

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT FOR THE PROPOSED ACTIVITY IN HENTIES BAY

Subdivision of the Remainder of the Farm Hentiesbaai Townlands No. 133 into Portion A and Remainder, rezoning and servitude registration

List of triggered activities identified in the EIA Regulations which apply to the proposed project

Activity 8.5

Construction of dams, reservoirs, levees and weirs.

Activity 10.1 (a) Infrastructure

The construction of oil, water, gas and petrochemical and other bulk supply pipelines

Activity 10.1 (b) Infrastructure

The construction of public roads

Activity 10.2 (a) Infrastructure

The route determination of roads and design of associated physical infrastructure where - it is a public road;

BACKGROUND INFORMATION DOCUMENT

1 PURPOSE OF THIS DOCUMENT

The purpose of this Background Information Document (BID) is to brief Interested & Affected Parties (I&AP's) about the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) being undertaken for the proposed development activities in Henties Bay.

The BID also provides an opportunity for I&APs to register for the EIA process and to submit any initial comments or issues regarding the proposed project.

2 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The Municipality of Henties Bay, hereinafter referred to as the proponent, intends to undertake the following activities:

- (a) Subdivision of the Remainder of the Farm Hentiesbaai Townlands No. 133 into Portion A and Remainder;**
- (b) Rezoning of Portion A of the Remainder of the Farm Hentiesbaai Townlands No. 133 from "Undetermined" to "Parastatal";**
- (c) Registration of a 15m wide Waterline Servitude against the Remainder of the Farm Hentiesbaai Townlands No. 133 in favour of Namwater;**
- (d) Registration of a 15m wide "Right of Way" Servitude against the Remainder of the Farm Hentiesbaai Townlands No. 133 in favour of the general public;**
- (e) Inclusion of the rezonings in the next zoning scheme to be prepared for Henties Bay.**

In terms of the Environmental Management Act (No. 7 of 2007) and Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations (Government Notice No. 30 of 2012), the listed activities indicated to the left were triggered by the proposed project.

The proponent commissioned this EIA and appointed Stubenrauch Planning Consultants (SPC) to undertake the necessary activities to enable an application for an Environmental Clearance Certificate (ECC) with the Environmental Commissioner as prescribed by the Environmental Management Act (No. 7 of 2007) and Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations (Government Notice No. 30 of 2012). In line with Regulation 21(2) of the mentioned EIA Regulations, this BID is distributed to potential I&APs as part of the public consultation process for this EIA.

This Environmental Assessment will therefore be undertaken to determine the potential environmental and socio-economic impacts associated with the proposed development activity.

3 DEVELOPMENT DESCRIPTION

3.1 Locality

The area on the Remainder of the Farm Hentiesbaai Townlands No. 133 which is to be subdivided for the creation of Portion A is located north east of the Henties Bay town, on the far north-eastern side of the C34 Road to Terrace Bay and west of the new Bypass Road. The locality of the proposed site can be observed in **Figure 1** below.

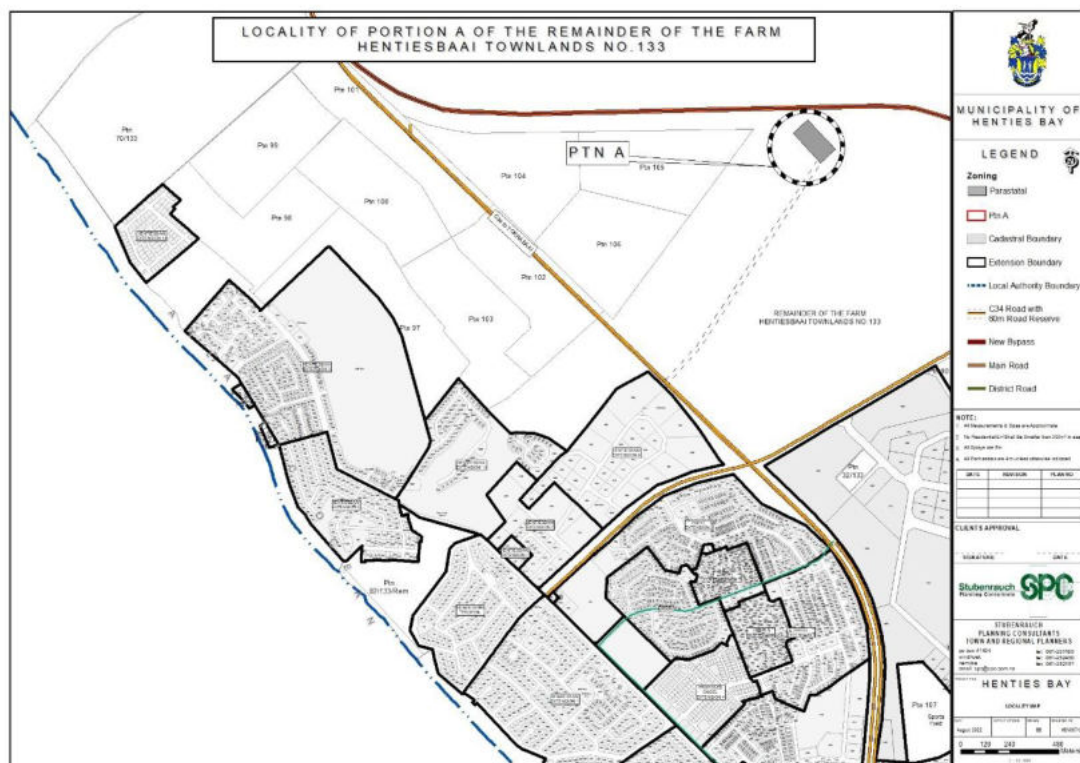


FIGURE 1: LOCALITY OF PORTIONS A OF THE REMAINDER OF THE FARM HENTIESBAAI TOWNLANDS NO 133

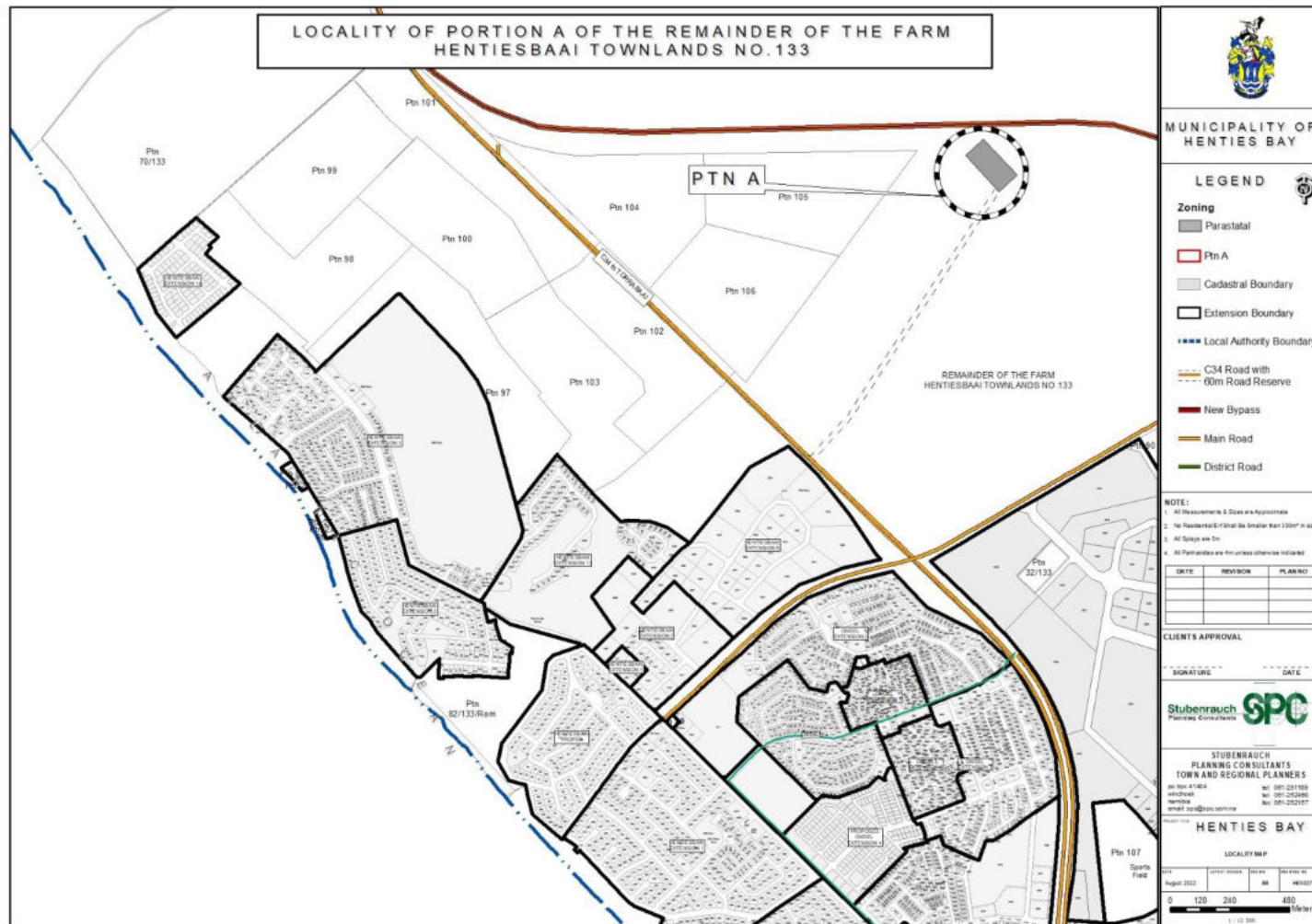


FIGURE 1: LOCALITY OF PORTIONS A OF THE REMAINDER OF THE FARM HENTIESBAAI TOWNLANDS NO 133

3.2 Proposed Development

3.2.1 Need and Desirability

Namibia is an arid country with low rainfall and high evapotranspiration. The only permanent rivers are along the northern and southern borders. Across the country, surface waters are ephemeral after seasonal rainfall, with many of them dammed on those rivers to supply the major centres with water. Literature review shows that some 23 % of the water used in Namibia is derived from those rivers, however, most of the country does not have access to this water due to the distances involved. Consequently, only 0.1% of the total annual flow of these rivers is abstracted, in Namibia (S. Bethune 2011). Namibia is now facing a national water crisis due to severe droughts. This situation is pushing the country to rely more on unconventional water resources such as desalination. Therefore, the NamWater Corporation (Pty) Ltd approached the Municipality of Henties Bay to allocate a portion of land to them for the purpose of constructing a desalination plant in Henties Bay to help secure water supply to the central coast, Windhoek and en-route users.

3.3 Description of Activity

The proponent (Henties Bay Town Council) intends to subdivide the Remainder of the Farm Hentiesbaai Townlands No. 133 into Portion A and the Remainder in order for NamWater Corporation (Pty) Ltd to utilize Portion A to construct a desalination plant and water carriage system in the town of Henties Bay to help secure water supply to the central coast, Windhoek and en-route users.

The following statutory steps must be undertaken for the intended development:

- (a) Subdivision of the Remainder of the Farm Hentiesbaai Townlands No. 133 into Portion A and Remainder;**
- (b) Rezoning of Portion A of the Remainder of the Farm Hentiesbaai Townlands No. 133 from “Undetermined” to “Parastatal”;**
- (c) Registration of a 15m wide Waterline Servitude against the Remainder of the Farm Hentiesbaai Townlands No. 133 in favour of Namwater;**
- (d) Registration of a 15m wide “Right of Way” Servitude against the Remainder of the Farm Hentiesbaai Townlands No. 133 in favour of the general public;**
- (e) Inclusion of the rezonings in the next zoning scheme to be prepared for Henties Bay.**

3.3.1 The subdivision

The Remainder of the Farm Hentiesbaai Townlands No 133 is to be subdivided into Portion A and Remainder as depicted in **Figure 2** below.

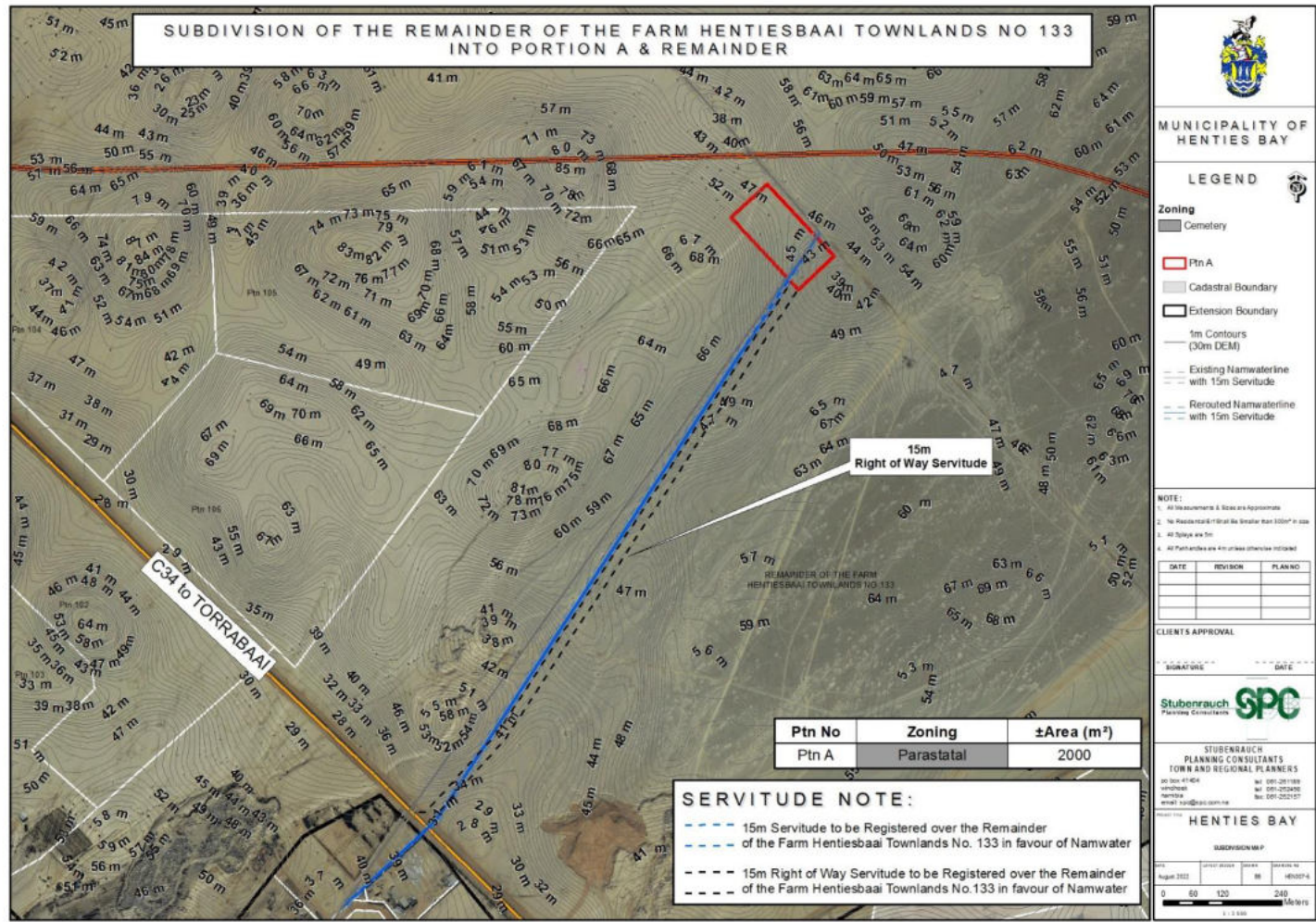


FIGURE 2: SUBDIVISION OF THE REMAINDER OF THE FARM HENTIESBAAI TOWNLANDS NO 133 IN TO PORTION A AND TRMAINDER

3.3.2 Zoning and rezoning

According to the Henties Bay Zoning Scheme, the Remainder of the Farm Hentiesbaai Townlands No. 133 which is to be subdivided for the creation of Portion A of the Remainder of the Farm Hentiesbaai Townlands No. 133 is zoned for “Undetermined” purposes. The area on which the proposed Portion A is to be created is currently vacant and undeveloped.

The proposed Portion A of the Remainder of the Farm Hentiesbaai Townlands No. 133 is to be rezoned from “Undetermined” to “Parastatal”. The rezoning will enable NamWater to build a desalination plant and water carriage system to help ensure adequate water conservation for the benefit of the central coast, Windhoek and the en-route users. The land use zonings to be allocated to the proposed portion A which is to be created is reflected in **Table 1** below.

TABLE 1: LAND USE ZONING

Ptn No	Zoning	±Area (m ²)
Ptn A	Parastatal	2000

3.3.3 Ownership and conditions

Ownership of the Remainder of the Farm Hentiesbaai Townlands No. 133 vest with the Henties Bay Municipality as per the Certificate of Registered Title No. T48/1972.

There is a 15m wide Waterline Servitude registered against the Remainder of the Hentiesbaai Townlands No. 133 in favour of NamWater (Pty) Ltd which does not hinder nor prohibit the proposed subdivision.

3.4 Infrastructure and Services

(a) Water, Sewer and Electricity

The Remainder of the Farm Hentiesbaai Townlands No. 133 is currently not connected to any municipal reticulation system of water, sewer and electricity that are provided by the Henties Bay Municipality. Therefore, it is the responsibility of NamWater to arrange for the connection of any service systems that might be needed at the proposed desalination plant and water carriage system to be located on the newly created Portion A of the Remainder of the Farm Hentiesbaai Townlands No. 133.

3.5 Access Provision

The proposed Portion A of the Remainder of the Farm Hentiesbaai Townlands No. 133 will be accessed via a 15m wide “Right of Way” Servitude which will be registered against the Remainder of the Farm Hentiesbaai Townlands No. 133 in favour of the general public.

4 ENVIRONMENTAL BASELINE INFORMATION

The environmental and social setting of the proposed project area is briefly described in this section. The detailed description of these environmental features will be fully presented in the environmental scoping report.

4.1 Biophysical Environment

4.1.1 Climate

The Namibian coastal desert lies in a hyper arid climate which is marked by very low rainfall, ranging from 0 to 50 mm (Mendelsohn et al, 2009). The mean annual daily maximum temperature is 17°C along the coastal areas of the desert, whilst the minimum daily temperature averages between 13°C and 16°C (Mupambwa *et al.*, 2019). Annual rainfall ranges between 15mm at the coast and 80-100mm near the great escarpment (Mupambwa *et al.*, 2019).

4.1.2 Soil and Geology

Although the Omaruru River flows in a westward direction cutting mainly through metasedimentary and metamorphic rocks aging from the Neoproterozoic to Cretaceous, downstream the Omdel Dam, the riverbed lies on Quaternary Formation of surficial deposit such as Kalahari sands, scree, calcrete, gravel alluvium calcrete and gypcrete (GCS, 2021).

4.1.3 Landscape

In the Erongo Region the land rises steadily from sea level to about 1000 meters across the breadth of the Namib. Namibia's highest mountain, Brandberg (2,579 m), lies in the far northern part of the Erongo Region (Geological Survey of Namibia, 2012).

The proposed site is relatively flat and has a gentle slope in a north westerly direction. The subject is located on the higher lying gravel plain to the south of the defined river embankment and resultantly does not fall within a flood prone area.

4.1.4 Water Resources

Until the recent commissioning of a desalination plant by Areva for its Trekkopje Uranium Mine, the coastal towns of Henties Bay, Swakopmund and Walvis Bay (As well as many other consumers) were entirely dependent on groundwater. However, since Areva has put its mine under "care and maintenance", fresh water from the plant is forming part of the coastal water supply. The groundwater stored in the coastal aquifers of the Kuiseb, Swakopmund and Omaruru Rivers come from about 300 km inland at altitudes of about 2000 m. These ephemeral rivers rarely flow into the Atlantic Ocean, and only for short periods after substantial rain. In order to enhance the storage of water from flood, the Omdel Dam, situated about 35 km inland from the coast, was completed in 1994 on the Omaruru River (GCS, 2021).

4.1.5 Fauna and Flora

The subject area falls within the Namib Desert Biome (Mendelsohn, Jarvis, Roberts, & Robertson, 2002). All endemic plant species found within the area are considered to be drought tolerant, drought resistant or succulent. Short lived annuals, which occur after local rainfalls and floods, provide a vital source of food for game grazing within the Namib plains.

The central and southern areas of the site are sparsely vegetated (in terms of coastal desert environment) some vegetation can be found within the 50metre linear strip along the southern embankment of the Omaruru River where more sandy soil conditions are found. As such the proposed development has been set back by between 50m to 100m from the defined upper edge of the river embankment in an attempt to preserve the natural fauna and flora of the area

4.2 Social Environment

4.2.1 Social Demographics

According to Namibia Statistics Agency (2011), the population of Erongo Region is 150 809 people with the population of Henties Bay being 5 170 people.

4.2.2 Economy

Wages and salaries are the main source of income in this region, while other income sources include farming, business etc.

4.2.3 Land Use

The Erongo Region's whole eastern part and certain western parts are characterized by livestock farming on commercial farms in the districts of Karibib, Usakos and Omaruru, and in the communal areas at Okongwe, Otjohongoro, Otjongoro, Ozondati, Omatjette, Okombahe, Tubusis, Goabeb and Otjimbingwe (Erongo Regional Council, 2015). The main economic activities in the central and coastal area are light industry, farming, fishing, mining and tourism (Ministry of Agriculture Water and Rural Development, 2011).

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT PROCESS

- Establishing environmental risks of the intended project
- Establishing mitigation protocol
- Preparing the draft Environmental Assessment Report (EAR) and Environmental Management Plan (EMP)
- Public reviewing of Draft EAR and EMP
- Preparing the final EAR & EMP and submitting to MEFT
- Awaiting decision from Authorities
- Communicating decision to Interested & Affected Parties
- Availing opportunities to Appeal.

5 POTENTIAL IMPACTS

The following potential impacts have been identified so far:

- **Temporary job creation** through the hiring of workers to be involved during the construction of roads and associated infrastructure.
- **Impact on vegetation and fauna:** some vegetation may need to be removed to during site clearance. This may also lead to habitat destruction for some fauna.
- **Traffic impacts:** traffic may increase once the plots become developed and occupied.
- **Environmental degradation** through different types of waste generated on the site.
- **Soils and water contamination** from construction materials being used during construction activities.
- **Noise and dust** generated during construction activities.
- **Health and safety risks** which may result to workers during construction activities.
- **Archaeological and Heritage Impacts** if these sites are located close to or within the planned area.

Additional impact will be identified as the assessment process progresses and after further public consultation.

6 PUBLIC CONSULTATION

The Environmental Impact Assessment process involves interaction with people who are interested in, or who could be affected by the proposed development and/or operational activities of the proposed Henties Bay development.

To further obtain inputs into the developments to take place. Communication will be sent out to various potential I&APs and Line Ministries in addition to the public notices to be placed in the newspapers, on the sites and around the subject area to obtain comments on the proposed developments.

7 ALL STAKEHOLDER/INTERESTED & AFFECTED PARTIES (I&AP)

Public participation process gives you the opportunity to:

- Obtain information about the proposed project
- Raise any environmental issues relating to the project

How can you be involved?

- By responding to the invitation advertised in the newspapers
- By registering as an I&AP, for your name to be added to our register list
- Submitting your comments or requests in writing.

We are inviting the public to participate by contributing issues and suggestions regarding the proposed projects on or before **29 June 2023**. For further information, or concerns, I&APs can complete the register below:

8 REGISTRATION AND COMMENTS

Participant Name:	Organization/Affiliations:
Position:	Telephone:
Fax:	E-Mail:

Postal Address:
Comments/Suggestions and Questions:

Please fill in particulars and return completed document to be registered as an Interested & Affected Parties (I&AP) to:

Stubenrauch Planning Consultants (SPC) Tel: 061 25 21 57 Fax: 061 25 11 89 E-Mail: bronwynn@spc.com.na
