AGRICULTURAL COMPLIANCE STATEMENT FOR THE EXPANSION OF GROMIS SUBSTATION AND ITS ASSOCIATED INFRASTUCTURE LOCATED ON PORTION 0 OF FARM DIKGAT NO. 195, WITHIN THE JURISDICTION OF NAMA KHOI LOCAL MUNICIPALITY OF NAMAKWA DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY IN NORTHERN CAPE PROVINCE

PREPARED FOR:

Eskom National Transmission Company South Africa ™

National Transmission Company South Africa SOC Ltd (NTCSA)

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Document	Agricultural Compliance Statement
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Predominant land use of the surrounding area	**Mining, Powerlines and Vacant**	
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Date: 16-10-2026	Signature:	Signature:

DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE

- I Khathutshelo Nephawe in my capacity as a specialist consultant, hereby declare that I:
- Act/acted as an independent specialist to Naledzi Environmental Consultants (Pty) Ltd for this project.
- Do not have any personal, business, or financial interest in the project except for financial remuneration for specialist investigations completed in a professional capacity as specified by the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations, 2014, as amended.
- Will not be affected by the outcome of the environmental process, of which this report forms part.
- Do not have any influence over the decisions made by the governing authorities.
- Do not object to or endorse the proposed developments but aim to present facts and my best scientific and professional opinion about the impacts of the development.
- Undertake to disclose to the relevant authorities any information that has or may have the potential to influence its decision or the objectivity of any report, plan, or document required in terms of the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations, 2014, as amended.



Prof. Khathuthelo Nephawe (Pr.Sci. Nat)

TABLE OF CONTENTS

TABLE OF CONTENTS III

1. INTRODUCTION 1

1.1. PROJECT LOCALITY 1

1.2 PROJECT DESCRIPTION 2

1.3. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY 4

1.4. SUITABILITY OF SOILS FOR AGRICULTURAL CULTIVATION 5

1.5. APPLICABLE LEGISLATION 6

1.6 TERMS OF REFERENCE 7

1.7 ASSUMPTIONS, ASSUMPTIONS UNCERTAINTIES, LIMITATIONS, AND GAPS 8

2. METHODOLOGY 9

2.1. DESKTOP STUDY AND LITERATURE REVIEW 9

2.2 SITE SURVEY AND SENSITIVITY VERIFICATION 9

2.3 SCREENING TOOL FINDINGS 10

3. DESKTOP RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS 11

3.1 VEGETATION 11

3.2 GEOLOGY AND SOILS 13

3.3 LAND TYPE 14

3.4 GRAZING CAPACITY 15

3.5 LAND CAPABILITY 16

3.6 CLIMATE 17

3.7 LAND USE 18

4. FIELD VERIFIED RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS 19

4.1 LAND USES WITHIN AND THE VICINITY OF THE STUDY AREA 19

4.2 IMPACT STATEMENT AND SCREENING TOOL SENSITIVITY VERIFICATION 21

4.3 MICRO-SITING TO MINIMIZE FRAGMENTATION AND DISTURBANCE OF AGRICULTURAL ACTIVITIES. 23

4.4 CONFIRMATION OF LINEAR ACTIVITY IMPACT 23

5. CONCLUSION 24

6. REFERENCE 25

APPENDIX 1 26

LIST OF FIGURES

Figure 1: Locality Map (From QEMS 2026) 2
Figure 2: Preliminary Layout 3
Figure 3: Layout Map 4
Figure 4: Agricultural Theme Sensitivity Map 11
Figure 5: Vegetation Map 12
Figure 6: Geology Map 13
Figure 7: Soil within the site 14
Figure 8: Land Type Map 15
Figure 9: Grazing Capacity Map 16
Figure 10: Land Capability Map 17
Figure 11: Climate Pattern of the Study Area 18
Figure 12: Land Use Map (From QEMS 2026). 19
Figure 13: Images of land use activities within the study area and its vicinity 20

LIST OF TABLES

Table 1: Agricultural Theme Sensitivity 11
Table 2: Summary of the screening tool vs specialist-assigned sensitivities 22

ACRONYMS

BA – Basic Assessment

BAR – Basic Assessment Report

DFFE – Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment

DWS – Department of Water and Sanitation

EA – Environmental Authorisation

EAP – Environmental Assessment Practitioner

EAPASA – Environmental Assessment Practitioners Association of South Africa

EIA - Environmental Impact Assessment

EMPR – Environmental Management Programme

GIS - Geographic Information System

NEMA - National Environmental Management Act

1. INTRODUCTION

Naledzi Environmental Consultants (Pty) Ltd was appointed by Quality Environmental Management Business Solutions cc (QEMS) to conduct an Agricultural Compliance Statement as part of the environmental authorisation (EA) process in terms of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998) (NEMA), Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations, 2014. As per GN960 of 2019, read with Section 24(5)(a) of the NEMA, an Environmental Screening Report (ESR) was generated for the application using the National Web-based Screening Tool. The Compliance Statement is reported according to the protocol for the specialist assessment and minimum report content requirements for the environmental impacts on agricultural resources (GN320 of 2020).

National Transmission Company South Africa SOC Ltd (NTCSA) proposes to expand the Gromis Substation by approximately 7 hectares, increasing the current substation footprint from approximately 12 hectares to 19 hectares. The proposed development will include the installation of two Synchronous Condensers (SynCons), associated infrastructure, extension of 400kV yard, temporary laydown areas of approximately 6 hectares, and an access road. The proposed access road will be located within the designated laydown area and will provide access to the construction and operational areas of the expanded substation. The proposed expansion is intended to accommodate the installation and operation of the two SynCons and associated infrastructures at the existing Gromis Substation located within the jurisdiction of the Nama Khoi Local Municipality in the Namakwa District Municipality of the Northern Cape Province.

1.1. Project Locality

The proposed expansion site is located on portion 0 of Farm Dikgat No. 195 and covers approximately 7 hectares for the synchronous condenser expansion area and an additional 6 hectares for the temporary laydown area. The site is situated near the mine along the R355 Road, approximately 0.95 km north of the existing Gromis Substation and about 68.30 km southwest of Springbok Town. It is also located southwest of Grootmis and Kleinsee, within the Nama Khoi

Local Municipality, Namakwa District Municipality, Northern Cape Province. The central coordinates of the site are 29°36'4.71"S and 17°10'34.48"E.

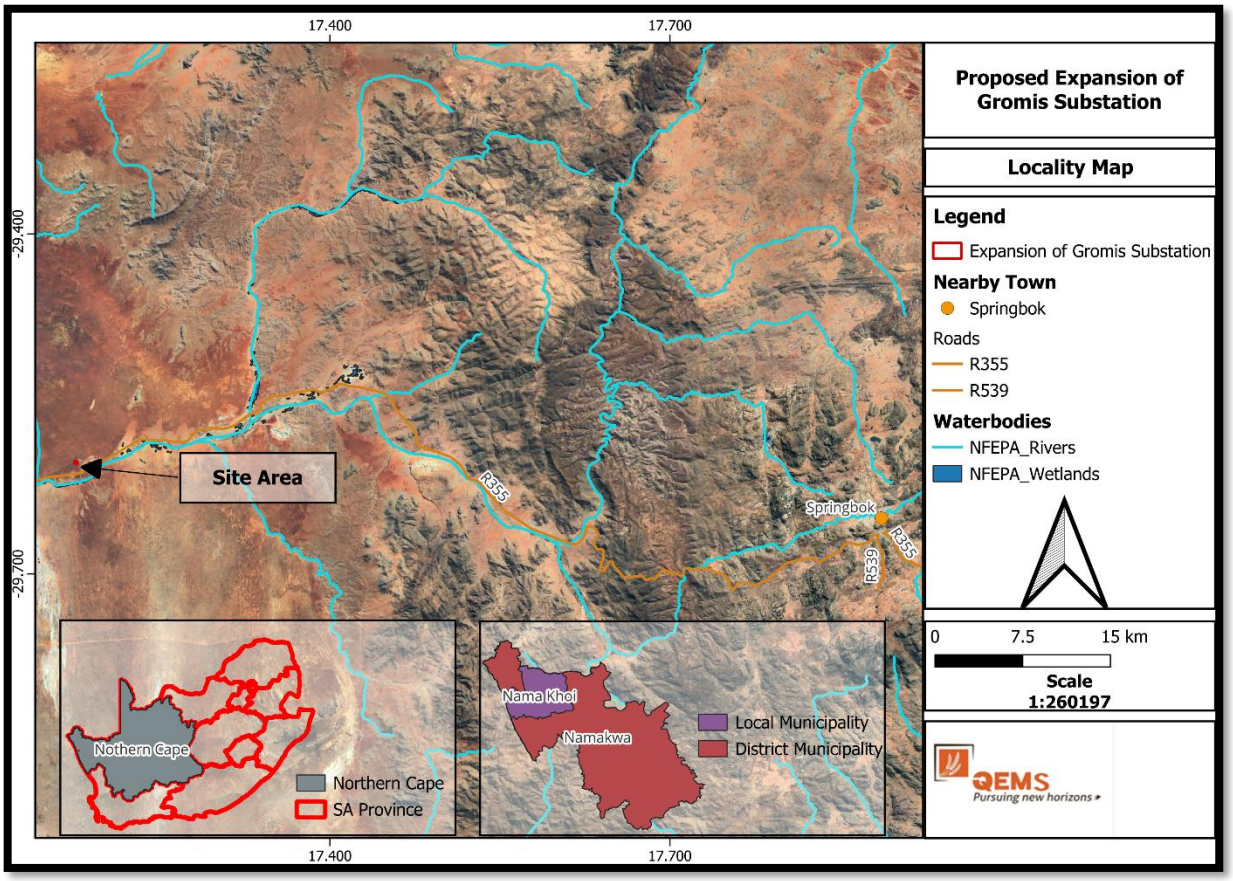


Figure 1: Locality Map (From QEMS 2026)

1.2 PROJECT DESCRIPTION

National Transmission Company South Africa SOC Ltd (NTCSA) proposes to expand the Gromis Substation by approximately 7 hectares, increasing the current substation footprint from approximately 12 hectares to 19 hectares. The proposed development will include the installation of two Synchronous Condensers (SynCons), associated infrastructure, extension of 400kV yard, temporary laydown areas of approximately 6 hectares, and an access road. The proposed access road will be located within the designated laydown area and will provide access to the construction and operational areas of the expanded substation. The proposed expansion is intended to accommodate the installation and operation of the two SynCons and associated infrastructures at the existing Gromis Substation located within the jurisdiction of the Nama Khoi Local Municipality in the Namakwa District Municipality of the Northern Cape Province.

NTCSA plans to implement SynCons to enhance grid reliability and grow renewable energy adoption. SynCons will provide several ancillary energy services, increasing rotating inertia in order to improve grid stability. The SynCons do not generate power; however, through their inertial, rotating mass provide grid stability to the local area of the national transmission grid where they are located. Currently, the only inertial, rotating mass is provided largely by the coal-fired power stations, which are stationed in the north-eastern part of the country.

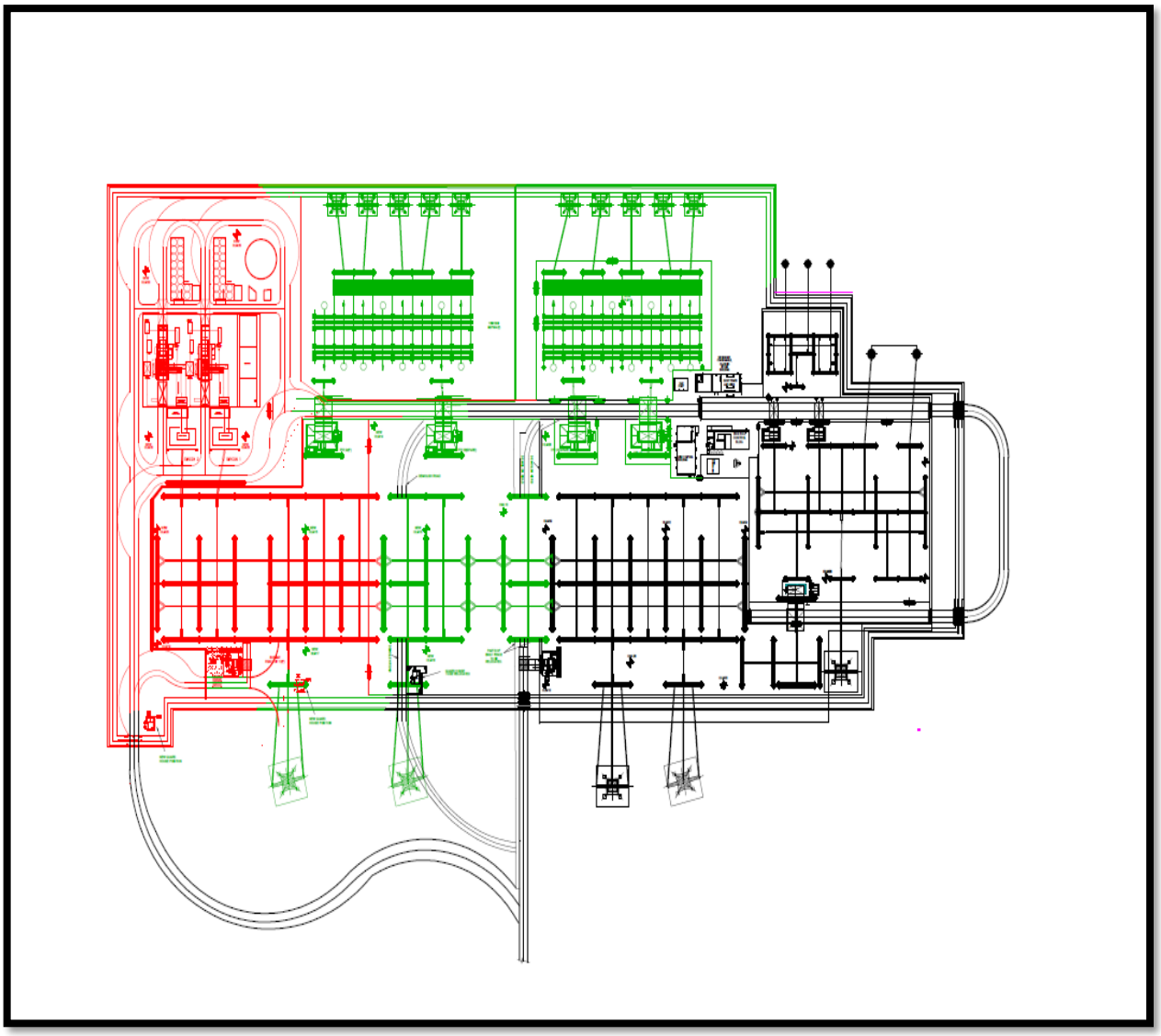


Figure 2: Preliminary Layout

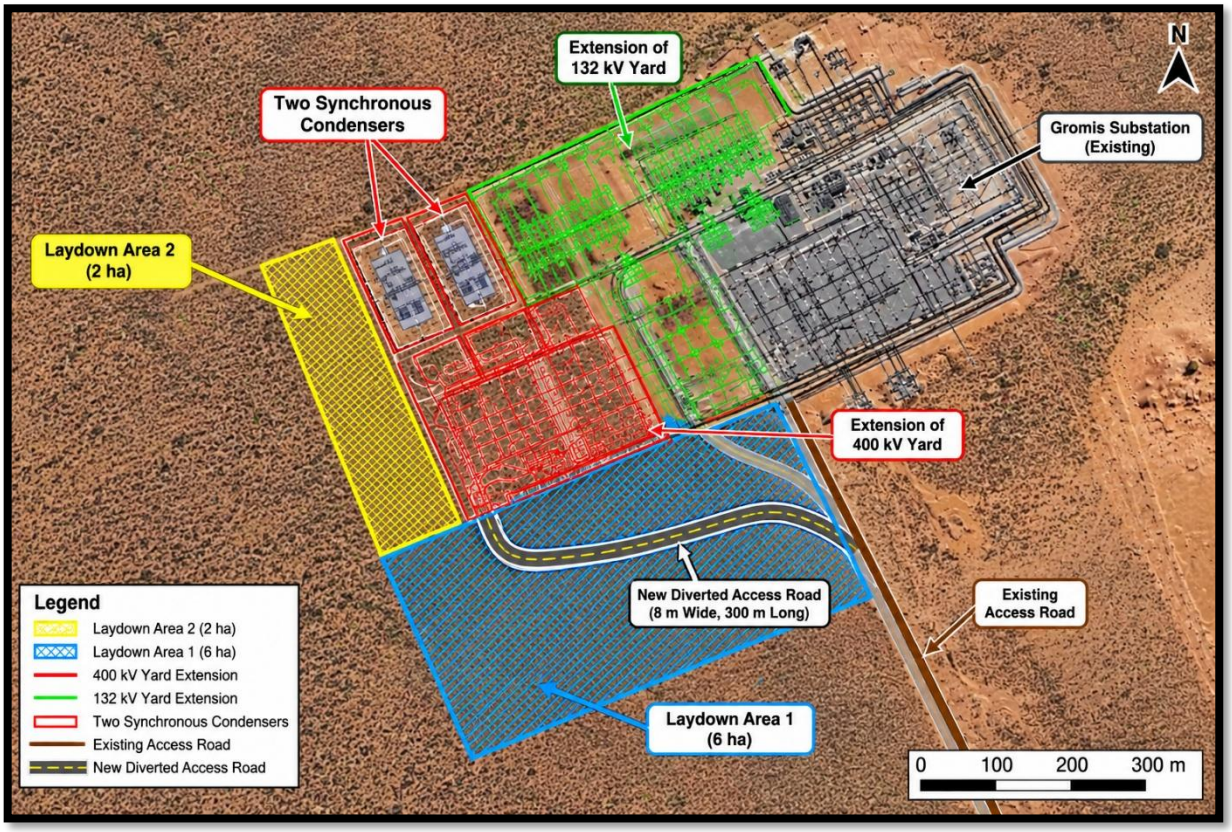


Figure 3: Layout Map

1.3. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

The objective of this assessment is to ensure that the proposed project aligns with the requirements of the Conservation of Agricultural Resources Act (CARA), 1983 (Act No. 43 of 1983) of South Africa. This legislation aims to promote the conservation of soil, water resources, and vegetation while managing weeds and invasive plant species to protect natural agricultural resources.

The study seeks to evaluate the potential impacts of the proposed development on soil quality, land use, land capability, and agricultural potential. Additionally, it aims to identify areas of high sensitivity within the study area to guide sustainable land-use planning.

This will be achieved by assessing key parameters such as soil quality, drainage, topography, climate, and water availability, ensuring that land resources are utilized in a sustainable and responsible manner.

As part of this assessment, the specialist report has examined and considered the following:

- Soil forms present within the study area.
- Land capability and agricultural sensitivity associated with the identified soils.
- Evaluation of land capability and sensitivity based on soil conditions, water availability, surrounding developments, and the current status of the land.
- Analysis of potential and actual impacts resulting from the proposed development.

1.4. SUITABILITY OF SOILS FOR AGRICULTURAL CULTIVATION

The assessment of soil suitability for agricultural cultivation primarily focuses on identifying soils that can support productive and sustainable crop growth. For soils to be classified as suitable for cultivation, they must possess the following key characteristics:

- **Adequate Depth**: Soils should have a depth greater than 60 cm to support proper root development for most cultivated crops, ensuring access to essential nutrients and water.
- **Good Soil Structure:** The presence of water-stable aggregates is essential, as they facilitate root penetration, enhance aeration, and improve water retention, all of which are critical for healthy plant growth.
- **Nutrient-Rich Composition:** Soils should contain sufficient amounts of clay and organic matter to supply essential nutrients, promoting strong crop development and long-term soil fertility.
- **Economic Viability:** The study area should have a sufficient distribution of high-quality and high-potential soils to form a viable agricultural management unit, ensuring sustainable and economically feasible crop production.
- **Optimal Clay Content and Water Table Depth:** The soil should have sufficient clay content and a deep enough water table to facilitate effective water storage, ensuring consistent moisture availability for crops.
- **Favourable Climatic Conditions:** Adequate rainfall and sunlight are essential for supporting diverse crop varieties, enhancing agricultural productivity and sustainability.

By meeting these criteria, soils can support productive agricultural activities, contributing to food security and sustainable land use**.**

1.5. APPLICABLE LEGISLATION

Several laws and regulations govern land expansion, development, and agricultural activities in South Africa. These laws ensure sustainable land use, environmental protection, and compliance with agricultural policies. Below are the key legislative frameworks**:**

- National Environmental Management Act (NEMA), 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998)
- Conservation of Agricultural Resources Act (CARA), Act 43 of 1983
- National Environmental Management: Biodiversity Act (NEMBA), Act 10 of 2004
- Spatial Planning and Land Use Management Act (SPLUMA), 2013 (Act No. 16 of 2013)
- National Environmental Management: Air Quality Act (NEM: AQA), Act 39
- National Environmental Management: Waste Act (NEMWA), Act 59 of 2008
- National Water Act (NWA), Act 36 of 1998

1.6 TERMS OF REFERENCE

The terms of reference for this study aim to meet the requirements outlined in the Protocol for specialist assessment and minimum report content, as specified for environmental impacts on agricultural resources, which was gazetted on 20 March 2020 in GN 320 under Sections 24(5)(A) and (H) and Section 44 of the National Environmental Management Act (NEMA), 1998.
The study area has been classified by the national web-based environmental screening tool on 27/08/2026 as having a Low sensitivity for agricultural theme. Due to the linear nature of the proposed development a compliance statement is required.

The terms of reference for an Agricultural Compliance Statement, as stipulated in the protocol, are listed below, and the section number of this report which fulfils each stipulation is given after it in brackets.

1. The Agricultural Compliance Statement must be prepared by a soil scientist or agricultural specialist registered with the South African Council for Natural Scientific Professions (SACNASP) (**Appendix 2**).
2. The compliance statement must:
    a. Be applicable to the preferred site and proposed development footprint (**Figure 1**);
    b. Confirm that the site is of "low" or "medium" sensitivity for agriculture (**Page 22**); and
    c. Indicate whether or not the proposed development will have an unacceptable impact on the agricultural production capability of the site (**Page 22);**
3. The Agricultural Compliance Statement must contain, as a minimum, the following information:
a. Details and relevant experience as well as the SACNASP registration number of the soil scientist or agricultural specialist preparing the statement including a curriculum vitae (**Appendix 1**);
b. A signed statement of independence by the specialist (**Page i);**
c. A map showing the proposed development footprint (including supporting infrastructure) with a 50 m buffered development envelope, overlaid on the agricultural sensitivity map generated by the screening tool **(Figure 4)**;
4. Confirmation from the specialist that all reasonable measures have been taken through micro-siting to avoid or minimize fragmentation and disturbance of agricultural activities **(Page 23)**;

5. A substantiated statement from the soil scientist or agricultural specialist on the acceptability, or not, of the proposed development and a recommendation on the approval, or not of the proposed development **(Page 24)**;
6. Any conditions to which this statement is subjected **(page24)**;
7. In the case of a linear activity, confirmation from the agricultural specialist or soil scientist, that in their opinion, based on the mitigation and remedial measures proposed, the land can be returned to the current state within two years of completion of the construction phase **(23);**
8. Where required, proposed impact management outcomes or any monitoring requirements for inclusion in the EMPr **(page 24)**; and
9. A description of the assumptions made and any uncertainties or gaps in knowledge or data **(Page 8)**.

1.7 ASSUMPTIONS, ASSUMPTIONS UNCERTAINTIES, LIMITATIONS, AND GAPS

The following assumptions, uncertainties, limitations, and gaps were applicable for the soil, land use, and land capability assessment:

- The proposed expansion activities will occur within the development footprint provided by the proponent.
- The layout supplied at the time of assessment are accurate and representative of the final development.
- Climatic conditions and rainfall patterns reflect long-term regional averages and are not significantly altered by abnormal climatic events.
- No significant contamination, soil disturbance, or historic land degradation exists beyond what was visibly observed during the site inspection.
- Water required for construction activities will be lawfully obtained and managed in compliance with applicable legislation.
- Appropriate soil management, erosion control, and rehabilitation measures will be implemented.

2. METHODOLOGY

The assessment of the Study Area's agricultural potential was conducted through a combination of desktop studies to gather general information, site visits for status quo evaluation, soil classification and characterization, as well as the validation of data derived from the desktop studies.

2.1. DESKTOP STUDY AND LITERATURE REVIEW

The literature review and the desktop study were conducted before the field assessment to gather the study area information about its land use, land capacity, geology and soils, vegetation and climate data. The data was collected from SANBI, VEGMAP and DFFE South African National Land Cover, 2022 other through using QGIS and Google Earth Pro.

2.2 SITE SURVEY AND SENSITIVITY VERIFICATION

A desktop assessment was initially conducted, followed by a field investigation to validate the results obtained during the desktop phase. The survey took place on 15 October 2026. The objectives of the on-site Site Sensitivity Verification were to:

- Verify the presence of any cultivation activities and assess the associated agricultural sensitivity;
- Verify the presence of any cultivation activities and assess the associated agricultural sensitivity;
- Gain insight into the agricultural potential of the study area;
- Confirm or dispute the current land use and environmental sensitivity as indicated by the National Environmental Screening Tool.

2.3 SCREENING TOOL FINDINGS

The agricultural assessment protocol provides the criteria for the assessment and reporting of impacts on agricultural resources for activities requiring environmental authorisation. The assessment requirements of this protocol are associated with a level of environmental sensitivity identified by the national web based environmental screening tool for agricultural resources, which is based on the land capability evaluation values as provided by the Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (DFFE). The national web based environmental screening tool via: https://screening.environment.gov.za/screeningtool can be accessed. To meet this objective, the protocol requires that site sensitivity verification be conducted, and subsequent outcomes must meet the following objectives:

- The report must confirm or disputes the current use of the land and environmental sensitivity as identified by the national web based environmental screening tool.
- The report must contain a motivation and evidence (e.g. photographs) of either the verified or different use of the land and environmental sensitivity; and
- The report must indicate whether the proposed development will have an unacceptable impact on the agricultural production capability of the site, and if it does, whether such a negative impact is outweighed by the positive impact of the proposed development on agricultural resources
- The report must be submitted together with the relevant reports prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations.

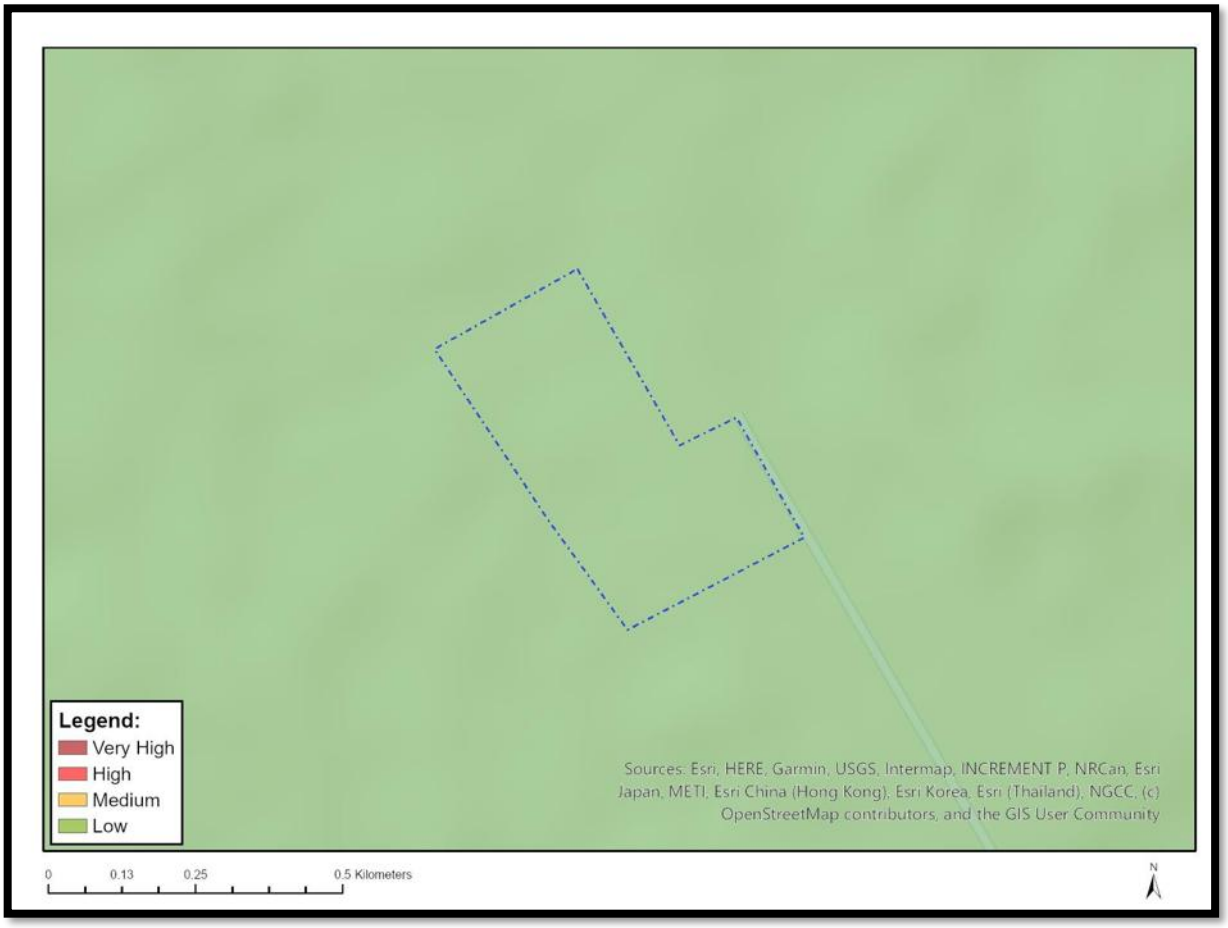


Figure 4: Agricultural Theme Sensitivity Map

Table 1: Agricultural Theme Sensitivity

Very High sensitivity	High sensitivity	Medium sensitivity	Low sensitivity
			X

Sensitivity Features:

Sensitivity	Feature(s)
Low	05. Low

3. DESKTOP RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

3.1 VEGETATION

The proposed expansion area and the temporary laydown area are located within the Namaqualand Strandveld vegetation type**,** while the Namaqualand Riviere vegetation type occurs nearby along the river (Figure 5**).** According to SANBI VEGMAP (2018), Namaqualand Strandveld forms part of the Succulent Karoo Biome and is characterised by low-growing succulent shrubs, dwarf shrubs,

and sparse grasses adapted to the arid climate, low winter rainfall, and nutrient-poor soils of the Northern Cape. The expansion does not overlap with the Namaqualand Riviere vegetation, indicating that direct impacts on the more sensitive riverine habitat are unlikely, provided that construction activities remain within the proposed development footprint. Although the Namaqualand Strandveld vegetation is generally considered moderately resilient to disturbance, it remains ecologically important due to its high plant diversity and endemism. Potential threats to this vegetation include habitat disturbance, overgrazing, invasive alien species, and climate change, which may affect vegetation composition and cover over time.

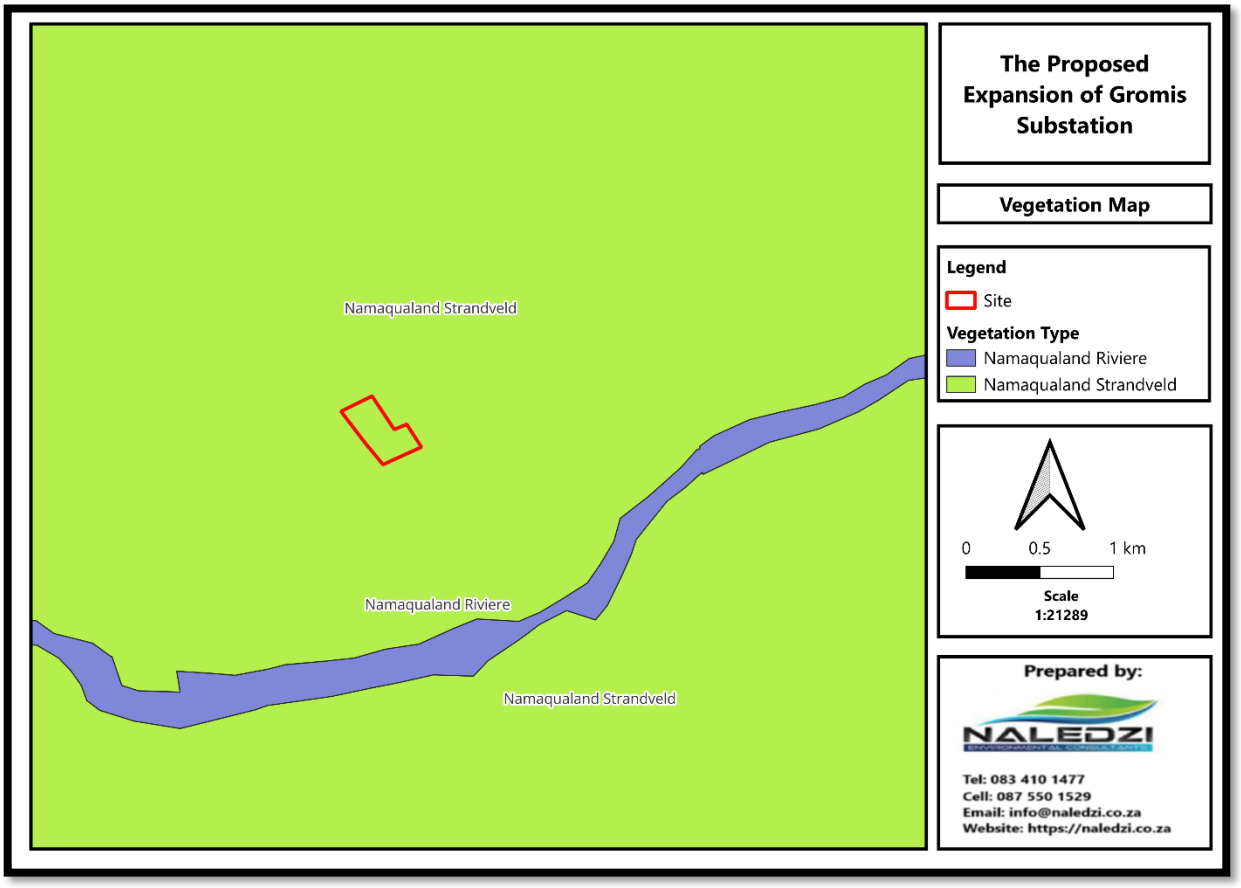


Figure 5: Vegetation Map

3.2 GEOLOGY AND SOILS

The study area is underlain by geological formations associated with the West Coast Group. The geology of the region is characterised by sedimentary deposits, including calcareous materials and limestone in areas where these formations occur. These geological characteristics influence soil formation, resulting in predominantly sandy to calcareous soils with variations in soil depth, texture, drainage, and the presence of calcrete. The soils are generally influenced by the region's arid climatic conditions, characterised by low and irregular rainfall, high evaporation rates, and sparse vegetation cover. These conditions limit soil moisture availability and natural soil development. From a land-use perspective, agricultural potential is generally limited, with land use primarily associated with natural vegetation and extensive grazing where suitable. Shallow soils, hard calcrete layers, and low organic matter content may restrict root development and water infiltration. Furthermore, the sparse vegetation cover and exposed sandy surfaces increase the susceptibility of soils to wind erosion, particularly where construction activities or vegetation clearance disturb the existing ground surface.

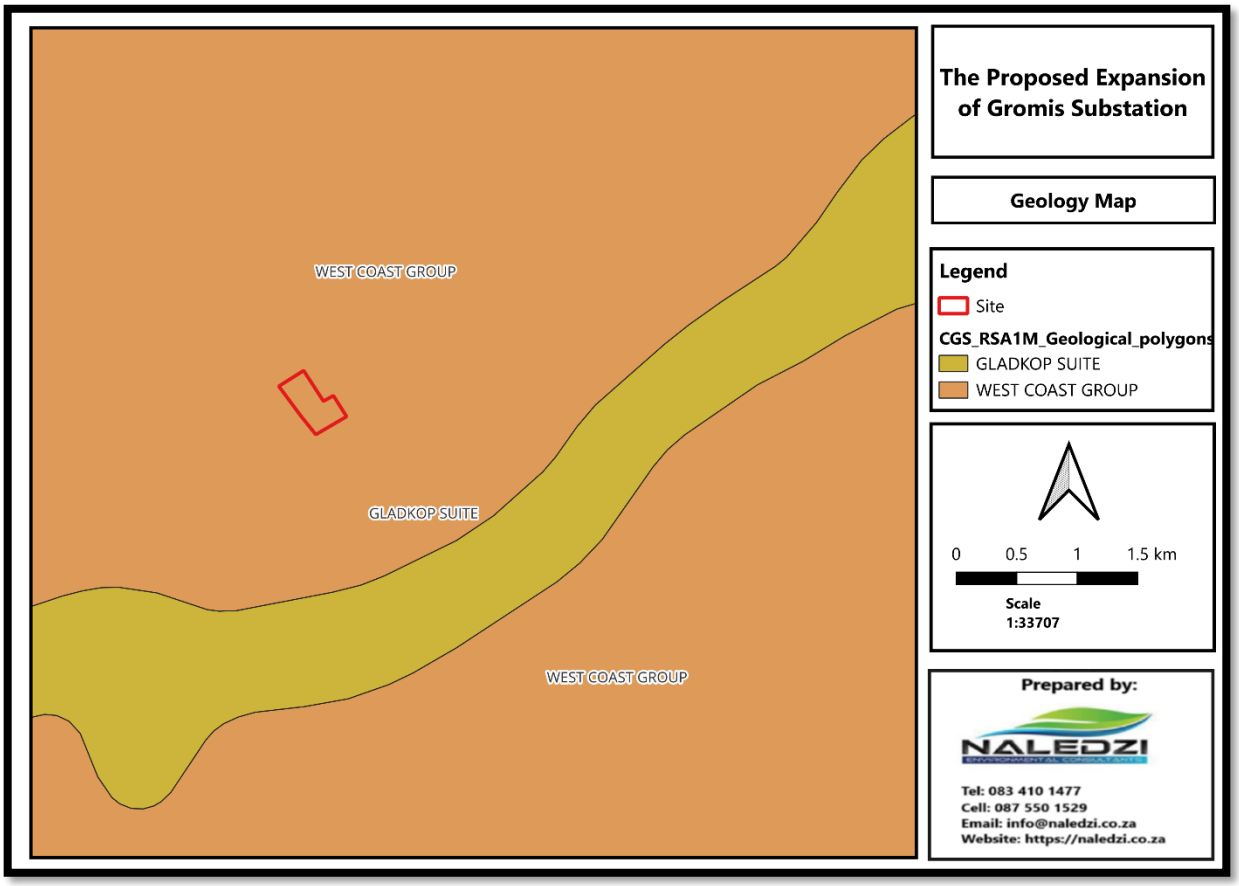


Figure 6: Geology Map



Figure 7: Soil within the site

3.3 LAND TYPE

The study area falls within Land Type AF17. Which is predominantly associated with deep, freely draining, structureless sandy soils, with soil depths generally exceeding 1,200 mm. Although deep soils may provide sufficient rooting depth, their sandy texture can result in low water-holding capacity and limited nutrient retention, depending on local soil conditions.

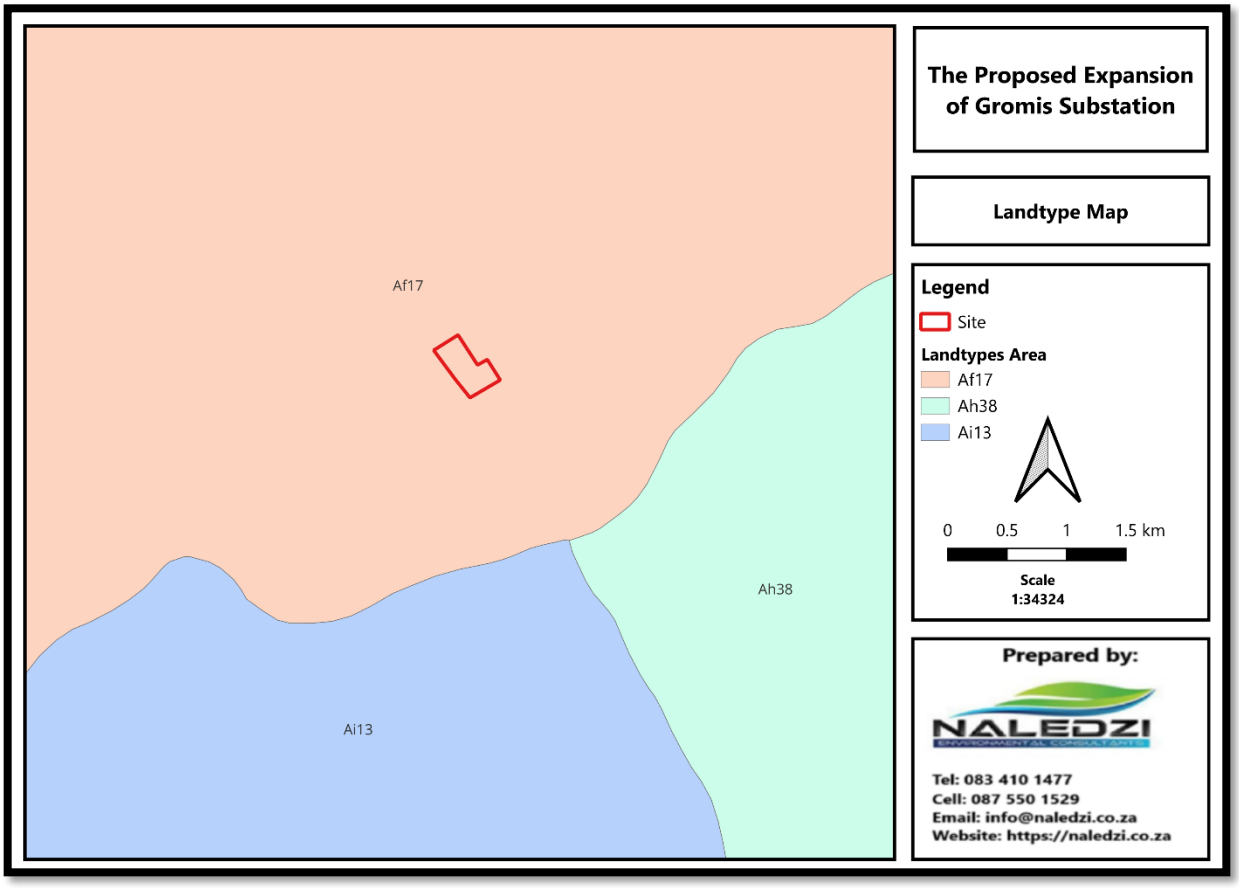


Figure 8: Land Type Map

3.4 GRAZING CAPACITY

The study area falls within a grazing capacity of 60 ha per Large Stock Unit (LSU), indicating low grazing potential. This means that approximately 60 hectares are required to sustainably support one LSU under normal grazing conditions. The low grazing capacity reflects the limited availability of suitable grazing resources and the influence of climatic conditions on vegetation productivity. Livestock grazing is possible; however, stocking rates must be carefully managed to prevent overgrazing, vegetation degradation, and soil erosion. Sustainable utilisation requires

conservative stocking rates, rotational grazing where appropriate, and regular monitoring of veld condition to maintain the long-term productivity of the land (Tainton, 1999; DAFF, 2018)

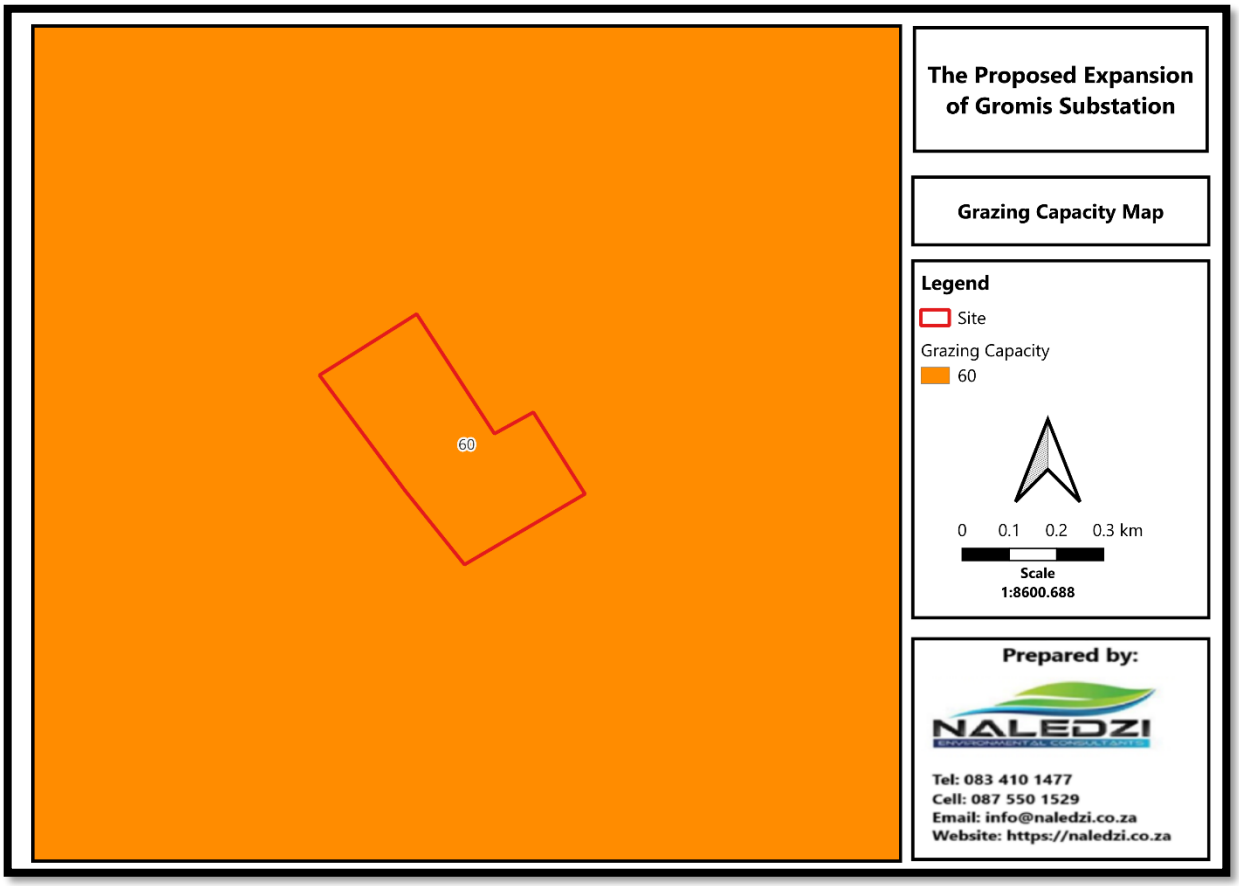


Figure 9: Grazing Capacity Map

3.5 LAND CAPABILITY

The study area falls within Land Capability Class VII, which is characterised by very severe limitations that render the land unsuitable for cultivation. These limitations may include shallow soils, steep slopes, erosion hazards, stoniness, low water-holding capacity, or unfavourable climatic conditions. Land within this class is generally suitable for natural grazing, wildlife conservation, and, where appropriate, woodland.

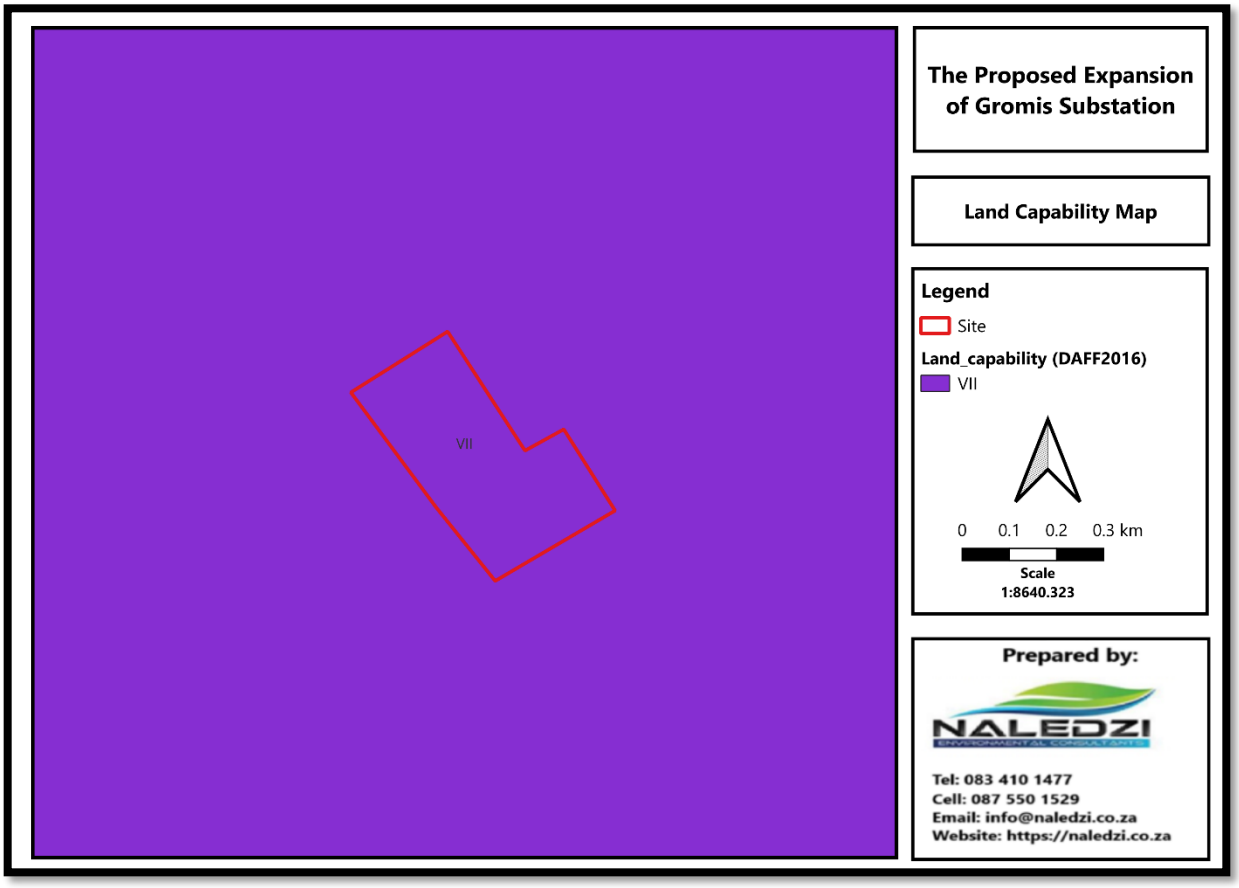


Figure 10: Land Capability Map

3.6 CLIMATE

The study area experiences a dry climate with a Mediterranean influence, characterised by low annual rainfall and seasonal temperature variations. The area receives approximately 42 mm of rainfall annually, with most precipitation occurring during winter. Average monthly rainfall ranges from 0 mm in January to 9 mm in May, indicating that rainfall is generally limited throughout the year.

Average daily maximum temperatures range from 19.7°C in July to 27.2°C in February. February is the warmest month, while July is the coldest. Average nightly minimum temperatures reach approximately 8°C in July, reflecting cooler winter conditions.

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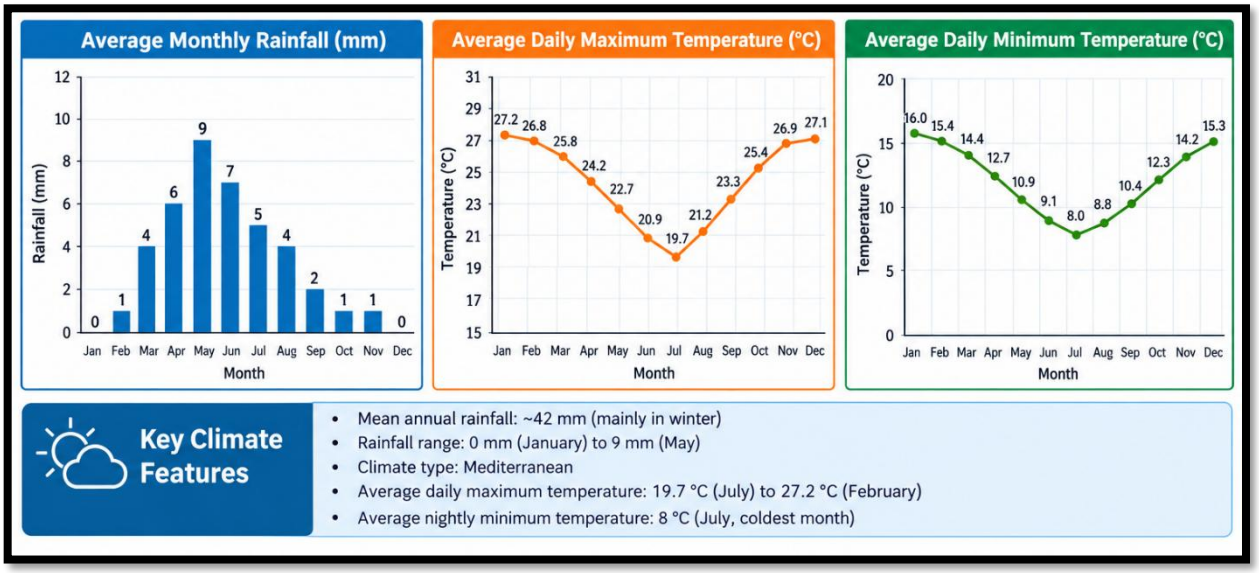


Figure 11: Climate Pattern of the Study Area

3.7 LAND USE

The proposed expansion area and associated temporary laydown area are predominantly located within an area classified as low shrubland (Succulent Karoo), which is the dominant land cover type in the project area (Figure 12) (DFFE South African National Land Cover, 2022). The surrounding landscape also includes areas associated with mines: extraction pits and quarries to the east of the proposed sites, as well as small patches of other bare surfaces, roads, and bare riverbed material associated with nearby drainage features. The proposed development is therefore situated within an already transformed landscape characterized by natural shrubland interspersed with existing mining and infrastructure activities, indicating that the project will be located within an area of relatively low land-use sensitivity.

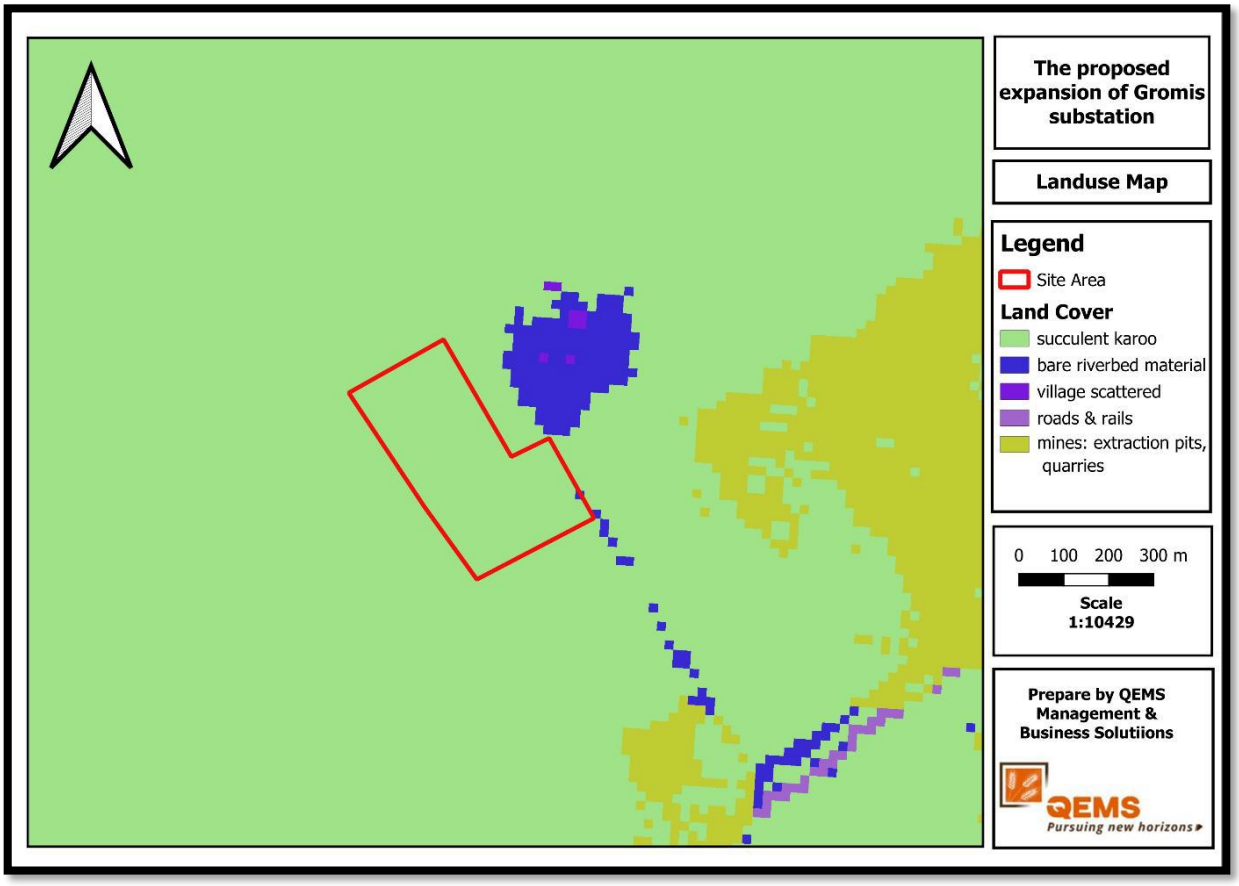


Figure 12: Land Use Map (From QEMS 2026).

4. FIELD VERIFIED RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

4.1 LAND USES WITHIN AND THE VICINITY OF THE STUDY AREA

The study area is located near an existing mine, while the remainder of the site is traversed by power lines connecting to and from the Gromis Substation. The surrounding area is predominantly vacant, with limited development apart from the existing mining and electricity transmission infrastructure. An existing access road provides access to the Gromis Substation and connects to the R335, facilitating access to the site and surrounding infrastructure. A water pipeline also runs along the access road to the Gromis Substation, forming part of the existing infrastructure in the study area



Figure 13: Images of land use activities within the study area and its vicinity

4.2 IMPACT STATEMENT AND SCREENING TOOL SENSITIVITY VERIFICATION

The assessed area is currently vacant and is characterised primarily by sandy soils with sparse shrubs. The surrounding land uses include existing powerlines traversing the area towards the substation, a water pipeline supplying the substation, and an access road providing access to the site. A mine is also located nearby. These existing infrastructure elements and adjacent mining activities form part of the broader land-use context of the assessed area. Agricultural impacts refer to any changes that affect the long-term ability of a land area to sustain farming activities. These changes may arise from natural processes or human activities and can lead to a decline in soil fertility, productivity, or land usability. One significant source of agricultural impact is the conversion of land for urban expansion, industrial development, or infrastructure projects. When land is repurposed for non-agricultural uses, its capacity to support crop production or livestock farming is diminished, potentially leading to reduced food security, increased reliance on imports, and economic disruptions for local farming communities.

According to the proposed project layout, approximately 7 ha will be utilised for the expansion of the existing substation, while 6 ha will be allocated for the temporary laydown area. Within the 6 ha designated for the temporary laydown area, a permanent access road approximately 300 m in length will be constructed to provide access to the substation and connect the proposed development to the existing road network. No existing agricultural land will be lost, as the area is currently vacant.

The project area has the Land Capability Class VII and is underlain by Land Type AF17, characterised by predominantly sandy soils. Land Capability Class VII has severe limitations for cultivation and is generally unsuitable for regular crop production. The land is better suited to natural vegetation, conservation and extensive grazing, subject to appropriate land management practices. The area has grazing capacity of 60 ha per large stock unit (LSU), indicating low grazing potential. This means that a relatively large area of land is required to sustain one large stock unit. Grazing activities should therefore be carefully managed to prevent overgrazing, soil erosion and the degradation of the natural vegetation.

The predominantly sandy soils have limited agricultural suitability for cultivation due to their soil characteristics and the prevailing arid climatic conditions of the area. Consequently, the land is

more suitable for livestock grazing and the maintenance of natural vegetation than for intensive agricultural production.

The proposed development will utilise 7 ha for the expansion of the existing substation and 6 ha for the temporary laydown area. Although the proposed activities will result in some land disturbance, no significant loss of high-potential agricultural land is anticipated, given the site's Land Capability Class VII classification, low grazing potential (approximately 60 ha/LSU), and predominantly sandy soils, which are generally unsuitable for cultivation and are more appropriate for limited grazing. The temporary laydown area should be rehabilitated after construction, where feasible, to minimise long-term land degradation and allow the affected area to recover.

In accordance 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 NEMA, 1998, when applying for environmental authorisation the current use of the land and the environmental sensitivity of the site under consideration as identified by the national web-based environmental screening tool, must be confirmed by undertaking a site sensitivity verification.

The outcome of this Agricultural Impact Assessment is to:

- Confirm or dispute the current use of the land and the environmental sensitivity as identified by the screening tool; and
- Motivate and provide evidence of either the verified or different use of the land and environmental sensitivity of the site.

The allocated vs site-verified sensitivities for the agricultural theme are presented in Table 2

Table 2: Summary of the screening tool vs specialist-assigned sensitivities

Study Area	Screening Tool Assigned Sensitivity	Verified Sensitivity
The Proposed Expansion of Gromis Substation.	Low Sensitivity	Low Sensitivity

4.3 MICRO-SITING TO MINIMIZE FRAGMENTATION AND DISTURBANCE OF AGRICULTURAL ACTIVITIES.

The proposed development will result in the permanent loss of 7 ha of land for the expansion of the existing substation. An additional 6 ha will be utilised as a temporary laydown area during the construction phase. Following completion of construction, the temporary laydown area must be rehabilitated to restore the affected land and allow for the potential resumption of limited grazing activities. A permanent access road approximately 300 m in length will also be constructed to connect the substation to the existing road network, resulting in additional permanent land disturbance within the road footprint.

To minimise fragmentation and disturbance of agricultural activities, all infrastructure should be confined to the designated development footprint, and existing access roads should be used wherever feasible. Given that the site is underlain by predominantly sandy soils that are susceptible to wind erosion and the formation or migration of sand dunes, appropriate soil management measures must be implemented throughout construction. These measures should include minimising vegetation clearance, limiting the exposure of bare soil, restricting vehicle movement to designated routes, and stabilising disturbed surfaces using suitable indigenous vegetation or other appropriate erosion-control measures. Topsoil, where present, should be carefully stripped and stockpiled separately for reuse during rehabilitation. Exposed sandy areas should be rehabilitated as soon as practicable to reduce wind erosion and prevent further dune formation or movement.

4.4 CONFIRMATION OF LINEAR ACTIVITY IMPACT

The protocol requires confirmation, in the case of a linear activity, that the land can be restored to its current condition within two years following completion of construction. It is hereby confirmed that the land temporarily disturbed during the construction of the 300m in length access road can be restored to its current condition within two years following completion of construction and can be returned to its existing level of agricultural production potential within this timeframe.

5. CONCLUSION

The study area is largely vacant and is characterised by predominantly sandy soils, sparse shrubs typical of the arid Namaqualand region. The surrounding land uses include existing powerlines, a water pipeline, access roads and nearby mining activities. The proposed project involves the expansion of the existing substation over approximately 7 ha, the use of an additional 6 ha as a temporary laydown area, and the construction of a permanent access road approximately 300 m in length.

The site is classified as Land Capability Class VII and falls within Land Type AF17. Its predominantly sandy soils and estimated grazing capacity of 60 ha/LSU indicate low agricultural potential, with the land being more suitable for limited grazing and natural vegetation than for cultivation. The proposed development will result in the permanent loss of approximately 7 ha for the substation expansion, together with additional permanent disturbance associated with the 300m access road. The 6ha temporary laydown area can be rehabilitated following construction to facilitate the recovery of vegetation and potentially allow the resumption of limited grazing activities.

The national web-based environmental screening tool assigns Low sensitivity to the agricultural theme. The site verification assessment confirmed this rating as Low, based on the observed land characteristics, sandy soils, low grazing potential and absence of significant existing agricultural activities. Therefore, the proposed development is not expected to result in significant impacts on high-potential agricultural land.

The appropriate mitigation measures must be implemented to minimise soil disturbance, wind erosion and the formation or movement of sand dunes. These measures should include restricting construction activities to the approved footprint, minimising vegetation clearance, stabilising exposed sandy soils and rehabilitating the temporary laydown area as soon as practicable. The mitigation measures must be incorporated into the Environmental Management Programme (EMPr) and implemented throughout the construction and rehabilitation phases. The project is therefore considered acceptable from an agricultural perspective and compatible with sustainable land use objectives.

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APPENDIX 1

CURRICULUM VITAE

Prof Khathutshelo Nephawe (PhD, MBL, Pr.Sci.Nat.)

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RESUME SUMMARY

Prof Khathutshelo Nephawe holds the following educational qualifications: PhD in Agriculture from University of Nebraska (USA) under the prestigious Fulbright Scholarship, Masters in Business Leadership from UNISA's Graduate School of Business Leadership (SBL), Postgraduate Certificate in Practical Project Management Programme from UNISA - SBL, MSc Agriculture from University of Free State (UFS), BSc in Agriculture (Hons) from UFS, and BSc Agriculture from University of Limpopo.

Prof Nephawe is currently employed by Tshwane University of Technology (TUT) as a Research Professor and Head of Department. Previously Is

Prof Nephawe has comprehensive leadership experience at government, industry, research organizations and higher education institutions. He serves as the Chairperson of Council at SACNASP. He also serve(d) on the following Boards / Committee's: Higher Education Qualification Committee (HEQC) of the Council on Higher Education (CHE), R&D Committee Chairperson at Onderstepoort Biological Product Institute (OBP), South African Society for Animal Sciences (SASAS), Limpopo Colleges of Agriculture Advisor Board, Potchefstroom College of Agriculture Advisor Board, professionals in Science, Engineering and Technology (proSET) committee of the National Science Technology Forum (NSTF). Continentally, he previously served in the African Technology and Innovations Incubators Advisory Committee (ATIIAC) of the African Union-InterAfrica Bureau for Animal Resources (AU-IBAR). Additionally, he served at various pools/panels of experts at National Research Foundation (NRF), Water Research Council (WRC), Read Meat Research and Development Trust (RMRDT), etc.

Prof Nephawe's skills and competencies include, but not limited to: Program Design & Evaluation, Curriculum Design, Agriculture & Rural Development; Monitoring, Evaluation & Reporting; Resource Mobilization; Strategic Management & Leadership; Research Technology & Innovation, Project Management; Strategic Planning & Development; Information & Communication Technology; Problem Solving & Conflict Resolution; Mentoring & Supervision; Stakeholder Engagements, Partnerships & Collaborations; Risk Management; Financial Management; Human Capital Development; Change Management; Diversity Management; Policy Analysis & Development; Data Analysis; Local, Provincial & National Government Knowledge; Report Writing and Presentation Skills.

Prof Nephawe has outstanding record of participation and leadership of organizations both at national, regional and international arena. He has substantively advanced the attainment of the National Development Plan 2030 vision, the African Agenda 2063 and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND

- **PhD – Agriculture (Animal Breeding and Genetics),** University of Nebraska, USA (2003).
- **Masters of Business Leadership (MBL) degree**, University of South Africa, Graduate School of Business Leadership (2011).
- **Postgraduate certificate in Practical Project Management Programme (PPM),** University of South Africa, Graduate School of Business Leadership (2005).
- **MSc Agriculture - Animal Science,** University of the Free State (1998).
- **BSc Agriculture (Hons) - Animal Science** *(Cum Laude*), University of Free State (1996).
- **BSc Agriculture – Animal Science**, University of Limpopo (1995).

SKILLS & COMPETENCIES

- Outstanding skills and competencies in the following areas: Academic Leadership; Program Design & Evaluation, Curriculum Design; Science, Technology and Innovation; Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting; Resource Mobilization; Strategic Management and Leadership; Research Technology and Innovation, Project Management; Strategic Planning and Development; Information and Communication Technology; Problem Solving and Conflict Resolution; Mentoring and Supervision; Stakeholder Engagements; Partnerships and Collaborations; Risk Management; Financial Management; Human Capital Development; Change Management; Diversity Management; Policy Analysis and Development; Data Analysis; Local, Provincial and National Government Knowledge; Report Writing and Presentation Skills.
- Moreover, possess expertise and experience in Statistical Designs and Analysis of Business & Scientific Research Data using various specialized software packages such as the Statistical Analyses System (SAS) and Statistical package for Social Sciences (SPSS) software packages, to mention but a few.

WORK EXPERIENCES

- **Tshwane University of Technology (2013 – current)**
  Position: Head of Department & Research Professor

- **Limpopo Department of Agriculture (2006 – 2013)**
  Position: Scientific Manager – Grade B (Livestock Research)

- **Agricultural Research Council (2003 - 2006)**
  Position: Senior Researcher - Animal Breeding & Genetics

- **Agricultural Research Council (1997-1998)**
  Position: Candidate Researcher - Animal Breeding & Genetics