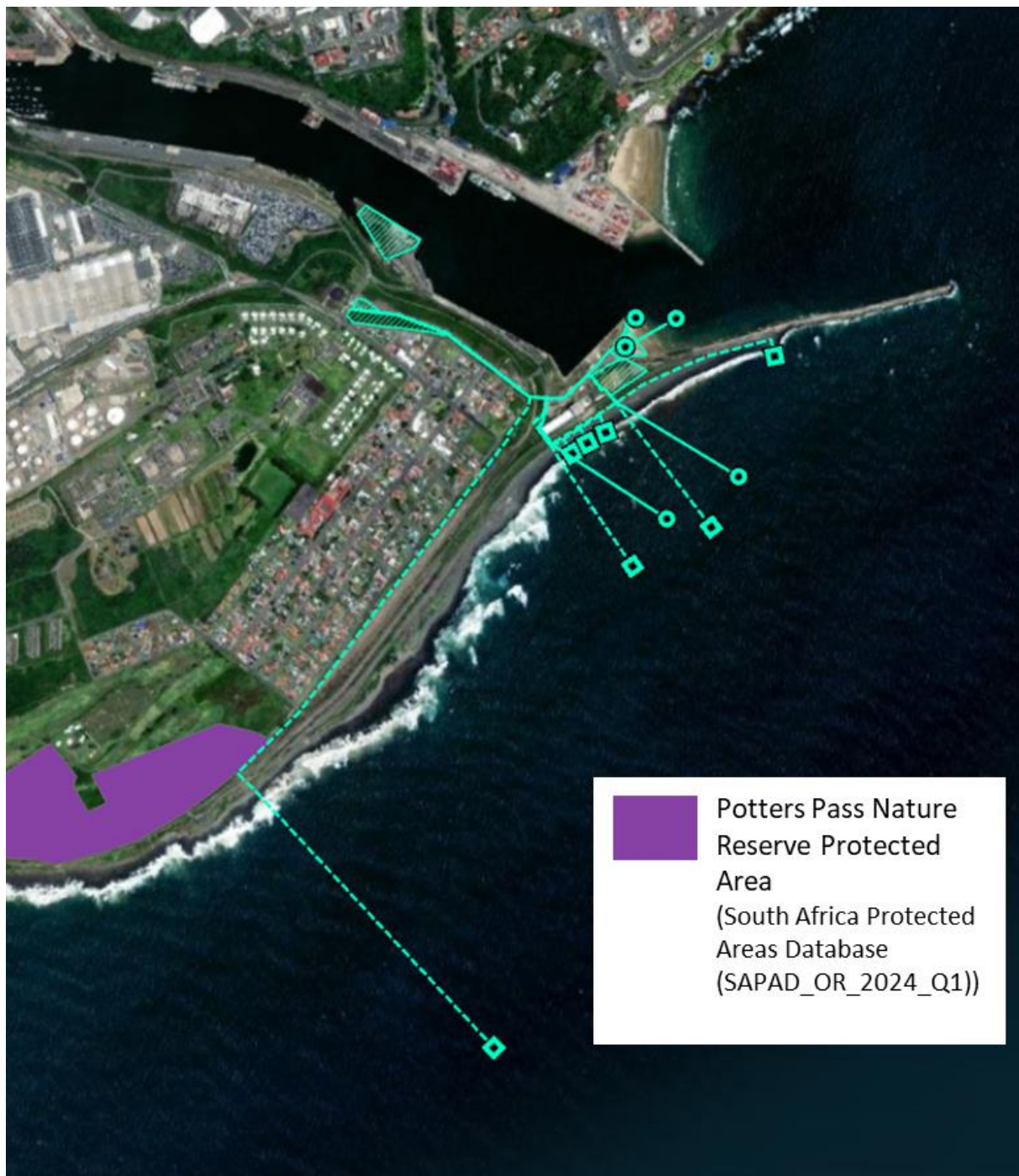


Figure 3. Preferred and alternative development layouts for the proposed RO desalination plant and pipeline routes in relation to the Potters Pass Nature Reserve Protected Area (Source: South Africa Protected Areas Database (SAPAD)).

From: [Babalwa Layini](#)
To: [Luyolo Tayi](#); [Zimvo Mbuyeleni](#)
Cc: [Thobani Vetsheza](#); [Cheruscha Swart](#)
Subject: FW: INVITATION TO COMMENT ON THE DRAFT SCOPING REPORT: DFFE EA Ref no: 14/12/16/3/3/2/2675
Date: Thursday, 06 March 2025 20:35:19
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image005_emz was removed from this message.msg](#)
[Invitation Comment on Draft Scoping Report.pdf](#)

Good Day Luyolo

Kindly receive this falls within your area. Cheruscha I am covering the Sarah Baartman District and Nelson Mandela Metro.

Kind Regards
Babalwa

From: Cheruscha Swart <cheruscha@anchorensvironmental.co.za>
Sent: Thursday, 06 March 2025 16:32
To: Babalwa Layini <BLayini@dffe.gov.za>
Cc: Cheruscha Swart <cheruscha@anchorensvironmental.co.za>; Sisanda Dalasile <sisanda@anchorensvironmental.co.za>
Subject: FW: INVITATION TO COMMENT ON THE DRAFT SCOPING REPORT: DFFE EA Ref no: 14/12/16/3/3/2/2675

Dear Stakeholder/ Interested and Affected Party,

RE: INVITATION TO COMMENT ON THE DRAFT SCOPING REPORT

DFFE EA Application Reference Number: 14/12/16/3/3/2/2675.

The letter of invitation is attached for your reference.

APPLICATION FOR ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION (EA) BY MEANS OF A SCOPING & ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT (S&EIA) FOR THE PROPOSED TWO (2) MEGALITRE PER DAY (MLD) SOLAR POWERED SEAWATER DESALINATION PLANT IN THE PORT OF EAST LONDON, BUFFALO CITY METROPOLITAN MUNICIPALITY, EASTERN CAPE PROVINCE, BY TRANSNET NATIONAL PORTS AUTHORITY

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Saline water will be abstracted and desalinated (salt removed) at the plant and two megalitres of fresh water produced per day. This fresh water will be used by TNPA to support operations within the port. The highly saline water which is produced by the plant during the desalination process, will be transported through a pipeline to a marine outfall. Water will be discharged through this marine outfall into the ocean to rapidly disperse and mix with ocean waters.

Anchor Environmental Consultants (Pty) Ltd was subcontracted to undertake

the S&EIA Process for the proposed development, prior to its construction. A S&EIA is required to assess the Listed Activities as well as the potential social, environmental and other impacts before the project may commence.

A Draft Scoping Report (DSR), which provides details on the project and a preliminary assessment of potential impacts, will be available for public review and comment:

- **Digitally on Anchor's website:** <https://anchorenvironmental.co.za/public-documents>

As Hardcopies at:

- o Buffalo City Central Library 18 Gladstone St, East London Cbd East London
- o West Bank Library Hood St, West Bank Village, East London

- **Invitation to Comment**

We invite all Interested and Affected parties (I&APs) to review the DSR and submit comments, questions or concerns, during the public commenting period from: 11 March to 23:59 on 10 April 2025. Register as an I&AP to receive future communication/ updates on the project. COMMENTS DUE BEFORE: 23:59 ON 10 APRIL 2025.

To submit comments/ questions, or to register as an I&AP, contact:



ANCHOR
environmental

EAPASA Reg no.2021/3298
Pr.Sci.Nat. 155305

From: [Briant Noncembu](#)
To: [Cheruscha Swart](#); [Lulama Daniels](#); [Phumeza Gxala](#); [Bhelinda Mtamo](#); [Nondwe Mdekazi](#); [Vuyelwa Mantyi](#); [Jackoleen Breetzke](#)
Cc: [Sisanda Dalasile](#); [Mziyanda Mkosana](#); [Briant Noncembu](#); [Thina Thandani](#); [Ndileka Nazo](#); [Nonzukiso Ntshutsha](#); [Reinaldo Bishop](#); [Nozuko Mabongo](#); [Pumzile Liganiso](#)
Subject: RE: INVITATION TO COMMENT ON THE DRAFT SCOPING REPORT: DFFE EA Ref no: 14/12/16/3/3/2/2675
Date: Friday, 07 March 2025 04:18:44
Attachments: [image003.png](#)
[image006.emz](#)
[image004.emz](#)
[image005.emz](#)
[image007.emz](#)
[image009.png](#)
[image010.png](#)

Good day Cherusha

Receipt of your email request for comments in respect of the Draft Scoping Report in respect of the proposed two Megalitres per day (MLD) solar powered seawater desalination plant in the Port of East London, BCMM, Eastern Cape Province, by Transnet National Ports Authority (TNPA), is hereby acknowledged.

The set timeframes for the submission of comments are noted and this office will endeavour to, after scrutiny of the submitted reports, within the stipulated timeframe, submit the requested comments. Trusting this will suffice in the meantime, however, the underwritten may be contacted for any further query or need for information in this regard.

Kind regards & God bless you

Briant Noncembu

REGIONAL MANAGER: ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS
AMATHOLE

From: Cheruscha Swart <cheruscha@anchorenenvironmental.co.za>
Sent: Thursday, 06 March 2025 16:37
To: Briant Noncembu <Briant.Noncembu@dedea.gov.za>; Lulama Daniels <Lulama.daniels@dedea.gov.za>; Phumeza Gxala <Phumeza.Gxala@dedea.gov.za>; Bhelinda Mtamo <Bhelinda.Mtamo@dedea.gov.za>; Nondwe Mdekazi <Nondwe.Mdekazi@dedea.gov.za>; Vuyelwa Mantyi <Vuyelwa.Mantyi@dedea.gov.za>; Jackoleen Breetzke <Jackoleen.Breetzke@dedea.gov.za>
Cc: Cheruscha Swart <cheruscha@anchorenenvironmental.co.za>; Sisanda Dalasile <sisanda@anchorenenvironmental.co.za>
Subject: FW: INVITATION TO COMMENT ON THE DRAFT SCOPING REPORT: DFFE EA Ref no: 14/12/16/3/3/2/2675

Dear Stakeholder/ Interested and Affected Party,

RE: INVITATION TO COMMENT ON THE DRAFT SCOPING REPORT

DFFE EA Application Reference Number: 14/12/16/3/3/2/2675.

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ANCHOR
environmental

EAPASA Reg no.2021/3298
Pr.Sci.Nat. 155305

'Everything in this email and its attachments relating to the official business of the Eastern Cape Provincial Government and the Department of Economic Development Environmental Affairs and Tourism is proprietary to the ECPG and DEDEAT. It is confidential, legally privileged and protected by law. The person addressed in the email is the sole authorized recipient. Should you receive it in error, immediately notify the sender of the error and delete the e-mail. Any unauthorized dissemination or copying of this e-mail (or any attachment to this e-mail) or the wrongful disclosure of the information here in contained is prohibited. Also note that this form of communication is not secure, it can be intercepted, and may not necessarily be free of errors and viruses in spite of reasonable efforts to secure this medium'; and fall back to action Wrap if the disclaimer can't be inserted.

From: [Cheruscha Swart](#)
To: [John Geeringh](#)
Subject: RE: INVITATION TO COMMENT ON THE DRAFT SCOPING REPORT: DFFE EA Ref no: 14/12/16/3/3/2/2675
Date: Monday, 10 March 2025 10:51:00
Attachments: [image002.png](#)
[2025.02.18_PoEL_Desal_Plant_TNPA.kmz](#)

Dear John,

Please find attached.

Kind Regards
Vriendelike Groete



CHERUSCHA SWART
SENIOR CONSULTANT

+27 21 701 3420 (tel)
cheruscha@anchorenvironmental.co.za
8 Steenberg House, Silverwood Close
Tokai 7945, South Africa

EAPASA Reg no.2021/3298
Pr.Sci.Nat. 155305

From: John Geeringh <GeerinJH@ntcsa.co.za>
Sent: Monday, 10 March 2025 09:05
To: Cheruscha Swart <cheruscha@anchorenvironmental.co.za>
Subject: RE: INVITATION TO COMMENT ON THE DRAFT SCOPING REPORT: DFFE EA Ref no: 14/12/16/3/3/2/2675

Please send me a KMZ file of the proposed development/development area

Kind regards

John Geeringh (Pr Sci Nat) Reg. EAP (EAPASA)
Senior Consultant Environmental Management
Grid Planning: Land and Rights
National Transmission Company South Africa SOC Ltd (NTCSA)
Megawatt Park, B2Y25, Maxwell Drive, Sunninghill, Sandton.
P O Box 1091, Johannesburg, 2000.
Tel: +27 (0)11 516 7233
Cell: +27 (0)83 632 7663
E-mail: john.geeringh@ntcsa.co.za

Disclaimer

NB: This Email and its contents are subject to the NTCSA EMAIL LEGAL NOTICE which can be viewed

[here](#).

From: Cheruscha Swart <cheruscha@anchorenmvironmental.co.za>

Sent: Thursday, 06 March 2025 16:46

To: John Geeringh <GeerinJH@ntcsa.co.za>; John Geeringh <GeerinJH@ntcsa.co.za>

Cc: Cheruscha Swart <cheruscha@anchorenmvironmental.co.za>; Sisanda Dalasile <sisanda@anchorenmvironmental.co.za>

Subject: [CAUTION:EXTERNAL EMAIL] FW: INVITATION TO COMMENT ON THE DRAFT SCOPING REPORT: DFFE EA Ref no: 14/12/16/3/3/2/2675

Dear Stakeholder/ Interested and Affected Party,

RE: INVITATION TO COMMENT ON THE DRAFT SCOPING REPORT

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East London
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To submit comments/ questions, or to register as an I&AP, contact:

Ms Cheruscha Swart

Anchor Environmental Consultants (Pty) Ltd

Tel: 021 701 3420

Email: cher@anchorenvironmental.co.za



EAPASA Reg no.2021/3298
Pr.Sci.Nat. 155305

From: [Protea Pig](#)
To: [Cheruscha Swart](#)
Subject: Re: SOLAR-POWERED DESALINATION PLANT IN THE PORT OF EAST LONDON
Date: Tuesday, 11 March 2025 11:40:52

Good day

Thank you so much, we are able to view it now.

Kind regards

Dianne Moss

Protea Pipeline Services

Tel: 043 743 3451

Fax: 086 557 1855

Email: protea@proteapig.co.za

From: [Cheruscha Swart](#)
Sent: Tuesday, March 11, 2025 10:53 AM
To: [Protea Pig](#)
Subject: RE: SOLAR-POWERED DESALINATION PLANT IN THE PORT OF EAST LONDON

Good day,

Thank you for your email. Apologies for the inconvenience.
You should be able to access the document on our website now.

Kind Regards

Vriendelike Groete



CHERUSCHA SWART
SENIOR CONSULTANT

+27 21 701 3420 (tel)
cheruscha@anchorenvironmental.co.za
8 Steenberg House, Silverwood Close
Tokai 7945, South Africa

EAPASA Reg no.2021/3298
Pr.Sci.Nat. 155305

From: Protea Pig <protea@proteapig.co.za>
Sent: Tuesday, 11 March 2025 09:18
To: Cheruscha Swart <cheruscha@anchorenvironmental.co.za>
Subject: SOLAR-POWERED DESALINATION PLANT IN THE PORT OF EAST LONDON

Good day

INVITATION TO COMMENT ON THE PROPOSED SOLAR-POWERED DESALINATION PLANT IN

THE PORT OF EAST LONDON

DRAFT SCOPING REPORT:

We have tried to access the Draft Scoping Report online, but the report is not available as yet.

Kindly advise.

Thank you.

Kind regards

Dianne Moss

Protea Pipeline Services

Tel: 043 743 3451

Fax: 086 557 1855

Email: protea@proteapig.co.za



Virus-free. www.avast.com

From: [Ayanda Mncwabe-Mama](#)
To: [Cheruscha Swart](#)
Cc: [Lungiswa Mzazi](#)
Subject: Re: INVITATION TO COMMENT ON THE DRAFT SCOPING REPORT: DFFE EA Ref no: 14/12/16/3/3/2/2675
Date: Friday, 14 March 2025 09:08:05
Attachments: [image003.png](#)
[Outlook-iaq1svc0.png](#)

Dear Cheruscha

The project has been noted for the inclusion in our upcoming ECPHRA APM committee meeting scheduled for 18 March, will revert thereafter with a heritage comment. Otherwise I have also shared it with the national heritage agency, SAHRA's Marine Underwater Unit.

Best Regards,

Ayanda Mncwabe-Mama

Archaeologist: DSRAC Museums & Heritage / EC PHRA

Tel: (043) 492 1370

Address: No. 5 Eales Street | Qonce | 5600

*“Once you’ve made an observation,
you have an obligation”- MK Asante Jnr*



From: Azola Mkosana <manager@ecphra.org.za>
Sent: 07 March 2025 09:56
To: Ayanda Mncwabe-Mama <ayanda.mncwabe-mama@ecsrac.gov.za>
Subject: Fw: INVITATION TO COMMENT ON THE DRAFT SCOPING REPORT: DFFE EA Ref no: 14/12/16/3/3/2/2675

From: Cheruscha Swart <cheruscha@anchorenenvironmental.co.za>
Sent: Thursday, March 6, 2025 4:45 PM
To: Sinazo Mnyakama <sinazom@ecphra.org.za>; africam@ecphra.org.za <africam@ecphra.org.za>; Lungiswa Mzazi <lungiswam@ecphra.org.za>; Azola Mkosana <manager@ecphra.org.za>; ayanda.mncwabemama@ecsrac.gov.za <ayanda.mncwabemama@ecsrac.gov.za>; smokhanya@ecphra.org.za <smokhanya@ecphra.org.za>
Cc: Cheruscha Swart <cheruscha@anchorenenvironmental.co.za>; Sisanda Dalasile <sisanda@anchorenenvironmental.co.za>

Subject: FW: INVITATION TO COMMENT ON THE DRAFT SCOPING REPORT: DFFE EA Ref no: 14/12/16/3/3/2/2675

Dear Stakeholder/ Interested and Affected Party,

RE: INVITATION TO COMMENT ON THE DRAFT SCOPING REPORT

DFFE EA Application Reference Number: 14/12/16/3/3/2/2675.

The letter of invitation is attached for your reference.

APPLICATION FOR ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION (EA) BY MEANS OF A SCOPING & ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT (S&EIA) FOR THE PROPOSED TWO (2) MEGALITRE PER DAY (MLD) SOLAR POWERED SEAWATER DESALINATION PLANT IN THE PORT OF EAST LONDON, BUFFALO CITY METROPOLITAN MUNICIPALITY, EASTERN CAPE PROVINCE, BY TRANSNET NATIONAL PORTS AUTHORITY

Transnet SOC Limited (division Transnet National Ports Authority (TNPA)) is proposing to build and operate a two MLD solar-powered Reverse Osmosis (RO) seawater desalination plant within the Port of East London, Buffalo City Metropolitan Municipality, Eastern Cape Province.

Saline water will be abstracted and desalinated (salt removed) at the plant and two megalitres of fresh water produced per day. This fresh water will be used by TNPA to support operations within the port. The highly saline water which is produced by the plant during the desalination process, will be transported through a pipeline to a marine outfall. Water will be discharged through this marine outfall into the ocean to rapidly disperse and mix with ocean waters.

Anchor Environmental Consultants (Pty) Ltd was subcontracted to undertake the S&EIA Process for the proposed development, prior to its construction. A S&EIA is required to assess the Listed Activities as well as the potential social, environmental and other impacts before the project may commence.

A Draft Scoping Report (DSR), which provides details on the project and a preliminary assessment of potential impacts, will be available for public review and comment:

Digitally on Anchor's website: <https://anchorenvironmental.co.za/public-documents>

As Hardcopies at:

- Buffalo City Central Library 18 Gladstone St, East London Cbd East London
- West Bank Library Hood St, West Bank Village, East London

Invitation to Comment

We invite all Interested and Affected parties (I&APs) to review the DSR and submit comments, questions or concerns, during the public commenting period from: 11 March to 23:59 on 10 April 2025. Register as an I&AP to receive future communication/ updates on the project. COMMENTS DUE BEFORE: 23:59 ON 10 APRIL 2025.

To submit comments/ questions, or to register as an I&AP, contact:

Ms Cheruscha Swart

Anchor Environmental Consultants (Pty) Ltd

Tel: 021 701 3420

Email: cher@anchorenvironmental.co.za



ANCHOR
environmental

EAPASA Reg no.2021/3298
Pr.Sci.Nat. 155305

From: [BC Admin](#)
To: [Cheruscha Swart](#)
Cc: [MMatlala Rabothata](#); [Lindiwe Victoria Dlamini](#); [Nompumelelo Lekalakala](#)
Subject: RE: INVITATION TO COMMENT ON THE DRAFT SCOPING REPORT: DFFE EA Ref no: 14/12/16/3/3/2/2675
Date: Tuesday, 25 March 2025 13:01:33
Attachments: [image003.png](#)
[image001.png](#)

Dear Sir/Madam

DFFE Directorate: Biodiversity Conservation hereby acknowledge receipt of the invitation on the 04 March 2025 to review and comment on the project mentioned on the subject line. Kindly note that the project has been allocated to Mrs M Rabothata and Ms Lindiwe Dlamini (Copied on this email). In addition, kindly share the shapefiles of the development footprints/application site with the Case Officers.

Please note: All Public Participation Process documents related to Biodiversity EIA review and any other Biodiversity EIA queries must be submitted to the Directorate: Biodiversity Conservation at Email: BCAdmin@dffe.gov.za for attention of Mr Seoka Lekota.

Kind regards,

Lindiwe Victoria Dlamini

*Directorate: Biodiversity Mainstreaming and F&A
Branch: Biodiversity and Conservation
473 Steve Biko Road | Private Bag 9477 | Pretoria | 001
Cell: 0606295852 | Email: lvdlamini@dffe.gov.za
Website: www.environment.gov.za*

From: Cheruscha Swart <cheruscha@anchorenvironmental.co.za>
Sent: Thursday, 06 March 2025 16:27
To: BC Admin <bcadmin@dffe.gov.za>; Rofhiwa Magodi <RMagodi@dffe.gov.za>; Tshwanelo Leballo <tleballo@dffe.gov.za>; Thivhulawi Nethononda <TNETHONONDA@dffe.gov.za>; Mashudu Mudau <MaMudau@dffe.gov.za>; essop@dffe.gov.za; Mashudu Mudau <MaMudau@dffe.gov.za>; Portia Makitla <PMakitla@dffe.gov.za>; Khorommbi Matibe <KMatibe@dffe.gov.za>; Sydney Nkosi <shnkosi@dffe.gov.za>; tmakholela@dffe.gov.za; Khorommbi Matibe <KMatibe@dffe.gov.za>
Cc: Cheruscha Swart <cheruscha@anchorenvironmental.co.za>; Sisanda Dalasile <sisanda@anchorenvironmental.co.za>
Subject: FW: INVITATION TO COMMENT ON THE DRAFT SCOPING REPORT: DFFE EA Ref no: 14/12/16/3/3/2/2675

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To submit comments/ questions, or to register as an I&AP, contact:



ANCHOR
environmental

EAPASA Reg no.2021/3298
Pr.Sci.Nat. 155305

From: john.gribble@terramarearchaeology.com
To: [Ayanda Mncwabe-Mama](#)
Cc: [Cheruscha Swart](#); manager@ecphra.org.za; [Lungiswa Mzazi](#); [dgreen](#)
Subject: Re: Proposed Solar Powered Seawater Desalination Plant, BCMM
Date: Monday, 07 April 2025 07:03:23

Dear Ayanda

Thank you for your email to Cheruscha on Friday. Just to **confirm**, a separate case for the offshore portion of this project was opened on SAHRIS on 18 March (Case ID 24752).

Best regards

John

John Gribble
Director & Senior Archaeologist



TerraMare Archaeology (Pty) Ltd

Address: 5 Cannon Road, Plumstead, 7800

Tel: 078 616 2961

Email Disclaimer: The information contained in this communication is confidential and may be legally privileged. It is intended solely for the use of the individual or entity to whom it is addressed, and others authorised to receive it. If you are not the intended recipient you are hereby notified that any disclosure, copying, distribution or taking any action in reliance of the contents of this information is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful. TerraMare Archaeology (Pty) Ltd is neither liable for the proper and complete transmission of the information contained in this communication nor for any delay in its receipt.

On 04 Apr 2025, at 12:42, Ayanda Mncwabe-Mama <ayanda.mncwabe-mama@ecsrac.gov.za> wrote:

Dear Cheruscha

ECPHRA had a comment (which is attached) about the proposed development but I also engaged SAHRA (South African Heritage Resources Agency) who deal with maritime heritage, and they have requested a separate application on SAHRIS for the attention of SAHRA where they will issue an official comment with their requirements.

Best Regards,

Ayanda Mncwabe-Mama

Archaeologist: DSRAC Museums & Heritage / EC PHRA

Tel: (043) 492 1370

Address: No. 5 Eales Street | Qonce | 5600

*“Once you’ve made an observation,
you have an obligation”- MK Asante Jnr*

<Outlook-eryyrdtw.png>

<SAHRIS CASE ID 24725 Solar Powered Seawater Desalination Plant,
BCMM.pdf>



No.17 Commissioner Street, 2nd Floor Old Elco Building,
Telephone: 043 492 1940/1/2
Website: www.ecphra.org.za

PROJECT: PROPOSED 2ML/D SOLAR POWERED SEAWATER
DESALINATION PLANT IN THE PORT OF EAST LONDON, BCMM.

SAHRIS CASE ID: 24725

Enquiries: Ayanda Mncwabe-Mama
Date: 2025/04/04
Email: ayanda.mncwabe-mama@ecsrac.gov.za

Applicant: Transnet SOC Limited
Consultants: Anchor Environmental Consultants (Pty) Ltd
Contact Person: Cheruscha Swart
Email/Tel: cher@anchorencvironmental.co.za / (021) 701 3420

Heritage Consultants: TerraMare Archaeology (Pty) Ltd
Address: 5 Cannon Road, Plumstead, 7800
Contact Person: John Gribble
Email/Tel: John.gribble@terramarearchaeology.com / 078 616 2961

BACKGROUND

Transnet SOC Limited (division Transnet National Ports Authority (TNPA)) is proposing to build and operate a two MLD solar-powered Reverse Osmosis (RO) seawater desalination plant within the Port of East London, Buffalo City Metropolitan Municipality, Eastern Cape Province. Saline water will be abstracted and desalinated (salt removed) at the plant and two megalitres of fresh water produced per day. This fresh water will be used by TNPA to support operations within the port. The highly saline water which is produced by the plant during the desalination process, will be transported through a pipeline to a marine outfall. Water will be discharged through this marine outfall into the ocean to rapidly disperse and mix with ocean waters.

ECPHRA (Eastern Cape Provincial Heritage Authority) COMMENTS in terms of
Section 38 of the National Heritage Resources Act (25 of 1999).

*This case was tabled at the Archaeology, Palaeontology and Meteorites (APM)
Committee meeting held on 18 March 2025.*

ECPHRA Interim Heritage Comment:

ECPHRA requests the filled NID form (ECPHRA *Notice of Intent to Develop*) and a Phase 1 Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) with all aspects of development. The impact assessment should comprise of the ffg:

- Phase 1 AIA (archaeological and cultural heritage impact assessment), including a desktop/pre-feasibility and field assessment.

- Phase 1 PIA (paleontological impact assessment) including a desktop/pre-feasibility and field assessment.
- Desktop Maritime and Underwater Cultural heritage (MUCH) assessment.

Please include Proof of Payment (R500 NID & R1 500 HIA). See below application process.

NOTE: Heritage reports must meet the SAHRA (2007) reporting standards. Reports must be compiled by specialists (AIA by an archaeologist with a minimum of an Honours degree qualification & a PIA by a palaeontologist with a minimum of a Master's degree qualification).

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Azola Mkosana', with a horizontal line extending to the left.

Mr. Azola Mkosana
ECPHRA: Manager

General information:

1) ECPHRA fees

The following fees apply to your application:

R 500 - NID fee and

R 1 500 – HIA reports

Banking Details:

Bank name: First National Bank (FNB);

Account name: Eastern Cape Provincial Heritage Resources Authority;

Account type: Public Sector Business Account;

Account number: 62705406248;

Branch code: 211021;

Reference: Project or Development name / SAHRIS CaseID number

Proof of payment(s) must be emailed to:

accounts@ecphra.org.za with the subject: Project or Development name / SAHRIS CaseID

2) SAHRIS

A South African Heritage Resources Information System (SAHRIS) case must be registered for the development/project (<https://sahris.sahra.org.za/about/sahris>):

- Complete all relevant sections of the SAHRIS case application.
- Proof of payment(s) must be uploaded on the SAHRIS case under the *Additional Documents* section.
- The requested NIDs must be uploaded on the SAHRIS case

Once the NID have been submitted on the SAHRIS case, notify ECPHRA by email at lungiswam@ecphra.org.za with the subject SAHRIS CaseID number–development/project name. Your case will be tabled at the next APM meeting for purposes of a NHRA Section 38(4)/(8) comment.

3) Queries

Any queries regarding your case should be addressed to lungiswam@ecphra.org.za / ayanda.mncwabe-mama@ecsrac.gov.za with the subject SAHRIS CaseID number / Development/ Project name.

From: [Ayanda Mncwabe-Mama](#)
To: john.gribble@terramarearchaeology.com
Cc: [Cheruscha Swart](#); manager@ecphra.org.za; [Lungiswa Mzazi](#); [dgreen](#)
Subject: Re: Proposed Solar Powered Seawater Desalination Plant, BCMM
Date: Monday, 07 April 2025 10:28:53
Attachments: [Outlook-viewi0mb.png](#)

Dear John

Thank you, Nokukhanya Khumalo has also just informed me. Please do share their comments when you receive them.

Best Regards,

Ayanda Mncwabe-Mama

Archaeologist: DSRAC Museums & Heritage / EC PHRA

Tel: (043) 492 1370

Address: No. 5 Eales Street | Qonce | 5600

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From: john.gribble@terramarearchaeology.com <john.gribble@terramarearchaeology.com>
Sent: 07 April 2025 07:02
To: Ayanda Mncwabe-Mama <ayanda.mncwabe-mama@ecsrac.gov.za>
Cc: Cheruscha Swart <cheruscha@anchorenvironmental.co.za>; manager@ecphra.org.za <manager@ecphra.org.za>; Lungiswa Mzazi <lungiswam@ecphra.org.za>; dgreen <dgreen@eci.co.za>
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<Outlook-eryyrdtw.png>

<SAHRIS CASE ID 24725 Solar Powered Seawater Desalination Plant,
BCMM.pdf>

From: [Mashudu Mudau](#)
To: [Cheruscha Swart](#)
Cc: [Thivhulawi Nethononda](#); [Nompumelelo EN. Mtshali](#)
Subject: RE: INVITATION TO COMMENT ON THE DRAFT SCOPING REPORT: DFFE EA Ref no: 14/12/16/3/3/2/2675
Date: Monday, 07 April 2025 08:00:35
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

Dear Cheruscha

The Directorate: Protected Area Planning and Management Effectiveness would like to thank you for the opportunity to review the Draft Scoping Report for the proposed development of the Proposed Two (2) Megalitre Per Day (MLD) Solar Powered Seawater Desalination Plant in the Port Of East London, Buffalo City Metropolitan Municipality, Eastern Cape Province

The proposed development is located on Erf 63584, Erf 63586 and Erf 38530.

As per the previous communication with our directorate, we requested that Outfall alternative 3 be diverted away from the Potters Pass Nature Reserve to avoid any degradation in the protected area.

As per the scoping report, it is indicated the alternative 3 will eventually be excluded from consideration as an outfall alternative, however, it has been included and assessed in this application form and will also be referenced during the Scoping and EIA phases to demonstrate that it was considered.

The directorate notes that the DFFE Oceans and Coast branches for Coastal Development & Protection, Integrated Coastal Management, and Coastal Pollution Management and the DWS have been consulted.

The EAP must further consult the management authority of the Potters Pass Nature Reserve and the Amathole Marine Protected Area.

The directorate has no further comments subject to availability of new information.

The applicant must strictly adhere to the mitigation measures and recommendations from other stakeholders, interested and affected parties.

Regards,

Mashudu Mudau

Protected Areas Planning and Management Effectiveness
Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment
Environment House
473 Steve Biko and Soutpansberg Streets
PRETORIA
Tel: (012) 399 9945
Cell: 066 487 6975

E-mail: mamudau@dfpe.gov.za

From: Cheruscha Swart <cheruscha@anchorenvironmental.co.za>

Sent: Thursday, 06 March 2025 16:27

To: BC Admin <bcadmin@dfpe.gov.za>; Rofhiwa Magodi <RMagodi@dfpe.gov.za>; Tshwanelo Leballo <tleballo@dfpe.gov.za>; Thivhulawi Nethononda <TNETHONONDA@dfpe.gov.za>; Mashudu Mudau <MaMudau@dfpe.gov.za>; essop@dfpe.gov.za; Mashudu Mudau <MaMudau@dfpe.gov.za>; Portia Makitla <PMakitla@dfpe.gov.za>; Khorommibi Matibe <KMatibe@dfpe.gov.za>; Sydney Nkosi <shnkosi@dfpe.gov.za>; tmakholela@dfpe.gov.za; Khorommibi Matibe <KMatibe@dfpe.gov.za>

Cc: Cheruscha Swart <cheruscha@anchorenvironmental.co.za>; Sisanda Dalasile <sisanda@anchorenvironmental.co.za>

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ANCHOR
environmental

EAPASA Reg no.2021/3298
Pr.Sci.Nat. 155305

From: [Lydia Kutu](#)
To: [Cheruscha Swart](#)
Cc: [Trisha Rene Pillay](#); [EIAadmin](#); [Salome Mambane](#); [Nosicelo.Biyana@transnet.net](#); [environment@transnet.net](#); [Briant.Noncembu@dedea.gov.za](#); [JaneG@buffalocity.gov.za](#)
Subject: 14/12/16/3/3/2/2675
Date: Wednesday, 09 April 2025 08:52:22
Attachments: [14-12-16-3-3-2-2675.pdf](#)

Good day.

Please find herein the attached letter for the above mentioned date.

**Please do not respond to this mailbox with any queries related to the decision been issued.
All queries on the attached decision must be directed to official whose contact details is listed
as enquiries.**

I hope you find all in order.

Thank you.

Kind Regards,
Lydia Kutu
CD: Integrated Environmental Authorisations
Sub-Directorate: IEA Administrations & Reporting
Tel: 012 399 9370
Email: lkutu@dffe.gov.za

*Romans 11:36
To God be the Glory!!!*



forestry, fisheries & the environment

Department:
Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Private Bag X447, Pretoria, 0001, Environment House, 473 Steve Biko Road, Pretoria, 0002 Tel: +27 12 399 9000, Fax: +27 86 625 1042

DFFE Reference: 14/12/16/3/3/2/2675

Enquiries: Ms Trisha Pillay

Telephone: (012) 399 9406 **E-mail:** TPillay@dffe.gov.za

Ms Cheruscha Swart
Anchor Environmental Consultants (Pty) Ltd
Suite 8, Steenberg House
Silverwood Cl
Steenberg Office Park
Tokai
CAPE TOWN
7945

Telephone Number: (021) 701 3420
Email Address: cher@anchorencvironmental.co.za

PER EMAIL

Dear Ms Swart

COMMENTS ON THE DRAFT SCOPING REPORT FOR THE PROPOSED 2ML/D SOLAR-POWERED SEAWATER DESALINATION PLANT IN THE PORT OF EAST LONDON, BUFFALO CITY METROPOLITAN MUNICIPALITY, EASTERN CAPE PROVINCE

The Application for Environmental Authorisation and the draft Scoping Report (SR) dated March 2025 and received by the Department on 10 March 2025, refer.

This letter serves to inform you that the following information must be included to the final SR:

(a) Specific Comments

- (i) The co-ordinates in the SR must be specific to each activity and infrastructure that is proposed on the site. The co-ordinates for each corner of the reverse osmosis and solar plant site, reservoir, beach boreholes, and the start, middle and end coordinates for the marine outfall pipelines, and water intake pipelines must be included in the report, i.e., we require that you provide us with the specific development footprints for each development parameter, and not an area outlining the entire site.
- (ii) Please provide a concise, but complete, summary and bullet list of the project description and associated infrastructure (or project scope). This must include a list of all development components and associated infrastructure.
- (iii) Kindly ensure the development footprints (hectares/square metres) and specifications of all proposed infrastructure and associated infrastructure during all phases are included in the final SR.



Batho pele- putting people first

The processing of personal information by the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment is done lawfully and not excessive to the purpose of processing in compliance with the POPI Act, any codes of conduct issued by the Information Regulator in terms of the POPI Act and / or relevant legislation providing appropriate security safeguards for the processing of personal information of others.

JCA

- (iv) The final SR must clearly provide a detailed section which addresses the site sensitivity verification requirements where a specialist assessment is required but no specific assessment protocol has been prescribed, as well as the site sensitivity verification and minimum report content requirements for all specialist assessments undertaken, which was identified in the screening tool report. Kindly take note that this should be in the form of a report and should either confirm or dispute the sensitivity ratings for each theme identified by the screening tool report. Please refer to 1. Site sensitivity verification and minimum report content requirements of the Protocol document.
- (v) A motivation must be provided in the final SR as to why particular studies that were identified in the screening tool were not undertaken.
- (vi) Comments must be obtained from this Department's Biodiversity Conservation Directorate at BCAdmin@dffe.gov.za.
- (vii) Page 214 of the draft SR refers to the preparation of a draft Environmental Impact Report, Environmental Management Programme, and Biodiversity Offset Report. Kindly confirm if a Biodiversity Offset Report will be included in the draft EIAR.
- (viii) The development proposes beach wells and marine outfall pipelines. Therefore, comments from this Department's Oceans and Coast unit must be obtained to confirm whether approval is required from this unit since the proposed development will impact the marine environment. Find below the contact details for personnel at this Department's Oceans and Coast Directorate:
 - a) Name: Funanani Ditinti
Telephone: 012 399 9847
Email: fditinti@dffe.gov.za/ OCEIA@dffe.gov.za
- (ix) According to Figure 10 in the draft SR a section of the outfall alternative 3 pipeline falls within the Potters Pass Nature Reserve Area. Kindly note approval from the Management Authority in terms of the National Environmental Management: Protected Areas Act, 2003; Section 50 (5) for commercial and community activities in the National Park, and/or World Heritage Site may be required. Comments from this Department's Protected Areas Directorate must be obtained to confirm whether Approval from the Management Authority in terms of the National Environmental Management: Protected Areas Act, 2003; Section 50 (5) is required. Find below the contact details for personnel at this Department's Protected Areas Directorate:
 - a) Name: Ms Mashudu Mudau
Telephone no.: 012 399 9945
Email: mamudau@dffe.gov.za; and
 - b) Name: Thivhulawi Nethononda
Telephone: 012 399 9553
Email: Tnethononda@dffe.gov.za

(b) Listed Activities

- (i) Kindly ensure all activities applied for in the Application Form and the final SR are applicable to the proposed development and are quoted correctly as per the EIA Regulations 2014, as amended.
- (ii) Please ensure that all relevant listed activities are applied for, are specific and that it can be linked to the development activity or infrastructure as described in the project description.
- (iii) The listed activities represented in the SR, and the Application Form must be the same and correct.
- (iv) If the activities applied for in the Application Form differ from those mentioned in the final SR, an amended Application Form must be submitted.
- (v) Please note that the Department's application form template has been amended and can be downloaded from the following link <https://www.dffe.gov.za/documents/forms>.

(c) Layout & Sensitivity Maps

- (i) The final SR must provide coordinate points for the proposed development site (note that if the site has numerous bend points, at each bend point coordinates must be provided) as well as the start, middle and end point of all linear activities.
- (ii) Please provide a layout map which indicates the following:
 - a) Reverse osmosis and solar plant site;
 - b) Reservoir;
 - c) Beach boreholes;
 - d) Marine outfall pipelines;
 - e) Water intake pipelines;
 - f) Internal roads;
 - g) All supporting onsite infrastructure such as laydown area, guard house and control room etc. (existing and proposed);
 - h) All existing infrastructure on the site, especially railway lines and roads; and
 - i) Buildings, including accommodation.
- (iii) Please provide an environmental sensitivity map which indicates the following:
 - a) The location of sensitive environmental features identified on site, e.g. CBAs, protected areas, heritage sites, wetlands, drainage lines, nest and roosting sites, etc. that will be affected by the facility and its associated infrastructure;
 - b) Buffer areas; and
 - c) All “no-go” areas.
- (iv) The above layout map must be superimposed (overlain) with the sensitivity map and a cumulative map which shows neighbouring and existing infrastructure.
- (v) Google maps will not be accepted.

(d) Alternatives

- (i) Please provide a description of any identified alternatives for the proposed activity that are feasible and reasonable, including the advantages and disadvantages that the proposed activity or alternatives will have on the environment and on the community that may be affected by the activity as per Appendix 2 of GN R.982 of 2014 (as amended).
- (ii) Alternatively, you should submit written proof of an investigation and motivation if no reasonable or feasible alternatives exist in terms of Appendix 2.

(e) Public Participation Process

- (i) Please ensure that comments from all relevant stakeholders are submitted to the Department with the final SR. This includes but is not limited to the Eastern Cape Department of Economic Development and Environmental Affairs, the Buffalo City Metropolitan Municipality, the South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA) and the DFFE: Directorate Biodiversity and Conservation, DFFE: Directorate Protected Areas and DFFE: Directorate Oceans and Coast.
- (ii) Please ensure that all issues raised, and comments received during the circulation of the SR from registered I&APs and organs of state which have jurisdiction in respect of the proposed activity are adequately addressed in the final SR, including comments from this Department, and must be incorporated into a Comments and Response Report (CRR).
- (iii) Proof of correspondence with the various stakeholders must be included in the final SR. Should you be unable to obtain comments, proof should be submitted to the Department of the attempts that were made to obtain comments.

- (iv) The Public Participation Process must be conducted in terms of Regulation 39, 40, 41, 42, 43 and 44 of the EIA Regulations 2014, as amended.
- (v) A comments and response trail report (C&R) must be submitted with the final SR. The C&R report must incorporate all historical comments for this development. The C&R report must be a separate document from the main report and the format must be in the table format as indicated in Annexure 1 of this comments letter. Please refrain from summarising comments made by I&APs. All comments from I&APs must be copied verbatim and responded to clearly. Please note that a response such as "Noted" is not regarded as an adequate response to I&AP's comments.
- (vi) Minutes and attendance registers (where applicable) of any physical/virtual meetings held by the Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP) with Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) and other role players must be included in the final SR.

(f) Specialist Assessments

- (i) The EAP must ensure that the terms of reference for all the identified specialist studies include the following:
 - a) A detailed description of the study's methodology; indication of the locations and descriptions of the development footprint and all other associated infrastructures that they have assessed and are recommending for authorisation.
 - b) Provide a detailed description of all limitations to the studies. All specialist studies must be conducted in the right season and providing that as a limitation will not be allowed.
 - c) Please note that the Department considers a 'no-go' area, as an area where no development of any infrastructure is allowed; therefore, no development of associated infrastructure including access roads is allowed in the 'no-go' areas.
 - d) Should the specialist definition of 'no-go' area differ from the Department's definition; this must be clearly indicated. The specialist must also indicate the 'no-go' area's buffer if applicable.
 - e) **All specialist studies must be final, and provide detailed/practical mitigation measures for the preferred alternative and recommendations, and must not recommend further studies to be completed post EA.**
 - f) Should a specialist recommend specific mitigation measures, these must be clearly indicated.
- (ii) Should the appointed specialists specify contradicting recommendations, the EAP must clearly indicate the most reasonable recommendation and substantiate this with defensible reasons; and where necessary, include further expertise advice.
- (iii) Please ensure that all mitigation recommendations are in line with applicable and most recent guidelines.
- (iv) It is further brought to your attention that Procedures for the Assessment and Minimum Criteria for Reporting on identified Environmental Themes in terms of Sections 24(5)(a) and (h) and 44 of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998, when applying for Environmental Authorisation, which were promulgated in Government Notice No. 320 of 20 March 2020 (i.e. "the Protocols"), and in Government Notice No. 1150 of 30 October 2020 (i.e. protocols for terrestrial plant and animal species), have come into effect. **Please note that specialist assessments must be conducted in accordance with these protocols.**
- (v) As such, the Specialist Declaration of Interest forms must also indicate the scientific organisation registration/member number and status of registration/membership for each specialist.
- (vi) Please also ensure that the final SR includes the Site Verification Report as required by the relevant environmental themes and assessments.
- (vii) Please note further that the protocols, if applicable, require certain specialists' to be SACNASP registered. Please ensure that the relevant specialist certificates are attached to the relevant reports.

(g) Cumulative Assessment

- (i) The cumulative impact assessment for all identified and assessed impacts must be refined to indicate the following:
- Identified cumulative impacts must be clearly defined, and where possible the size of the identified impact must be quantified and indicated, i.e. hectares of cumulatively transformed land.
 - Detailed process flow and proof must be provided, to indicate how the specialist's recommendations, mitigation measures and conclusions from the various similar developments in the area were taken into consideration in the assessment of cumulative impacts and when the conclusion and mitigation measures were drafted for this project.
 - The cumulative impacts significance rating must also inform the need and desirability of the proposed development.
 - A cumulative impact environmental statement on whether the proposed development must proceed.

(h) General

You are further reminded to comply with Regulation 21(1) of the NEMA EIA Regulations 2014, as amended, which states that:

"If S&EIR must be applied to an application, the applicant must, within 44 days of receipt of the application by the competent authority, submit to the competent authority a scoping report which has been subjected to a public participation process of at least 30 days and which reflects the incorporation of comments received, including any comments of the competent authority"

You are reminded that the final SR to be submitted to this Department must comply with all the requirements in terms of the scope of assessment and content of Scoping Reports in accordance with Appendix 2 and Regulation 21(1) of the EIA Regulations 2014, as amended.

Further note that in terms of Regulation 45 of the EIA Regulations 2014, as amended, this application will lapse if the applicant fails to meet any of the timeframes prescribed in terms of these Regulations, unless an extension has been granted in terms of Regulation 3(7).

You are hereby reminded of Section 24F of the National Environmental Management Act, Act No. 107 of 1998, as amended, that no activity may commence prior to an Environmental Authorisation being granted by the Department.

Yours sincerely



Dr Sabelo Malaza

Chief Director: Integrated Environmental Authorisations

Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment

Signed by: Mr Coenrad Agenbach

Designation: Deputy Director: Prioritised Infrastructure Projects

Date: 08 April 2025

cc.	Ms Nosicelo Biyana	Transnet SOC Ltd	Email: Nosicelo.Biyana@transnet.net
	Mr Briant Noncembu	Eastern Cape Department of Economic Development and Environmental Affairs	Email: Briant.Noncembu@dedea.gov.za
	Ms Jane Gallo	Buffalo City Metropolitan Municipality	Email: JaneG@buffalocity.gov.za

Annexure 1

Format for Comments and Response Report:

Date of comment, format of comment name of organisation/I&AP,	Comment	Response from EAP/Applicant/Specialist
27/03/2021 Email Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment: Prioritised Infrastructure Projects (Joe Soap)	Please record C&R trail report in this format. Please update the contact details of the provincial environmental authority.	EAP: (Noted)The C&R trail report has been updated into the desired format, see Appendix K. EAP: Details of provincial authority have been updated, see page 16 of the Application form.



forestry, fisheries & the environment

Department:
Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Private Bag X 447, Pretoria, 0001, Environment House, 473 Steve Biko Road, Pretoria, Tel: +27 12 399 9000, Fax: +27 86 625 1042

Reference: 14/12/16/3/3/2/2675

Enquiries: Ms M Rabothata/ Ms L Dlamini

Telephone: (012) 399 9174 **E-mail:** MRabothata@environment.gov.za

Ms. Cheruscha Swart
Anchor Environmental Consultants (Pty) Ltd
8 Steenberg House
Silverwood Close
TOKAI
7945

Email Address: cher@anchorenvironmental.co.za

PER E-MAIL

Dear Ms. Swart

COMMENTS ON THE DRAFT SCOPING & ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT REPORT (S&EIA) FOR THE PROPOSED 2ML/D SOLAR POWERED SEAWATER DESALINATION PLANT IN THE PORT OF EAST LONDON, BUFFALO CITY METROPOLITAN MUNICIPALITY, EASTERN CAPE PROVINCE.

The Directorate: Biodiversity Conservation has reviewed and evaluated the report and does not have any objections to the draft Scoping Report and the Plan of Study. However, the EIA report must comply with the procedures for the assessment and minimum criteria for reporting on identified environmental themes in terms of sections 24(5) (A) and (H) and 44 of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998.

All the Public Participation Process documents related to Biodiversity EIA for review and queries should be submitted to the Directorate: Biodiversity Conservation at Email; BCAdmin@dfre.gov.za for the attention of **Mr. Seoka Lekota**.

Yours faithfully

Mr Seoka Lekota
Control Biodiversity Officer Grade B: Biodiversity Conservation
Department of Forestry, Fisheries & the Environment
Date: 07/04/2025



Batho pele- putting people first



The processing of personal information by the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment is done lawfully and not excessive to the purpose of processing in compliance with the POPI Act, any codes of conduct issued by the Information Regulator in terms of the POPI Act and / or relevant legislation providing appropriate security safeguards for the processing of personal information of others.

From: [Tabisile Mhlana](#)
To: [Cheruscha Swart](#); [OCEIA](#)
Cc: [Adv. Radia Razack](#); [Yazeed Peterson](#); [ORVPermitting](#); [Sibusiso Mbethe](#); [Ryan Peter](#); [Nontsasa Tonjeni](#)
Subject: RE: Notification of Submission of Final Scoping Report to DFFE for Review: DFFE EA Ref no: 14/12/16/3/3/2/2675
Date: Wednesday, 16 April 2025 14:49:02

Good day, Cheruscha,

I trust this email finds you well.

This serves to acknowledge receipt of the Final Scoping Report for the proposed development. As an Interested and Affected Party (I&AP), the Branch: Oceans & Coasts will review the report, and any comments we may have will be submitted to both the Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP) and the Competent Authority.

For subsequent reports, this Branch will continue to review and provide comments, as necessary. Should a site inspection be required, the assigned case officer will liaise with the EAP to arrange a suitable date for the visit.

For any future consultations or coastal development-related applications, please direct correspondence to: OCEIA@dffe.gov.za.

Kind Regards

Tabisile Mhlana

Dept, Forestry, Fisheries & the Environment

Oceans And Coasts -

Coastal Development & Protection .

Tel: 021 4937049

Cell:0614863177

Email: tmhlana@dffe.gov.za

From: Cheruscha Swart <cheruscha@anchorenvironmental.co.za>
Sent: Wednesday, 16 April 2025 14:36
To: Adv. Radia Razack <RRazack@dffe.gov.za>; Yazeed Peterson <YPeterson@dffe.gov.za>; Tabisile Mhlana <tmhlana@dffe.gov.za>; ORVPermitting <ORVPermitting@dffe.gov.za>; mhlana@dffe.gov.za; Funanani Tsiwana <FTsiwana@dffe.gov.za>; OCEIA <OCEIA@dffe.gov.za>
Cc: Cheruscha Swart <cheruscha@anchorenvironmental.co.za>
Subject: Notification of Submission of Final Scoping Report to DFFE for Review: DFFE EA Ref no: 14/12/16/3/3/2/2675

Dear Stakeholder / Interested and Affected Party,

RE: SUBMISSION OF FINAL SCOPING REPORT TO DFFE FOR REVIEW

DFFE EA Application Reference Number: 14/12/16/3/3/2/2675

This serves to notify you that the **Final Scoping Report for the proposed 2 Megalitre per Day (MLD) Solar Powered Seawater Desalination Plant in the Port of East London, Buffalo City Metropolitan Municipality, Eastern Cape Province** has been submitted to the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE) for review and consideration.

The Final Scoping Report, including all supporting appendices, is available for download on Anchor Environmental Consultants website:

<https://anchorenvironmental.co.za/public-documents>

Process Summary:

Transnet SOC Limited (Transnet National Ports Authority) proposes to construct and operate the desalination plant within the Port of East London. Anchor Environmental Consultants (Pty) Ltd was appointed to undertake the Scoping and Environmental Impact Assessment (S&EIA) process required in terms of environmental legislation. A Draft Scoping Report was made available for public comment from 11 March to 10 April 2025. All comments received have been considered, and responses compiled into a Comments and Responses Report, submitted alongside the Final Scoping Report to DFFE.

We will continue to keep you informed of any further developments and opportunities for participation as the process progresses.

To register as an Interested and Affected Party (I&AP) or for further information, please contact:

Ms Cheruscha Swart

Anchor Environmental Consultants (Pty) Ltd

Tel: 021 701 3420

Email: cher@anchorenvironmental.co.za

EAPASA Reg no.2021/3298
Pr.Sci.Nat. 155305



PROPOSED 2ML/D SOLAR POWERED SEAWATER DESALINATION PLANT IN THE PORT OF EAST LONDON



an agency of the
Department of Arts and Culture

T: +27 21 462 4502 | F: +27 21 462 4509 | E: info@sahra.org.za
South African Heritage Resources Agency | 111 Harrington Street | Cape Town
P.O. Box 4637 | Cape Town | 8001
www.sahra.org.za

Enquiries: Nokukhanya Khumalo
Tel: 021 462 4502
Email: nkhumalo@sahra.org.za
Case ID: 24752

Date: Friday, 25 April, 2025

Interim Comment

In terms of Section 38(8) of the National Heritage Resources Act (Act 25 of 1999)

SCOPING & ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT (S&EIA) FOR THE PROPOSED 2ML/D SOLAR POWERED SEAWATER DESALINATION PLANT IN THE PORT OF EAST LONDON, BUFFALO CITY METROPOLITAN MUNICIPALITY, EASTERN CAPE PROVINCE, BY TRANSNET NATIONAL PORTS AUTHORITY

Province(s): Offshore

Transnet SOC Limited - Division Transnet National Ports Authority
Transnet SOC Limited - Division Transnet National Ports Authority
East London Port
Hely Hutchinson Road, Quigney
East London
5211

Transnet (SOC) Ltd (division Transnet National Ports Authority (TNPA)) is proposing to construct a 2ML/day solar powered reverse osmosis desalination plant on the harbour of Port of East London; East London; Buffalo City Metropolitan Municipality of the Eastern Cape Province. Saline water will be abstracted, either using beach wells (beach boreholes) and land-based boreholes near the marine environment, or directly from the ocean via a direct intake pipeline. The plant will consist of an intake pump station, beach well and intake pipeline, and effluent pipeline. There are 3 proposed alternatives and plant, 4 for the pipelines. The desalinated water will be stored in a 1ML tank before use by TNPA.

Anchor Environmental Consultants (Pty) Ltd has been appointed to undertake a Scoping and Environmental Impact Assessment (S&EIA) application process in terms of the National Environmental Management Act, 28 of 1998) (as amended), for listed activities in the 2014 NEMA EIA Regulations as amended. A draft Scoping Report contains an archaeology and palaeontology section and states that the overall heritage significance is low, however the heritage reports have not been submitted to SAHRA for commenting.

Interim Comment

The SAHRA Development Applications Unit (DAU) notes that a Maritime and Underwater Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment (MUCHIA) and Palaeontological Impact Assessment (PIA) has already been commissioned and carried out, however, we require the submission of said reports to SAHRA along with the

**PROPOSED 2ML/D SOLAR POWERED SEAWATER DESALINATION PLANT IN
THE PORT OF EAST LONDON**



an agency of the
Department of Arts and Culture

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South African Heritage Resources Agency | 111 Harrington Street | Cape Town
P.O. Box 4637 | Cape Town | 8001
www.sahra.org.za

Enquiries: Nokukhanya Khumalo
Tel: 021 462 4502
Email: nkhumalo@sahra.org.za
Case ID: 24752

Date: Friday, 25 April, 2025

draft EIA report before providing further comments on the proposed development.

Further comments will be issued upon receipt of the above requested reports.

Should you have any further queries, please contact the designated official using the case number quoted above in the case header.

Yours faithfully

Nokukhanya Khumalo
Senior Heritage Officer
South African Heritage Resources Agency

Natasha Higgitt
Manager: Development Applications Unit
South African Heritage Resources Agency

Terms & Conditions:

1. This approval does not exonerate the applicant from obtaining local authority approval or any other necessary approval for proposed work.
2. If any heritage resources, including graves or human remains, are encountered they must be reported to SAHRA immediately.
3. SAHRA reserves the right to request additional information as required.



an agency of the
Department of Arts and Culture

T: +27 21 462 4502 | F: +27 21 462 4509 | E: info@sahra.org.za
South African Heritage Resources Agency | 111 Harrington Street | Cape Town
P.O. Box 4637 | Cape Town | 8001
www.sahra.org.za

ADMIN:

Direct URL to case: <https://sahris.org.za/node/367706>

From: [Jacoline Mans](#)
To: [Zinzile Mtotywa](#)
Cc: [Cheruscha Swart](#)
Subject: FW: Notification of Submission of Final Scoping Report to DFFE for Review: DFFE EA Ref no: 14/12/16/3/3/2/2675
Date: Monday, 28 April 2025 15:23:36

Hi Zinzile

Not sure if you are aware of this application in the Eastern Cape Province.

Regards, Jacoline

From: Cheruscha Swart <cheruscha@anchorensenvironmental.co.za>
Sent: Wednesday, April 16, 2025 2:39 PM
To: Yvonne Mokadi <ymokadi@dffe.gov.za>; Bonke Bangani <BBangani@dffe.gov.za>; Jacoline Mans <Jmans@dffe.gov.za>; STasana@dffe.gov.za; Thandeka Mbambo <TMbambo@dffe.gov.za>; Julliet Mahlangu <JMMahlangu@dffe.gov.za>; Makhosi Yeni <MYeni@dffe.gov.za>; Olivia Letlalo <OLetlalo@dffe.gov.za>; Mahlatse Shubane <MSHUBANE@dffe.gov.za>; Imlilo@dffe.gov.za; Peter Lukey <PLUKEY@dffe.gov.za>
Cc: Cheruscha Swart <cheruscha@anchorensenvironmental.co.za>
Subject: Notification of Submission of Final Scoping Report to DFFE for Review: DFFE EA Ref no: 14/12/16/3/3/2/2675

Dear Stakeholder / Interested and Affected Party,

RE: SUBMISSION OF FINAL SCOPING REPORT TO DFFE FOR REVIEW

DFFE EA Application Reference Number: 14/12/16/3/3/2/2675

This serves to notify you that the **Final Scoping Report for the proposed 2 Megalitre per Day (MLD) Solar Powered Seawater Desalination Plant in the Port of East London, Buffalo City Metropolitan Municipality, Eastern Cape Province** has been submitted to the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE) for review and consideration.

The Final Scoping Report, including all supporting appendices, is available for download on Anchor Environmental Consultants website:
<https://anchorensenvironmental.co.za/public-documents>

Process Summary:

Transnet SOC Limited (Transnet National Ports Authority) proposes to construct and operate the desalination plant within the Port of East London. Anchor Environmental Consultants (Pty) Ltd was appointed to undertake the Scoping and Environmental Impact Assessment (S&EIA) process required in terms of environmental legislation. A Draft Scoping Report was made available for public comment from 11 March to 10 April 2025. All comments received have been considered, and responses compiled into a Comments and Responses Report, submitted alongside the Final Scoping Report to DFFE.

We will continue to keep you informed of any further developments and opportunities for participation as the process progresses.

To register as an Interested and Affected Party (I&AP) or for further information, please contact:

Ms Cheruscha Swart

Anchor Environmental Consultants (Pty) Ltd

Tel: 021 701 3420

Email: cher@anchorenvironmental.co.za

EAPASA Reg no.2021/3298

Pr.Sci.Nat. 155305



From: [BC Admin](#)
To: [Cheruscha Swart](#)
Cc: [MMatlala Rabothata](#); [Khuliso KKP. Khomari](#); [Nompumelelo Lekalakala](#); [Nompumelelo Lekalakala](#)
Subject: RE: Notification of Submission of Final Scoping Report to DFFE for Review: DFFE EA Ref no: 14/12/16/3/3/2/2675
Date: Tuesday, 29 April 2025 12:49:33
Attachments: [image002.png](#)

Dear Sir/Madam

DFFE Directorate: Biodiversity Conservation hereby acknowledge receipt of the invitation on the 16 April 2025 to review and comment on the project mentioned on the subject line. Kindly note that the project has been allocated to Mrs M Rabothata and Ms Khuliso Khomari (Copied on this email). In addition, kindly share the shapefiles of the development footprints/application site with the Case Officers.

Please note: All Public Participation Process documents related to Biodiversity EIA review and any other Biodiversity EIA queries must be submitted to the Directorate: Biodiversity Conservation at Email: BCAdmin@dffe.gov.za for attention of Mr Seoka Lekota

Kind regards,

Lindiwe Victoria Dlamini

*Directorate: Biodiversity Mainstreaming and FRA
Branch: Biodiversity and Conservation
473 Steve Biko Road | Private Bag X477 | Pretoria | 001
Cell: 0606295852 | Email: lvdlamini@dffe.gov.za
Website: www.environment.gov.za*

From: Cheruscha Swart <cheruscha@anchorenvironmental.co.za>
Sent: Wednesday, 16 April 2025 14:33
To: BC Admin <bcadmin@dffe.gov.za>; Rofhiwa Magodi <RMagodi@dffe.gov.za>; Tshwanelo Leballo <tleballo@dffe.gov.za>; Thivhulawi Nethononda <TNETHONONDA@dffe.gov.za>; Mashudu Mudau <MaMudau@dffe.gov.za>; essop@dffe.gov.za; Mashudu Mudau <MaMudau@dffe.gov.za>; Portia Makitla <PMakitla@dffe.gov.za>; Khorommbi Matibe <KMatibe@dffe.gov.za>; Sydney Nkosi <shnkosi@dffe.gov.za>; tmakholela@dffe.gov.za; BC Admin <bcadmin@dffe.gov.za>; Lindiwe Victoria Dlamini <LVDlamini@dffe.gov.za>; MMatlala Rabothata <MRABOTHATA@dffe.gov.za>; Nompumelelo Lekalakala <NLekalakala@dffe.gov.za>; Khorommbi Matibe <KMatibe@dffe.gov.za>
Cc: Cheruscha Swart <cheruscha@anchorenvironmental.co.za>
Subject: Notification of Submission of Final Scoping Report to DFFE for Review: DFFE EA Ref no: 14/12/16/3/3/2/2675

Dear Stakeholder / Interested and Affected Party,

RE: SUBMISSION OF FINAL SCOPING REPORT TO DFFE FOR REVIEW

DFFE EA Application Reference Number: 14/12/16/3/3/2/2675

This serves to notify you that the **Final Scoping Report for the proposed 2 Megalitre per Day (MLD) Solar Powered Seawater Desalination Plant in the Port of East London, Buffalo City Metropolitan Municipality, Eastern Cape Province** has been submitted to the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE) for review and consideration.

The Final Scoping Report, including all supporting appendices, is available for download on Anchor Environmental Consultants website:

<https://anchorenvironmental.co.za/public-documents>

Process Summary:

Transnet SOC Limited (Transnet National Ports Authority) proposes to construct and operate the desalination plant within the Port of East London. Anchor Environmental Consultants (Pty) Ltd was appointed to undertake the Scoping and Environmental Impact Assessment (S&EIA) process required in terms of environmental legislation. A Draft Scoping Report was made available for public comment from 11 March to 10 April 2025. All comments received have been considered, and responses compiled into a Comments and Responses Report, submitted alongside the Final Scoping Report to DFFE.

We will continue to keep you informed of any further developments and opportunities for participation as the process progresses.

To register as an Interested and Affected Party (I&AP) or for further information, please contact:

Ms Cheruscha Swart

Anchor Environmental Consultants (Pty) Ltd

Tel: 021 701 3420

Email: cher@anchorenvironmental.co.za

EAPASA Reg no.2021/3298
Pr.Sci.Nat. 155305





No.17 Commissioner Street, 2nd Floor Old Elco Building,
Telephone: 043 492 1940/1/2
Website: www.ecphra.org.za

PROJECT: PROPOSED 2ML/D SOLAR POWERED SEAWATER DESALINATION PLANT IN THE PORT OF EAST LONDON, BUFFALO CITY METROPOLITAN MUNICIPALITY.

SAHRIS CASE ID: 24725

Enquiries: Ayanda Mncwabe-Mama
Date: 2025/05/28
Email: ayanda.mncwabe-mama@ecsrac.gov.za

Consultants: Anchor Environmental Consultants (Pty) Ltd
Contact Person: Ms Cheruscha Swart
Email: cher@anchorencultural.co.za / info@anchorencultural.co.za
Tel: 021 701 3420

BACKGROUND

The case has been seen by the committee in March 2025 where a Heritage Impact Assessment (AIA & PIA) and a desktop Maritime Underwater Cultural heritage (MUCH) assessment, were requested.

ECPHRA (Eastern Cape Provincial Heritage Authority) COMMENTS in terms of **Section 38 of the National Heritage Resources Act (25 of 1999).**

This case was tabled at the Archaeology, Palaeontology and Meteorites (APM) Committee meeting held on 19 May 2025.

ECPHRA Interim Comment:

ECPHRA will await the previously requested HIA reports (incl. archaeological, maritime and paleontological), in a formal letter dated (2025/04/04). This will inform the ECPHRA final comment, according to the NHRA Section 38(4).

Mr. Azola Mkosana
ECPHRA: Manager

General information:

1) ECPHRA fees

The following fees apply to your application:

R 500 - NID fee and

R 1 500 – HIA reports

Banking Details:

Bank name: First National Bank (FNB);

Account name: Eastern Cape Provincial Heritage Resources Authority;

Account type: Public Sector Business Account;

Account number: 62705406248;

Branch code: 211021;

Reference: Project or Development name / SAHRIS CaseID number

Proof of payment(s) must be emailed to:

accounts@ecphra.org.za with the subject: Project or Development name / SAHRIS CaseID

2) SAHRIS

A South African Heritage Resources Information System (SAHRIS) case must be registered for the development/project (<https://sahris.sahra.org.za/about/sahris>):

- Complete all relevant sections of the SAHRIS case application.
- Proof of payment(s) must be uploaded on the SAHRIS case under the *Additional Documents* section.
- The requested NIDs must be uploaded on the SAHRIS case

Once the NID have been submitted on the SAHRIS case, notify ECPHRA by email at lungiswam@ecphra.org.za with the subject SAHRIS CaseID number–development/project name. Your case will be tabled at the next APM meeting for purposes of a NHRA Section 38(4)/(8) comment.

3) Queries

Any queries regarding your case should be addressed to lungiswam@ecphra.org.za / ayanda.mncwabe-mama@ecsrac.gov.za with the subject SAHRIS CaseID number / Development/ Project name.



forestry, fisheries & the environment

Department:
Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Private Bag X447, Pretoria, 0001, Environment House, 473 Steve Biko Road, Pretoria, 0002 Tel: +27 12 399 9000, Fax: +27 86 625 1042

DFFE Reference: 14/12/16/3/3/2/2675

Enquiries: Trisha Pillay

Telephone: (012) 310 9406 **E-mail:** TPillay@dfffe.gov.za

Ms Cheruscha Swart
Anchor Environmental Consultants (Pty) Ltd
Suite 8, Steenberg House
Silverwood Cl
Steenberg Office Park
Tokai
CAPE TOWN
7945

Telephone Number: (021) 701 3420
Email Address: cher@anchorencvironmental.co.za

PER EMAIL

Dear Ms Swart

ACCEPTANCE OF THE SCOPING REPORT FOR THE PROPOSED 2ML/D SOLAR-POWERED SEAWATER DESALINATION PLANT IN THE PORT OF EAST LONDON, BUFFALO CITY METROPOLITAN MUNICIPALITY, EASTERN CAPE PROVINCE

The final Scoping Report (SR) and the Plan of Study for Environmental Impact Assessment dated April 2025 and received by the Department on 14 April 2025, refer.

The Department has evaluated the submitted final SR and the Plan of Study for Environmental Impact Assessment dated April 2025 and is satisfied that the documents comply with the minimum requirements of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations, 2014, as amended. The final SR is hereby accepted by the Department in terms of Regulation 22(1)(a) of the EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended.

You may proceed with the environmental impact assessment process in accordance with the tasks contemplated in the Plan of Study for Environmental Impact Assessment as required in terms of the EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended.

In addition, the following amendments and additional information are required for the Environmental Impact Assessment report (EIAR):



Batho pele- putting people first



The processing of personal information by the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment is done lawfully and not excessive to the purpose of processing in compliance with the POPI Act, any codes of conduct issued by the Information Regulator in terms of the POPI Act and / or relevant legislation providing appropriate security safeguards for the processing of personal information of others.

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(a) Specific Comments

- (i) The co-ordinates in the draft EIAr must be specific to each activity and infrastructure that is proposed on the site. The co-ordinates for each corner of the reverse osmosis and solar plant site, reservoir, beach boreholes, and the start, middle and end coordinates for the marine outfall pipelines, and water intake pipelines must be included in the report, i.e., we require that you provide us with the specific development footprints for each development parameter, and not an area outlining the entire site.
- (ii) Please provide a concise, but complete, summary and bullet list of the project description and associated infrastructure (or project scope). This must include a list of all development components and associated infrastructure.
- (iii) Kindly ensure the development footprints (hectares/square metres) and specifications of all proposed infrastructure and associated infrastructure during all phases are included in the draft EIAr.
- (iv) The draft EIAr must clearly provide a detailed section which addresses the site sensitivity verification requirements where a specialist assessment is required but no specific assessment protocol has been prescribed, as well as the site sensitivity verification and minimum report content requirements for all specialist assessments undertaken, which was identified in the screening tool report. Kindly take note that this should be in the form of a report and should either confirm or dispute the sensitivity ratings for each theme identified by the screening tool report. Please refer to 1. Site sensitivity verification and minimum report content requirements of the Protocol document.
- (v) A motivation must be provided in the draft EIAr as to why particular studies that were identified in the screening tool were not undertaken.
- (vi) According to page 10 of the final SR in Table 2, reference is made to a “*powerline to the preferred site.*” No other information pertaining to this powerline is provided in the final SR or indicated on the layout maps. Please provide information relating to the powerline, is it an existing powerline or would a new powerline be constructed. What is the kilovolts that would be transmitted or distributed?
- (vii) Comments must be obtained from this Department’s Biodiversity Conservation Directorate at BCAdmin@dffe.gov.za.
- (viii) The development proposes beach wells and marine outfall pipelines. Therefore, comments from this Department’s Oceans and Coast unit must be obtained to confirm whether approval is required from this unit since the proposed development will impact the marine environment. Find below the contact details for personnel at this Department’s Oceans and Coast Directorate:
 - a) Name: Funanani Ditinti
Telephone: 012 399 9847
Email: fditinti@dffe.gov.za/ OCEIA@dffe.gov.za
- (ix) According to Figure 10 in the final SR a section of the outfall alternative 3 pipeline falls within the Potters Pass Nature Reserve Area. Kindly note approval from the Management Authority in terms of the National Environmental Management: Protected Areas Act, 2003; Section 50 (5) for commercial and community activities in the National Park, and/or World Heritage Site may be required. Comments from this Department’s Protected Areas Directorate must be obtained to confirm whether Approval from the Management Authority in terms of the National Environmental Management: Protected Areas Act, 2003; Section 50 (5) is required. Find below the contact details for personnel at this Department’s Protected Areas Directorate:
 - a) Name: Ms Mashudu Mudau
Telephone no.: 012 399 9945
Email: mamudau@dffe.gov.za; and
 - b) Name: Thivhulawi Nethononda

Telephone: 012 399 9553

Email: Tnethononda@dffe.gov.za

(b) Listed Activities

- (i) Please ensure that all relevant listed activities are applied for, are specific and that it can be linked to the development activity or infrastructure as described in the project description.
- (ii) The EIAr must provide an assessment of the impacts and mitigation measures for each of the listed activities applied for.
- (iii) The listed activities represented in the EIAr and the application form must be the same and correct.
- (iv) The EIAr must assess the correct sub listed activity for each listed activity applied for.

(c) Layout & Sensitivity Maps

- (i) The draft EIAr must provide coordinate points for the proposed development site (note that if the site has numerous bend points, at each bend point coordinates must be provided) as well as the start, middle and end point of all linear activities.
- (ii) Please provide a layout map which indicates the following:
 - a) Reverse osmosis and solar plant site;
 - b) Reservoir;
 - c) Beach boreholes;
 - d) Marine outfall pipelines;
 - e) Water intake pipelines;
 - f) Internal roads;
 - g) All supporting onsite infrastructure such as laydown area, guard house and control room etc. (existing and proposed);
 - h) All existing infrastructure on the site, especially railway lines and roads; and
 - i) Buildings, including accommodation.
- (iii) Please provide an environmental sensitivity map which indicates the following:
 - a) The location of sensitive environmental features identified on site, e.g. CBAs, protected areas, heritage sites, wetlands, drainage lines, nest and roosting sites, etc. that will be affected by the facility and its associated infrastructure;
 - b) Buffer areas; and
 - c) All “no-go” areas.
- (iv) The above layout map must be superimposed (overlain) with the sensitivity map and a cumulative map which shows neighbouring and existing infrastructure.
- (v) Google maps will not be accepted.

(d) Alternatives

- (i) Please provide a description of any identified alternatives for the proposed activity that are feasible and reasonable, including the advantages and disadvantages that the proposed activity or alternatives will have on the environment and on the community that may be affected by the activity as per Appendix 2 of GN R.982 of 2014 (as amended).
- (ii) Alternatively, you should submit written proof of an investigation and motivation if no reasonable or feasible alternatives exist in terms of Appendix 2.

(e) Public Participation

- (i) The Public Participation Process must be conducted in terms of Regulation 39, 40, 41, 42, 43 and 44 of the EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended.
- (ii) Comments must be obtained from this Department's Biodiversity Conservation Directorate at BAdmin@dffe.gov.za.
- (iii) Please ensure that comments from all relevant stakeholders are submitted to the Department with the EIAR. This includes but is not limited to the to Eastern Cape Department of Economic Development and Environmental Affairs, the Buffalo City Metropolitan Municipality, the Eastern Cape Provincial Heritage Resources Authority (ECPHRA), and the DFFE: Directorate Biodiversity and Conservation, DFFE: Directorate Protected Areas and DFFE: Directorate Oceans and Coast.
- (iv) Please ensure that all issues raised and comments received during the circulation of the draft SR and draft EIAR from registered Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) and organs of state (including this Department's Biodiversity and Protected Area Sections), as listed in your I&APs Database, and others that have jurisdiction in respect of the proposed activity are adequately addressed and included in the final EIAR and are incorporated into a Comments and Response Report (CRR).
- (v) Copies of original comments received from I&APs and organs of state, which have jurisdiction in respect of the proposed activity must be submitted to the Department with the final EIAR.
- (vi) Proof of correspondence with the various stakeholders must be included in the final EIAR. Should you be unable to obtain comments, proof should be submitted to the Department of the attempts that were made to obtain comments. In terms of Regulation 41(2)(b) of the EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended, please provide proof of written notice for the availability of the EIAR for comment.
- (vii) The CRR report must be a separate document from the main report and the format must be in the table format as indicated in Annexure 1 of this comments letter.
- (viii) Please refrain from summarising comments made by I&APs. All comments from I&APs must be copied verbatim and responded to clearly. Please note that a response such as "noted" is not regarded as an adequate response to I&APs' comments.
- (ix) Comments from I&APs must not be split and arranged into categories. Comments from each submission must be responded to individually.
- (x) Minutes and attendance registers (where applicable) of any physical/virtual meetings held by the Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP) with Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) and other role players must be included in the final EIAR.

(f) Specialist assessments

- (i) The EAP must ensure that the terms of reference for all the identified specialist studies must include the following:
 - a) A detailed description of the study's methodology; indication of the locations and descriptions of the development footprint, and all other associated infrastructures that they have assessed and are recommending for authorisation.
 - b) Provide a detailed description of all limitations to the studies. All specialist studies must be conducted in the right season and providing that as a limitation will not be allowed.
 - c) Please note that the Department considers a 'no-go' area, as an area where no development of any infrastructure is allowed; therefore, no development of associated infrastructure including access roads is allowed in the 'no-go' areas.

- d) Should the specialist definition of 'no-go' area differ from the Department's definition; this must be clearly indicated. The specialist must also indicate the 'no-go' area's buffer if applicable.
- e) **All specialist studies must be final, and provide detailed/practical mitigation measures for the preferred alternative and recommendations, and must not recommend further studies to be completed post EA.**
- f) Should a specialist recommend specific mitigation measures, these must be clearly indicated.
- (ii) Should the appointed specialists specify contradicting recommendations, the EAP must clearly indicate the most reasonable recommendation and substantiate this with defensible reasons; and where necessary, include further expert advice.
- (iii) It is further brought to your attention that Procedures for the Assessment and Minimum Criteria for Reporting in identified Environmental Themes in terms of Sections 24(5)(a) and (h) and 44 of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998, when applying for Environmental Authorisation, which were promulgated in Government Notice No. 320 of 20 March 2020 (i.e. "the Protocols") and in Government Notice No. 1150 of 30 October 2020 (i.e. protocols for terrestrial plant and animal species), have come into effect. **Please note that specialist assessments must be conducted in accordance with these protocols.**
- (iv) Please also ensure that the EIAR includes the Site Verification Report and Compliance Statements (where applicable) as required by the relevant themes.
- (v) Please note further that the protocols, if applicable, require certain specialists' to be SACNASP registered. Please ensure that the relevant specialist certificates are attached to the relevant reports.
- (vi) As such, the Specialist Declaration of Interest forms must also indicate the scientific organisation registration/member number and status of registration/membership for each specialist.
- (vii) The following Specialist Assessments will form part of the EIAR:
 - Marine and Estuarine Specialist Impact Assessment
 - Avifauna Specialist Impact Assessment
 - Socio-Economic Impact Assessment
 - Terrestrial Biodiversity, Plants and Animals Assessment.
 - Archaeological, Cultural Heritage and Palaeontology Specialist Impact Assessment
 - Agricultural Compliance Statement
 - Landscape/ Visual (Solar) Compliance Statement
 - Civil Aviation Compliance Statement
 - Relative Defence Compliance Statement
 - Noise Impact Compliance Statement
 - Radio Frequency Interference (RFI) Theme (Solar)
 - Hydrology Study
 - Geotechnical Study

(g) Cumulative Assessment

- (i) The cumulative impact assessment for all identified and assessed impacts must be refined to indicate the following:
 - a) Identified cumulative impacts must be clearly defined, and where possible the size of the identified impact must be quantified and indicated, i.e., hectares of cumulatively transformed land.
 - b) Detailed process flow and proof must be provided, to indicate how the specialist's recommendations, mitigation measures and conclusions from the various similar

- developments in the area were taken into consideration in the assessment of cumulative impacts and when the conclusion and mitigation measures were drafted for this project.
- c) The cumulative impacts significance rating must also inform the need and desirability of the proposed development.
 - d) A cumulative impact environmental statement on whether the proposed development must proceed.

(h) General

- (i) The EIAr must provide the technical details for the proposed development in a table format as well as their description and/or dimensions. A sample for the minimum information required is listed under Annexure 2 below.
- (ii) The EAP must provide landowner consent for all farm portions affected by the proposed project i.e., all farm portions where the development and associated infrastructure are to be located.
- (iii) A construction and operational phase EMPr that includes mitigation and monitoring measures must be submitted with the final EIAr, including the Generic EMPr for powerlines.

The applicant is hereby reminded to comply with the requirements of Regulation 45 of GN R982 of 04 December 2014, as amendment, with regard to the time period allowed for complying with the requirements of the Regulations.

You are hereby reminded of Section 24F of the National Environmental Management Act, Act No. 107 of 1998, as amended, that no activity may commence prior to an environmental authorisation being granted by the Department.

Yours faithfully



Dr Sabelo Malaza

**Chief Director: Integrated Environmental Authorisations
Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment**

Signed by: Mr Coenrad Agenbach

Designation: Deputy Director: Prioritised Infrastructure Projects

Date: 30 May 2025

cc.	Ms Nosiselo Biyana	Transnet SOC Ltd	Email: Nosiselo.Biyana@transnet.net
	Mr Briant Noncembu	Eastern Cape Department of Economic Development and Environmental Affairs	Email: Briant.Noncembu@dedea.gov.za
	Ms Jane Gallo	Buffalo City Metropolitan Municipality	Email: JaneG@buffalocity.gov.za

Annexure 1: Format for Comments and Response Trail Report

Date of comment, format of comment name of organisation/I&AP	Comment	Response from EAP/Applicant/Specialist
27/01/2016 Email Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment: Prioritised Infrastructure Projects (John Doe)	Please record C&R trail report in this format Please update the contact details of the provincial environmental authority	EAP: (Noted) The C&R trail report has been updated into the desired format, see Appendix K EAP: Details of provincial authority have been updated, see page 16 of the Application form

Annexure 2: Sample of technical details for the proposed facility

Component	Description / dimensions
Location of the site	
The total area of the site	
Total disturbance footprint	
Maximum generation capacity for solar plant	
Footprint of solar plant	
Reservoir Capacity and Footprint	
Footprint of Land Borehole Area	
Footprint of Land Beachwell Area	
Intake Pipelines lengths and footprints for all alternatives	
Outfall Pipelines lengths and footprints for all alternatives	



EASTERN CAPE
PROVINCIAL HERITAGE
RESOURCES AUTHORITY

SOUTH AFRICA

No.17 Commissioner Street, 2nd Floor Old Elco Building,
Telephone: 043 492 1940/1/2
Website: www.ecphra.org.za

PROJECT: DESALINATION PLANT

SAHRIS CASE ID: 24725

Enquiries: Ayanda Mncwabe-Mama
Date: 2025/06/25
Email: ayanda.mncwabe-mama@ecsrac.gov.za

Consultants: Terramare Archaeology (Pty) Ltd
Address: 5 Cannon Road, Plumstead, 7800
Contact Person: John Gribble
Tel / Email: 078 616 2961 / john.gribble@terramarearchaeology
Environmental Consultants: Cheruscha Swart
Email: cheruscha@anchorencvironmental.co.za

The developer requests an exemption from submitting a Phase 1 PIA (paleontological impact assessment).

ECPHRA (Eastern Cape Provincial Heritage Authority) COMMENTS in terms of
Section 38 of the National Heritage Resources Act (25 of 1999).

*This case was tabled at the Archaeology, Palaeontology and Meteorites (APM)
Committee meeting held on 10 June 2025.*

ECPHRA Response:

ECPHRA has noted the requested waiver from a submission of a Phase 1 PIA, in a letter dated 20 May 2025. The desktop study compiled by Dr. Marion Bamford, will be acceptable, based on the specified explanation. Therefore, the exemption is granted, provided that a palaeontologist is on site during excavations.

However, the ECPHRA request for a Phase 1 AIA (archaeological assessment), still stands. The requested report will inform ECPHRA on the final comment, to be issued in terms of Section 38(4) of the NHRA of 1999.

Mr. Azola Mkosana
ECPHRA: Manager