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DRAFT BASIC ASSESSMENT REPORT

**THE EXPANSION OF GROMIS SUBSTATION AND ITS ASSOCIATED
INFRASTRUCTURE LOCATED ON PORTION 0 AND 15 OF FARM DIKGAT
NO. 195, WITHIN THE JURISDICTION OF NAMA KHOI LOCAL
MUNICIPALITY OF NAMAKWA DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY IN
NORTHERN CAPE PROVINCE.**

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Eskom SOC Ltd, South Africa's state-owned power company, has historically relied on large coal-fired power stations and peaking plants for electricity generation. Peaking plants were comprised of a mix of gas-fired turbines (burning diesel as fuel) and hydro plants to supplant base load electricity generation. The national transmission grid, primarily consisting of a range of 220 kV to 765 kV overhead lines, transmits power across the country.

The latter is owned and operated by the National Transmission Company South Africa SOC Ltd (NTCSA), a subsidiary of Eskom SOC Ltd. In addition to the above, NTCSA manages a number of 88kV to 132 kV power lines that are strategic in nature as well. To enhance grid reliability amid growing renewable energy adoption, NTCSA plans to implement Synchronous Condensers (SynCons). SynCons will provide several ancillary energy services, increasing rotating inertia 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

Quality Environmental Management and Business Solutions cc (QEMS) has been appointed as the independent Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP) for National Transmission Company South Africa (NTCSA) to undertake a Basic Assessment process for the expansion of the existing Gromis Substation and associated infrastructure. The expansion of the substation includes the installation of a Synchronous Condenser. The substation is located near Kleinsee on portions 0 and 15 of Farm Dikgat No. 195, within the jurisdiction of the Nama Khoi Local Municipality of the Namakwa District Municipality in the Northern Cape Province.

In terms of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act 107 of 1998) (as amended) (NEMA) and the 2014 EIA Regulations GN.982 and GN.983 as amended, the proposed development triggers activities that require NTCSA to obtain an Environmental Authorisation (EA) through a Basic Assessment (BA) process from the National Department of Environment Forestry and Fisheries (DFFE) before commencement of the proposed development.

The project triggers the following activities that necessitate the need for a Basic Assessment:

- Listing Notice 1- Activity 27

Section 24(5)(h) of the NEMA and regulation 16 (1)(b)(v) of the EIA Regulations of 2014 also require the submission of a national web-based environmental screening tool report (GNR. 960/05 July 2019), when applying for an Environmental Authorisation in terms of Regulation 19 and 21 of the EIA Regulations of 2014. The Screening Tool Report (STR) was generated using the DFFE's national online GIS-based 'National web-based Environmental Screening Tool and

provides detail on the environmental sensitivity, restriction, exclusion, or prohibition zones and specific requirements, including specialist studies, that are applicable to the proposed development site, based on the national sector classification and the site's environmental sensitivity.

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ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

ACRONYM	DESCRIPTION
BID	Background Information Document
CA	Competent Authority
DFFE	Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment
EAP	Environmental Assessment Practitioner
EA	Environmental Authorisation
EIA Regulations	Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations
EMPr	Environmental Management Programme
I&APs	Interested and Affected Parties
IRR	Issues and Response Report
NEMA	National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act 107 of 1998)
SAHRA	South African Heritage Resources Agency

SECTION A: PROJECT BACKGROUND

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 BACKGROUND

Eskom SOC Ltd, South Africa's state-owned power company, has historically relied on large coal-fired power stations and a few hydro plants for electricity generation. The national grid, primarily consisting of 400 kV and 765 kV overhead lines, transmits power across the country. To enhance grid reliability amid growing renewable energy adoption, the National Transmission Company South Africa (NTCSA), a subsidiary of Eskom, plans to implement Synchronous Condensers at seven host main transmission substations (MTSs). The host substations are in the Eastern (two) and Northern Cape (five), where there is an immediate need to improve grid stability.

Synchronous condensers (SynCons) are large spinning machines that act like stabilizing anchors to the grid. SynCons are a proven technology that is commonly used to provide inertia, damping, voltage support, and stronger grid conditions. This, in turn, enables the reliable operation of renewable energy inverters.

Quality Environmental and Business Management Solution cc (QEMS) has been appointed by The National Transmission Company South Africa (NTCSA) to undertake a Basic Assessment Report for the expansion of Gromis substation and its associated infrastructure 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.

In terms of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act 107 of 1998) (as amended) (NEMA) and the 2014 EIA Regulations GN.982 and GN.983 as amended, the proposed development triggers activities that require NTCSA to obtain an Environmental Authorisation (EA) through a Basic Assessment (BA) process from the National Department of Environment Forestry and Fisheries (DFFE) before commencement of the proposed development.

1.2. DETAILS OF THE APPLICANT

The details of the applicant, which is NTCSA, are reflected in Table 1 below.

Table 1: Details of the applicant

ITEM	DESCRIPTION
Name of Applicant	National Transmission Company South Africa SOC (Ltd)
Address of Applicant	2 Maxwell Drive, Megawatt Park, Sunninghill, Sandton, 2157
Contact details	PhiriM@ntcsa.co.za 011 800 3550

1.3. DETAILS OF THE EAP

This report was prepared by QEMS for NTCSA. The details of the responsible Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP) are in Table 2 below.

Table 2: Details of the EAP

ITEM	DESCRIPTION
Name of the EAP	Dr Patrick Sithole
Address	7 Munnik Avenue, Sterpark, Polokwane, 0700 Limpopo, South Africa
Contact details	Tel: 061 535 3141 Email: sitholetp@qems.co.za

1.4. EXPERTISE OF THE EAP

A Registered natural scientific professional (SACNASP – Environmental and Chemical Scientist), Registered Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAPASA), and social and sustainability expert with 24 years of experience, Patrick Sithole specialises in Strategic Environmental, Social and Sustainable Development projects, Climate Change and Health, Environmental Management issues, and Construction Supervision of all infrastructural projects. Dr Sithole is also involved in vegetation clearance and pest control projects along infrastructural projects, e.g., roads, railway lines, power lines, golf courses and buildings like complexes, houses, malls, etc. His key experience includes the following areas; Environmental

(Natural Resource) Management; Environmental Compliance; Social Facilitation and Consultation; Compensation of Land Claims; Climate Change; Climate (Change) and Human Health; Air Quality Management; Renewable Energy; Waste Management; Land Rehabilitation; Water Quality/Demand Management; Strategic Environmental Assessment; Wastewater (sewer) Treatment; Project Management; ISO 9001 and ISO14001; Vegetation Control Bush Clearance (Invasive plants).

2. PROJECT LOCALITY

The proposed expansion site is located on Farm Dikgat No. 195, covering approximately 7 hectares of land near the mine along the R355 Road, about 0.95 km to the north and approximately 68.30 km southwest of Springbok town. The proposed development falls within the Strategic Transmission Corridor. The central coordinates of the site are 29°36'4.49"S and 17°10'35.74"E. The site falls within the jurisdiction of the Nama Khoi Local Municipality of Namakwa District Municipality in Northern Cape Province. The table below depicts the Surveyor General 21 Digit and corner coordinates of the preferred addition area.

Table 3: Farm portion and Surveyor General 21 Digit

Farm portion and No.	Surveyor General 21 Digit code
Portion 0 of Farm DIKGAT No. 195	C05300000000019500000

Table 4: Corner Coordinates

Corner coordinates	Latitude (S)	Longitude (E)
Corner A	29°35'58.54"S	17°10'35.87"E
Coner B	29°36'7.17"S	17°10'41.56"E
Coner C	29°36'10.55"S	17°10'34.28"E
Coner D	29°36'2.44"S	17°10'28.05"E

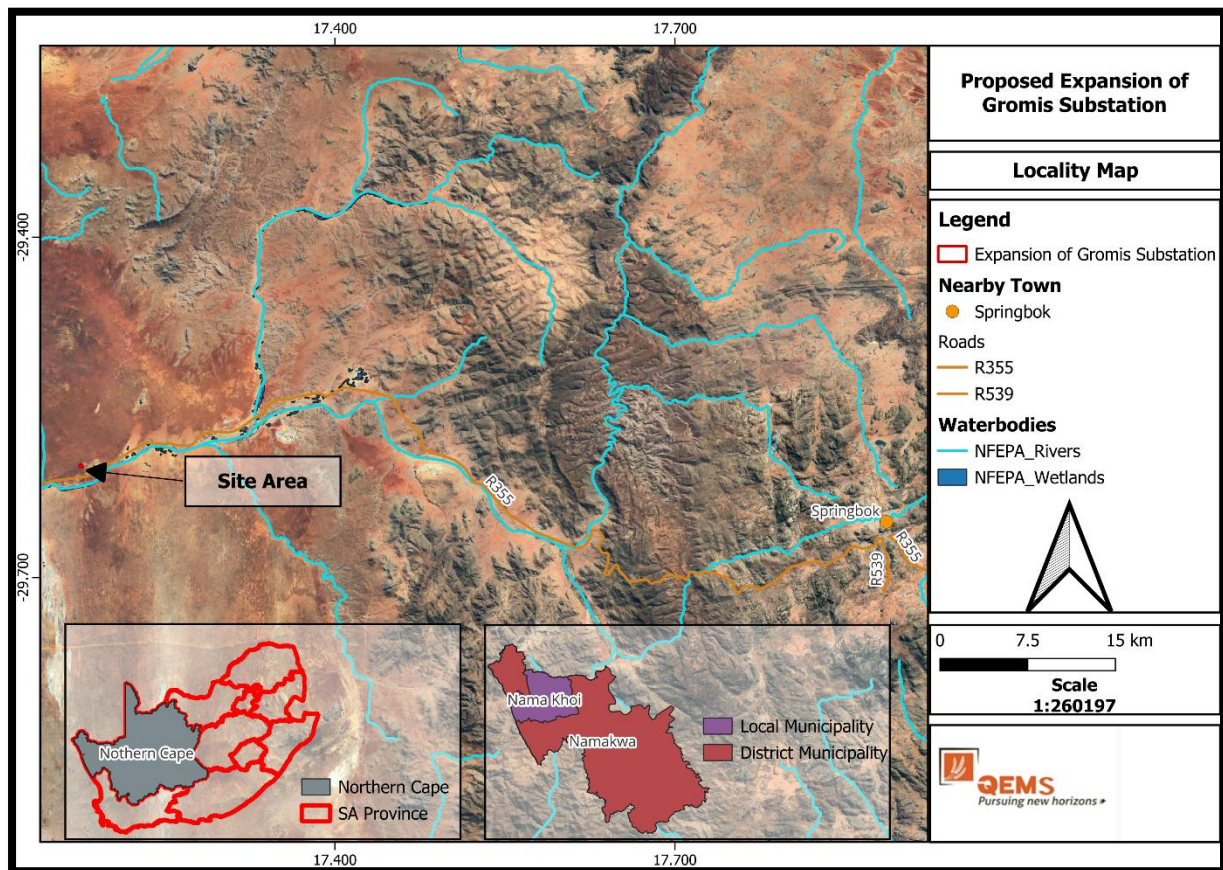


Figure 1: Locality Map

3. Project Activities

National Transmission Company South Africa (NTCSA) intends to expand the existing Gromis Substation by an additional 7 hectares, increasing the total substation footprint from 12 hectares to 19 hectares. The proposed expansion is intended to accommodate the installation of two Synchronous Condensers (SynCons) at the existing Gromis Substation, located within the jurisdiction of the Nama Khoi Local Municipality in the Namakwa District Municipality, 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.

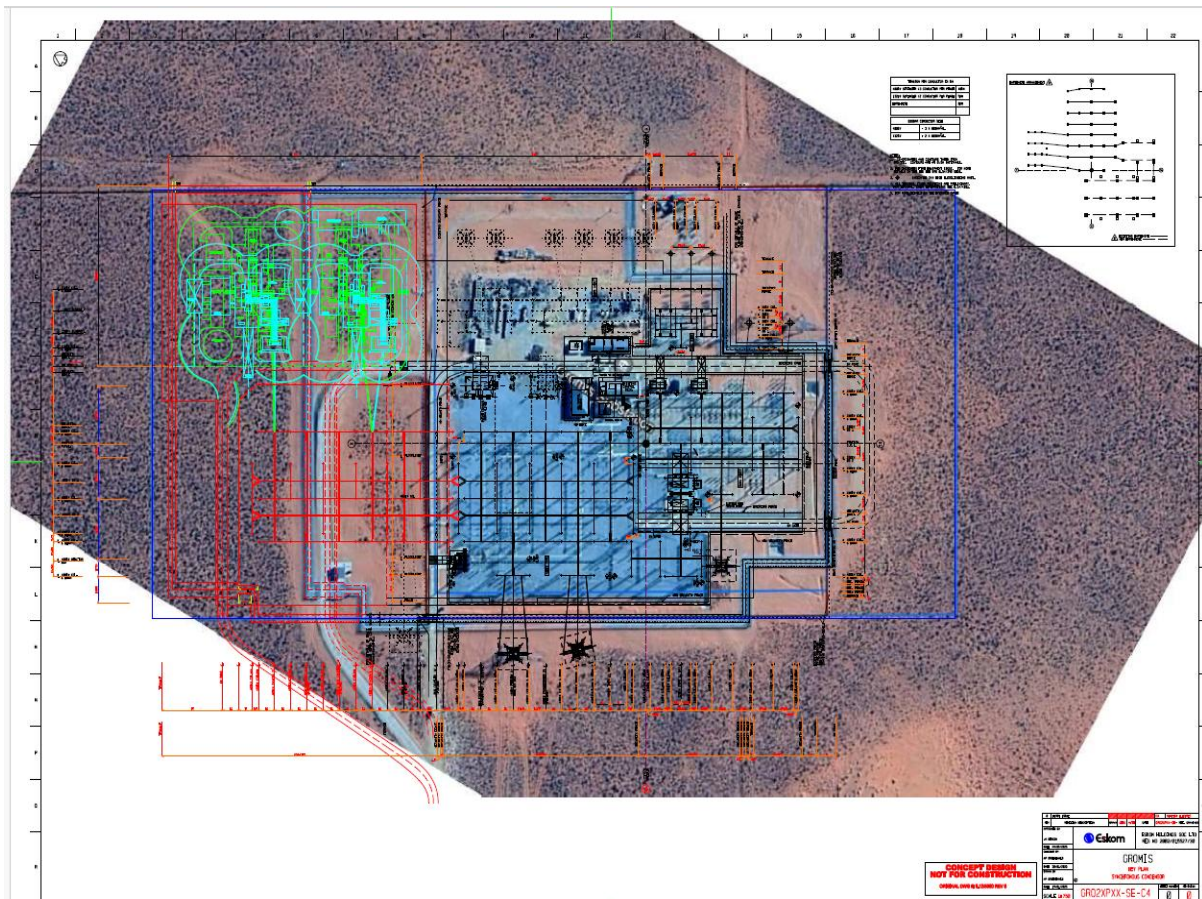


Figure 2: Layout Map

3.1. SERVICES REQUIRED

3.1.1. Water

During all phases of the project, water will be sourced from the substation, as water infrastructure is already available due to the substation being an existing facility.

3.1.2. Sewage

There is already an ablution facility on site.

3.1.3. Electricity

Electricity is currently available on site.

3.1.4. Solid Waste Disposal

It is expected that a significant volume of solid waste will be generated during the construction activities. All waste produced will be gathered and temporarily stored in a specified area within

the construction site. The waste will be kept in enclosed areas or weatherproof bins/containers until it can be transported to a registered landfill site located near the construction area.

3.1.5. Site Camp

A site camp will be necessary for the entirety of the project. The contractor will determine an appropriate location that can serve as a site camp. The site camp should be located away from the river and any sensitive environment. The ECO should assist the contractor with site selection. A site camp will be necessary for the entirety of the project. The contractor will determine an appropriate location that can serve as a site camp.

3.2.NEED AND DESIRABILITY OF THE PROJECT

The proposed installation of synchronous condensers supports both national and regional socio-economic development by strengthening electricity supply reliability and enabling the continued integration of renewable energy into the national grid. Eskom SOC Ltd plays a critical role in ensuring energy security, which is essential for economic growth, industrial development, and service delivery across the Republic of South Africa. The NTCSA, as custodian of the national electricity grid, is required to ensure that the Grid is able to support these goals and objectives.

The Northern Cape has experienced significant growth in renewable energy projects, which contribute to job creation, local economic development, and infrastructure investment. However, the variability of renewable energy generation can place strain on the transmission network, potentially affecting supply reliability if grid stability measures are not implemented. The proposed synchronous condensers will improve voltage control and network resilience, allowing renewable energy facilities to operate more efficiently and reducing the risk of energy curtailment.

Improved grid stability will support economic activities within the region by ensuring a consistent electricity supply to industries, businesses, and communities. Reliable electricity supply is fundamental to maintaining productivity, attracting investment, supporting small and medium enterprises, and enabling socio-economic upliftment. The project will also contribute to South Africa's transition towards a more sustainable energy mix, supporting long-term environmental and socio-economic resilience. Furthermore, the project may generate temporary employment opportunities during construction and support skills development through infrastructure expansion. By strengthening transmission capacity and supporting

renewable energy integration, the project contributes to national development priorities and supports sustainable economic growth.

4. LEGISLATIVE REQUIREMENTS

4.1 LEGISLATION RELEVANT TO THE PROJECT

The EIA Regulations require a description of applicable legislation in the Basic Assessment report. Therefore, this section lists and describes the acts and legislation relevant to the proposed development. The table below summarises the current South African environmental legislation pertinent to the proposed development.

Table 5: Legislation pertaining to the proposed project.

Act	Description	Relevance
<i>The Constitution of The Republic of South Africa (Act 108 of 1996)</i>	The Constitution of the Republic of South Africa, 1996, holds significant implications for environmental management. It serves to safeguard both the environment and individuals' property rights. Additionally, it alters the lands	The developer is tasked with ensuring that the proposed activity does not result in pollution or ecological deterioration. Furthermore, it is imperative for the developer to guarantee that the proposed activity is environmentally sustainable, while also fostering economic and social development.

	cape of administrative law, facilitating easier access to information, ensuring fair administrative procedures, and broadening the scope for individuals to pursue legal action. These amendments are crucial for upholding adherence to environmental laws such as the Environment Conservation Act (NEMA). Section 24 in the Bill of Rights of the Constitution Specifically states: “Everyone has the right: • To an environmental that is not harmful to their health or well-being; and • To have the environment protected, for the benefits of present and future generations, through reasonable legislative and other measures that prevent pollution and ecological degradation; promote conservation; and secure ecologically sustainable development and use of natural	
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	resources while promoting justifiable economic and social development.”	
<i>National Environmental Management Act (Act 107 of 1998)</i>	The National Environmental Management Act (No.107 of 1998) (NEMA) serves as the foundation for environmental governance in South Africa, establishing principles and institutions to guide decision-making on environmental matters. A central feature of NEMA is its provision of a comprehensive set of environmental management principles applicable nationwide to the actions of all state organs with potential significant environmental impacts. Section 2 of NEMA outlines these principles, which are likely to inform the decision-making process by the DFFE regarding this project.	Prior to commencing the proposed project activities, environmental authorization is required. The development triggers the need for a Basic Assessment (BA) process, in accordance with the 2014 Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations as amended. The activities requiring authorization are specified in listing notices 1 and 3. An application for Environmental Authorization (EA) will be lodged with the Department of Forestry, Fisheries, and the Environment (DFFE), specifying the listed activities for which authorization is sought.

	Furthermore, NEMA introduces an updated framework for conducting environmental impact assessments (EIAs) through the EIA Regulations (2014) and subsequent amendments in 2017. This framework is designed to prevent adverse environmental effects by regulating certain activities that require prior environmental authorisation before commencement.	
<i>National Water Act (Act 36 of 1998)</i>	The National Water Act (NWA) provides for fundamental reform of the law relating to water resources in South Africa. The purpose of the Act is “to ensure that the nation's water resources are protected, used, developed, conserved, managed and controlled in ways which take into account amongst other factors— (a) Meeting the basic human needs of present and future generations; (b) Promoting equitable access to water;	The developer intends to drill a borehole; a formal water use license application (WULA) will be lodged to the Department of Water and Sanitation in terms of Section 21 of the National Water Act (Act No 36 of 1998). Prior to exercising the water usage, registration with the Department is required. General Authorization is sought for the following water uses as stipulated in Section 21 of the National Water Act (Act 36 of 1998): • Section 21 (a): Taking water from a water resource

	(c) Redressing the results of past racial and gender discrimination; (d) Promoting the efficient, sustainable and beneficial use of water in the public interest; (e) Facilitating social and economic development; (f) Providing for growing demand for water use; (g) Protecting aquatic and associated ecosystems and their biological diversity; (h) Reducing and preventing pollution and degradation of water resources; (i) Meeting international obligations; (j) Promoting dam safety; (k) Managing floods and droughts.”	
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	Section 21 of the NWA describes activities defined as a water use under the Act. These activities may only be undertaken subject to the application for, and issue of, a Water Use License (WUL) or General Authorisation (GA).	
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<i>National Heritage Resources Act (Act No 25 of 1999)</i>	The National Heritage Resources Act establishes overarching principles for the management of heritage resources nationwide, providing a comprehensive framework for the identification, assessment, and management of South Africa's heritage resources through an integrated system. According to section 35(3), individuals encountering archaeological, paleontological objects, or meteorites during development or agricultural activities are obligated to promptly report their discovery to the relevant heritage resources authority. Alternatively, they can notify the nearest local authority offices or museum, which will promptly inform the heritage resources authority. Section 35(4) of the act further states that it is an offence to undertake the following without a permit from the relevant authority:	Although no heritage features were initially identified on the site, construction activities have the potential to uncover buried Objects deep underground. In the event of such discoveries, construction operations must cease immediately, and the nearest heritage Resource authority should be notified. A Heritage Impact Assessment specialist will then be engaged to conduct a comprehensive investigation of the site.
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	(a) destroy, damage, excavate, alter, deface or otherwise disturb any archaeological or palaeontological site or any meteorite; (b) destroy, damage, excavate, remove from its original position, collect or own any archaeological or palaeontological material or object or any meteorite; (c) trade in, sell for private gain, export or attempt to export from the Republic any category of archaeological or palaeontological material or object, or any meteorite; or (d) bring onto or use at an archaeological or palaeontological site any excavation equipment or any equipment which assist in the detection or recovery of metals or archaeological and palaeontological material or objects, or use such equipment for the recovery of meteorites.	
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<i>Occupational Health and Safety Act (Act 85 of 1993)</i>	To provide for the health and safety of all persons at work and for the health and safety of persons in connection with the use of plant and machinery; the protection of persons other than persons at work against hazards to health and safety arising out of or in connection with the activities of persons at work; to establish an advisory council for occupational health and safety; and to provide for matters connected therewith.	Both the contractor and developer are responsible for ensuring that work conditions are safe and do not endanger the health of worker. Work conditions must comply with Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) regulations.
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4.2. TRIGGERED LISTED ACTIVITIES

The following table provides the listed activities triggered.

Table 6: Triggered listed activities

Listing Notice and Activity Number	Description	Relevance
Listing Notice 1 Activity 27	The clearance of an area of 1 hectare or more, but less than 20 hectares of indigenous vegetation, except where such clearance of indigenous vegetation is required for— i) the undertaking of a linear activity; or (ii) maintenance purposes undertaken in accordance with a maintenance management plan.	The project will include the clearance of vegetation for 7 ha for the construction/ installation of Synchronous and laydown area.

4.3 NWA

The developer intends to drill a borehole; a formal water use license application (WULA) will be lodged to the Department of Water and Sanitation in terms of Section 21 of the National Water Act (Act No 36 of 1998). The WULA Procedure is regulated under the 'Procedural Requirements for Water Use License Applications and Appeals (GNR 267, 24 March 2017) published in terms of the NWA.

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Table 7: Water Use Activities Triggered under NWA

WULA Triggered Activity	Description	Relevance
Section 21(a)	Taking water from a water resource	Abstraction of underground water through a borehole

SECTION B: PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCESS

5. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCESS

5.1. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION BACKGROUND

Public participation is a process that is designed to enable all interested and affected parties [I&APs] to voice their opinion and/or concerns, which enables the practitioner to evaluate all aspects of the proposed development, with the objective of improving the project by maximising its benefits while minimising its adverse effects. I&APs include all interested stakeholders, technical specialists, and the various relevant organs of state who work together to produce better decisions.

The primary aims of the public participation process are:

- To inform I&APs and key stakeholders of the proposed application and environmental studies;
- To initiate meaningful and timely participation of I&APs;
- To identify issues and concerns of key stakeholders and I&APs with regard to the application for the development [i.e. focus on important issues];
- To promote transparency and an understanding of the project and its potential environmental [social and biophysical] impacts [both positive and negative];

- To provide information used for decision-making;
- To provide a structure for liaison and communication with I&APs and key stakeholders;
- To ensure inclusivity [the needs, interests and values of I&APs must be considered in the decision-making process];
- To focus on issues relevant to the project, and issues considered important by I&APs and key stakeholders; and
- To provide responses to I&AP queries.

The public participation process must adhere to the requirements of Regulations 41 and 42 [GNR 326] under the NEMA [as amended].

The public participation process was undertaken according to the phases outlined below:

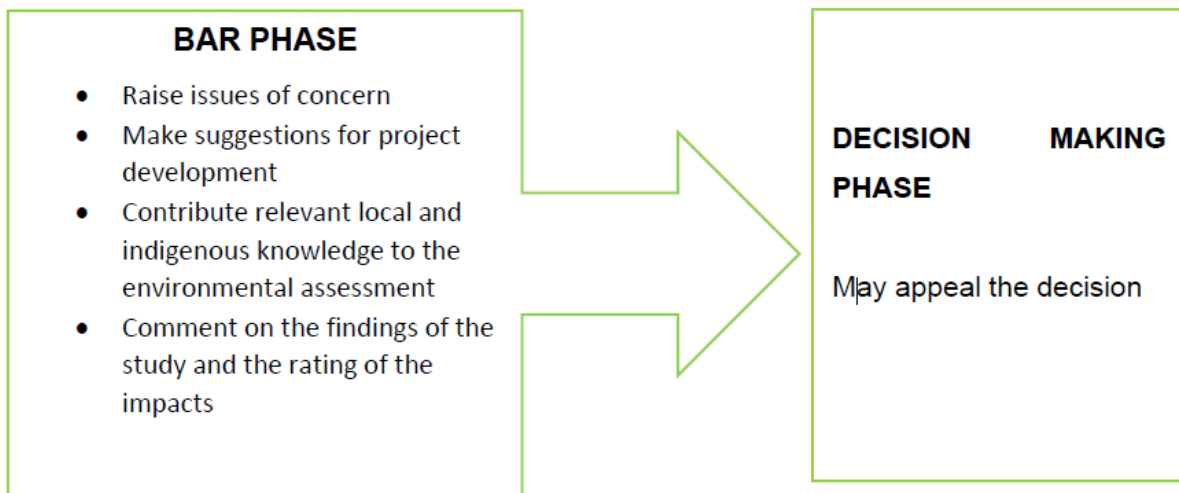


Figure 3: Responsibilities of I&APs in The Different PPP Stages

In order to achieve a higher level of engagement, a number of key activities have taken place and will continue to take place. These included the following:

- The identification of stakeholders is a key deliverable at the outset, and it is noted that different categories of stakeholders must be engaged, from the different levels and categories of government, to the communities of wards of residential dwellings which surround the proposed development.
- The development of a living and dynamic database that captures details of stakeholders from all sectors;

- The convening of focused meetings with stakeholders during the BA process; this included engaging with Ward Councillors. The continued engagement of public leaders to whom the public generally turn for information, keeping such individuals well informed about process and progress;
- The fielding of queries from I&APs and others, and providing appropriate information;
- The convening of specific stakeholder groupings/forums as the need arises;
- The preparation of reports based on information gathered throughout the BA via the PPP and feeding that into the relevant decision-makers;
- The PPP includes distribution of pamphlets or Background Information Documents (BIDs) and other information packs; and
- Where appropriate, site visits may be organised, as well as targeted coverage by the media.

5.2 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCESS FOLLOWED

Public consultation is a mandatory aspect of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process. Developers are obligated to engage in public consultation throughout the Basic Assessment process. Formal Basic Assessment (BA) documents, such as the Background Information Document, EMPr and Draft and Final Basic Assessment Reports (BARs), and the decision of the Competent Authority, must be made available for public review.

5.2.1 Advertisement

Regulation 41(2) of the NEMA EIA Regulations 2014 (as amended in 2017) states that “The person conducting a public participation process must take into account any guidelines applicable to public participation as contemplated in section 24J of the Act and must give notice to all potential interested and affected parties of the application which is subjected to public participation by—

fixing a notice board (of a size at least 60cm by 42cm; and must display the required information in lettering and in a format as may be determined by the department) at a place conspicuous to the public at the boundary or on the fence of—

- (i) the site where the activity to which the application relates is or is to be undertaken; and
- (ii) any alternative site mentioned in the application;

(b) giving written notice to—

- (i) the owner or person in control of that land if the applicant is not the owner or person in control of the land;

- (ii) the occupiers of the site where the activity is or is to be undertaken or to any alternative site where the activity is to be undertaken;
 - (iii) owners and occupiers of land adjacent to the site where the activity is or is to be undertaken or to any alternative site where the activity is to be undertaken;
 - (iv) the municipal councillor of the ward in which the site or alternative site is situated and any organisation of ratepayers that represents the community in the area;
 - (v) the municipality that has jurisdiction in the area;
 - (vi) any organ of state having jurisdiction in respect of any aspect of the activity; and
 - (vii) any other party as required by the department;
- (c) placing an advertisement in—
- (i) one local newspaper; or
 - (ii) any official Gazette that is published specifically for the purpose of providing public notice of applications or other submissions made in terms of these Regulations;
- (d) placing an advertisement in at least one provincial newspaper or national newspaper, if the activity has or may have an impact that extends beyond the boundaries of the local municipality in which it is or will be undertaken: Provided that this paragraph need not be complied with if an advertisement has been placed in an official Gazette referred to in sub regulation 54(c)(ii); and
- (e) using reasonable alternative methods, as agreed to by the department, in those instances where a person is desiring of but unable to participate in the process due to—
- (i) illiteracy;
 - (ii) disability; or
 - (iii) any other disadvantage.

5.2.2 Review of the draft Basic Assessment Report

The draft BAR was made available to the public for review and comments. Electronic copies were distributed to various departments and organs of the state for their input. It was also made available at public venues for public review and comments. Interested and affected parties (I&APs) were given a 30-day period to provide comments and/or raise concerns regarding the proposed development.

5.2.3 Comments and Response Report

Comments and issues related to the project that will be received will be logged, addressed, and integrated into the final BAR for consideration by the Department of Forestry, Fisheries, and the Environment (DFFE) during the decision-making process.

SECTION C: THE RECEIVING ENVIRONMENT

6. NATURAL RECEIVING ENVIRONMENT

6.1 Vegetation and Landscape Features

The existing Gromis Substation and the proposed expansion are located within the Namaqualand Strandveld vegetation type, while the Namaqualand Riviere vegetation type occurs nearby along the adjacent drainage line. 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.

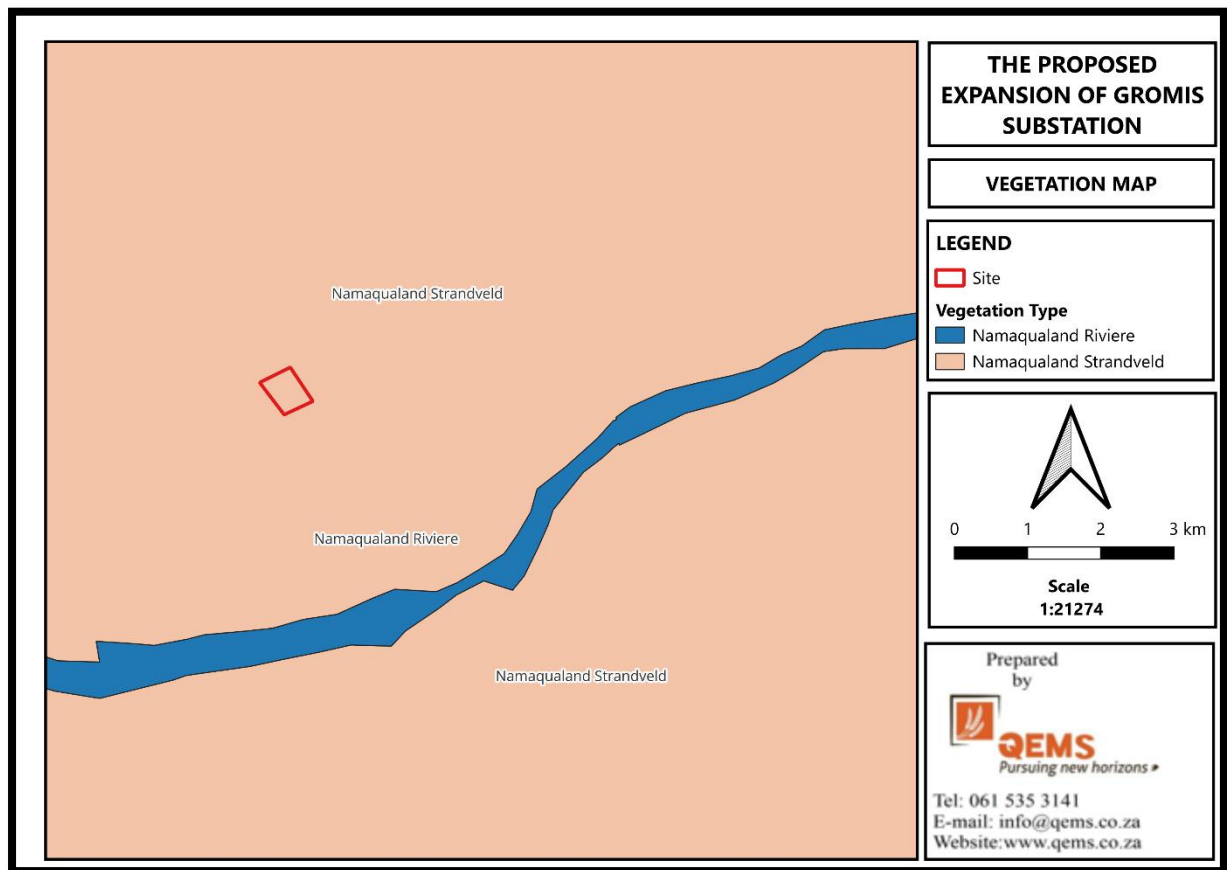


Figure 4 : Vegetation Map

6.2 Geology and Soils

The existing Gromis Substation and the proposed expansion are predominantly situated within the West Coast Group, while the Gladkop Suite occurs immediately south of the site along the Buffels River, and the Richtersveld Suite is located further to the west. The West Coast Group comprises predominantly unconsolidated to semi-consolidated Cenozoic sediments, including sands, gravels, calcrete and silcrete deposits, which have been shaped by fluvial, marine and aeolian processes. These deposits generally give rise to sandy to gravelly soils with good drainage but variable bearing capacity depending on the degree of consolidation. The expansion does not extend into the Gladkop Suite or Richtersveld Suite, indicating that the development will remain within the West Coast Group geology.

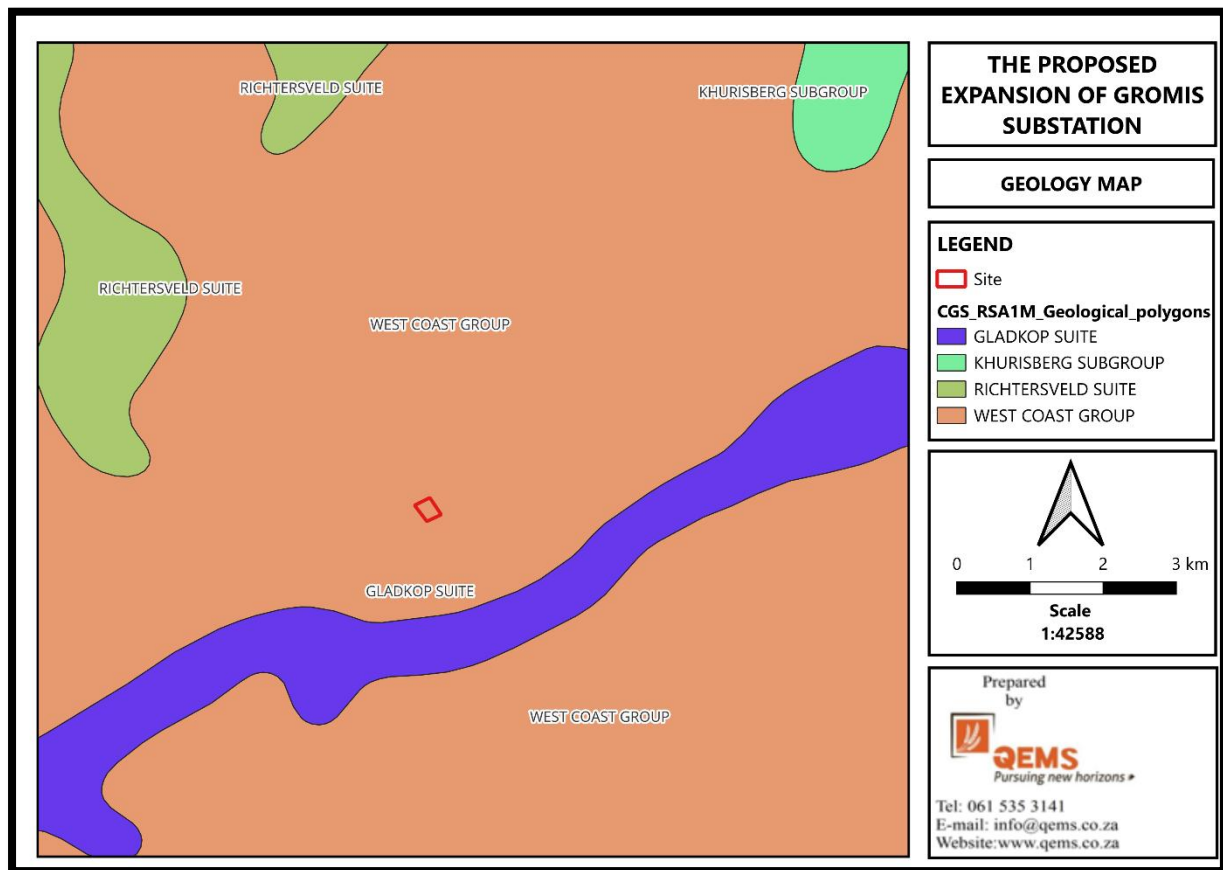


Figure 5: Geology Map

6.3 Climate

The Gromis Substation is situated in the Northern Cape province of South Africa, a region characterized by an arid to semi-arid climate. The area receives minimal rainfall, averaging less than 300 millimeters per annum. This scarcity of precipitation contributes to the province's arid conditions. Temperature variations are notable, with summer highs frequently exceeding 30°C (86°F) and occasionally surpassing 40°C (104°F). Winters are typically frosty and clear, with southern areas sometimes experiencing bitter cold.

6.4 Land Use

The existing Gromis Substation and the proposed expansion are predominantly located within an area classified as low shrubland (Succulent Karoo), which is the dominant land cover type in the project area (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 characterised 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.

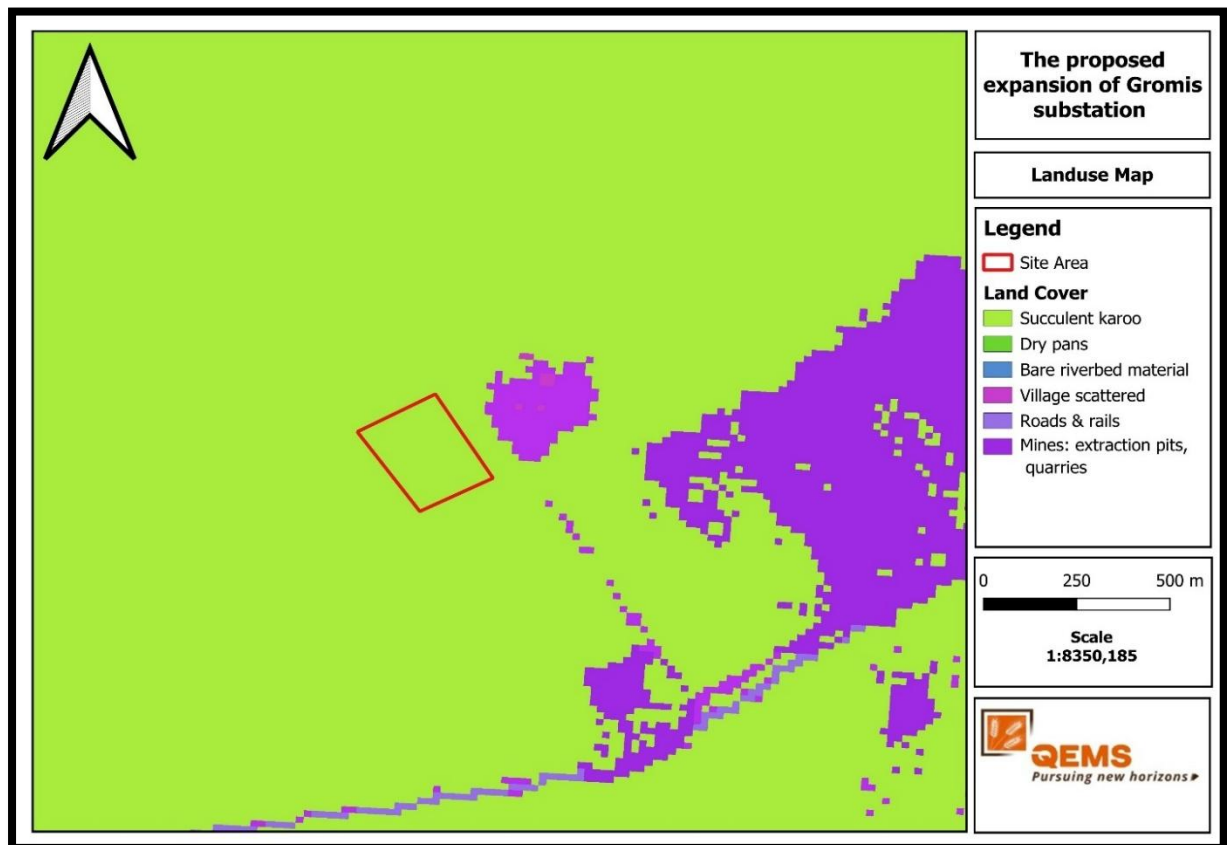


Figure 6: Landuse Map

6.5. SITE PHOTOGRAPHS

Below are site photographs of the proposed development



Figure 7: Gromis substation



Figure 8: Current vegetation on site



Figure 9: Access Road

SECTION D: IMPACT ASSESSMENT

7. SPECIALIST STUDIES

Specialist studies have been carried out for the proposed expansion of Gromis Substation and associated infrastructure project, guided by the insights from the DFFE Screening Tool Report (STR) and Site Verification Report (SVR) (STR and SVR attached as appendix G and H respectively). The STR pinpoints regions of significant sensitivity requiring detailed examination, a determination later confirmed or disputed by the SVR. The SVR evaluated whether the designated areas have experienced changes or remained unaffected, such as alterations in vegetation or new developments. Significant discoveries from these investigations and suggested mitigation strategies are integrated into the Environmental Management Plan (EMPr).

Table 8 below outlines specialist assessments that were identified by the screening tool report based on known impacts associated with the proposed development.

Table 8: Summary of specialist findings required by the screening tool

THEME	SENSITIVITY	SPECIALIST CONDUCTED (CONFIRMED /DISPUTE)	STUDY CONDUCTED YES/ NOT	EAP/Specialist Motivation
Agriculture Impact Assessment	Low	Confirm	No	The primary land use identified within the proposed site consists of transmission power lines extending from the existing Gromis Substation. No current agricultural activities were observed on the site.
Animal species	Medium	Confirm	Yes	A specialist study has been conducted as part of the Terrestrial biodiversity assessment.
Plant species	Medium	Confirm	Yes	A specialist study has been conducted as part of the Terrestrial biodiversity assessment.

Aquatic biodiversity	Low	Confirm	Yes	An Aquatic/wetland compliance statement has been conducted.
Archaeological and cultural heritage	Low	Confirm	Yes	Heritage/Archaeological Impact specialist study has been conducted.
Defence	Low	Confirm	No	There are no military bases or facilities on the site or within proximity to the site. Moreover, the DFFE Screening Tool Report also noted low sensitivity for the Defence theme. Hence, no further assessment is required or deemed necessary for the Defence theme.
Palaeontology	Low	Confirm	No	No features of paleontological value observed on site.

Terrestrial Biodiversity	Low	Confirm	Yes	Terrestrial biodiversity assessment has been undertaken.
Civil Aviation	Medium	Confirm	No	There is no evidence of civil aviation activity at the site; hence, no further assessment is required or deemed necessary for the Defence theme

7.1. SUMMARY OF SPECIALIST STUDIES

7.1.1 Terrestrial impact assessment

Ntumbuluko Consulting (Pty) Ltd was appointed by QEMS Management and Business Solutions CC, on behalf of the National Transmission Company South Africa (NTCSA), to undertake a Plants, Animals and Terrestrial Biodiversity Assessment for the proposed expansion of Gromis substation and its associated infrastructure 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. The purpose of this assessment was to determine the ecological suitability of the site for construction and to identify any potential biodiversity constraints.

7.1.1.1 LIMITATIONS AND ASSUMPTIONS

This report is based on current available information and, as a result, the following limitations and assumptions are implicit:

- The report is based on a project description received from the client.
- The study was done during a single day over a single season.
- Species of Conservation Concern (SCC) are difficult to find and difficult to identify, thus species described in this report do not comprise an exhaustive list. It is almost certain that additional SCCs will be found during construction and operation of the development.
- The specialist responsible for this study reserves the right to amend this report, recommendations and/or conclusions at any stage should any additional or otherwise significant information come to light.

7.1.1.2 RESULTS

GENERAL OVERVIEW OF THE PROJECT AREA

While National level vegetation maps have described broad vegetation types, local conditions, and micro-habitats (rainfall, soil structure, rocky outcrops, etc.) can result in variations in plant composition. As such, site surveys are critical for the verification of desktop findings and establishing the baseline ecological conditions of a site. The site inspection conducted on 10 April 2026 confirmed that the area earmarked for the proposed infrastructure falls within the Namaqualand Strandveld (SKs 7) vegetation unit. The site supports a low, species-rich

shrubland dominated by a diverse assemblage of erect and creeping succulent shrubs, including *Cephalophyllum*, *Didelta*, *Othonna*, *Ruschia*, *Tetragonia*, *Tripteris* and *Zygophyllum*. These shrubs are scattered across deep red sandy soils, consistent with the stabilised aeolian dune systems characteristic of this vegetation type.



Figure 10: Overview of the site with evidence of the dominant shrubs

The site itself shows minimal disturbance, with natural vegetation largely intact. Disturbance is limited to the immediate footprint of the existing substation, the access road, and the powerline servitudes, where vegetation has been partially cleared or compacted as part of routine maintenance activities. Beyond these areas, the vegetation remains largely undisturbed.

7.1.1.3. ETHNOBOTANICAL PLANT SPECIES

Ethnobotany/ Ethnoecology is a branch of botany that focuses on the use of plants for medicines, cultural and recreational purposes. The overexploitation of indigenous plants for ethnobotanical purposes can be detrimental to populations of those particular plant species, and the other species that depend on its existence for their survival. South Africa has a rich diversity of medicinal plants that not only have a global significance but also have a cultural and historical role (van Wyk et al. 2009). There is a rapidly growing concern for the conservation of medicinal plants that are dwindling in number due to illegal harvesting (Institute of Natural

Resources 2003). This is particularly apparent in rural areas where medicinal plants are overexploited by traditional doctors (Mazid et al., 2012).

No species of notable ethnobotanical value were identified within the development footprint during the survey; however, it remains possible that some of the existing plant species may hold traditional or occasional use for surrounding Indigenous communities.

7.1.1.4 PLANT SPECIES OF CONSERVATION CONCERN

According to provincial and national assessments, the Northern Cape is home to an estimated 5 400 plant species, occurring across six major biomes including the Succulent Karoo and Richtersveld; more than 30% of these species are endemic, and many have very restricted ranges.

A substantial number of Northern Cape plants are considered rare or threatened due to habitat loss, mining impacts, illegal collection (notably succulent poaching), and climate change, with recent Red List updates showing rising threat levels for several succulent groups². The plant species expected to occur within the study site are outlined below:

Schedule 1: Specially Protected Flora

- Family Geraniaceae - *Pelargonium* spp. all species

Schedule 2: Protected Flora

- Amaryllidaceae – All species
- Apiaceae – All Species
- Apocynaceae – All Species
- Asphodelaceae – All species except *Aloe ferox*
- Iridaceae – All species
- Mesembryanthemaceae – All species
- Crassulaceae - All species except those listed in Schedule 1
- Euphorbiaceae - *Euphorbia* spp. All species
- Oxalidaceae - *Oxalis* spp All species
- Portulacaceae - *Anacampseros* spp. All species

7.1.1.5 ALIEN INVASIVE SPECIES PRESENT ON SITE

During the site inspection, no invasive species were observed within the project area. The vegetation present comprised predominantly indigenous and naturally occurring species, with no evidence of alien or listed invasive plants emerging, regenerating, or encroaching into the surveyed footprint. Overall, the site currently reflects a low risk of invasive species proliferation, and no immediate management interventions are required based on the conditions observed at the time of assessment.

7.1.1.6 FAUNAL ASSESSMENT

During the site inspection, a single duiker was observed grazing within the project area (Figure 11). The presence of this individual indicates that portions of the site still provide suitable foraging habitat for small to medium-sized antelope species, despite the broader landscape being subject to grazing, disturbance, and ongoing anthropogenic pressures. Apart from the presence of a dropping of a small carnivorous mammal. No additional mammalian species were recorded during the survey period.



Figure 11: Duiker observed onsite.

7.1.1.7. Invertebrates

A few mollusc shells were also found (Figure12); however, with no suitable aquatic habitat and no live individuals present, these are considered incidental and likely wind-blown from the

coastline approximately 14 km away. Overall, the invertebrate assemblage reflects a disturbed but functioning ecosystem typical of an arid, modified Karoo landscape.



Figure 12: Molluscs Shells observed onsite.

7.1.1.8 IMPACT STATEMENT, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The site inspection was conducted during the beginning of the dry season, which means that certain plant species may have been missed or misidentified. Species that emerge or flower during other seasons, or only under specific environmental conditions, may not have been detectable at the time of the survey.

A biodiversity assessment of the study area was undertaken on 10 April 2026 to determine the overall ecological condition of the site. According to the Northern Cape C-Plan, the proposed development footprint falls within an area classified as an Other Natural Area (ONA). ONAs are portions of the landscape that remain in a natural or near-natural ecological state but are not designated as Critical Biodiversity Areas (CBAs) or Ecological Support Areas (ESAs).

Although they generally hold lower biodiversity importance relative to CBAs and ESAs, ONAs still contribute meaningfully to ecosystem functioning, landscape connectivity, and the support of common species. Given this classification, development activities should be confined to the preferred areas to minimise the extent of disturbance. Sensitivity maps must be used to guide the identification of no-go areas, and all such delineations should be verified under the supervision of a suitably qualified Environmental Control Officer (ECO). From a constructability perspective, no fatal flaws were identified, and the proposed development can therefore be allowed to proceed.

7.1.1.9 STATEMENT AND OPINION OF THE SPECIALIST

The proposed site falls within the SKs 7 Namaqualand Strandveld vegetation unit, which is classified as Least Threatened. The areas earmarked for the installation of the synchronisers, as well as the potential laydown area, show varying levels of disturbance associated with the construction and ongoing maintenance of the existing substation. No plant or animal Species of Conservation Concern were recorded during the site inspection. From an ecological perspective, the overall sensitivity of the area is therefore considered low. The proposed development is regarded as environmentally acceptable, provided that all mitigation measures and recommendations outlined in this report are fully implemented and strictly adhered to.

7.1.2 AQUATIC AND WETLAND COMPLIANCE STATEMENT:

Ntumbuluko Consulting (Pty) Ltd has been appointed by QEMS Management and Business Solutions cc on behalf of the National Transmission Company South Africa (NTCSA) conduct a wetland delineation and compile an aquatic compliance statement for installation of new synchronous condensers and associated infrastructure at the Gromis Substation, located within the Ubuntu Local Municipality of the Pixley Ka Seme District, Northern Cape Province. The study aims to determine the site's suitability for constructability from an aquatic biodiversity sensitivity perspective.

7.1.2.1 ASSUMPTIONS AND LIMITATIONS

It is difficult to apply pure scientific methods within a natural environment without limitations, and consequential assumptions need to be made. The following constraints may have affected this assessment:

- The findings, results, observations, conclusions and recommendations provided in this report are based on the author's best scientific and professional knowledge as well as available information regarding the perceived impacts on the watercourses and biodiversity;
- Data collection in this study relied heavily on data from representative, homogenous wetland sections, as well as general observations, analysis of satellite imagery from the past until the present, generic data and a desktop analysis.
- The specialist responsible for this study reserves the right to amend this report, recommendations and/or conclusions at any stage should any additional or otherwise significant information come to light.

7.1.2.2 RESULTS

The site inspection confirmed the absence of drainage lines, aquatic habitat, watercourses, and wetland indicators within the delineated project footprint. The nearest mapped watercourse is located more than 1 000 m from the proposed development area (Figure 6-3). The lack of hydrophilic vegetation, hydric soils, or evidence of sustained surface water supports the classification of the site as having low aquatic sensitivity. As a result, the proposed development is expected to pose minimal risk of direct hydrological disruption.



Figure 13: Watercourse observed outside of the development footprint.

7.1.2.3 FINAL COMMENTS

Based on the site inspection and supporting desktop analysis, the proposed development area demonstrates low aquatic ecological sensitivity, with no wetlands, hydrophytic vegetation, or regulated watercourses present within the project footprint. The site does not intersect any NFEPA-mapped priority freshwater features and lies outside the 500-metre regulatory buffer of nearby rivers, substantially reducing the likelihood of direct hydrological impacts. Although minor anthropogenic disturbances such as grazing were noted, these are limited, reversible, and do not compromise the ecological suitability of the site. With the application of standard environmental management measures to control runoff, sedimentation, and pollution risks, the

site is considered suitable for development from an aquatic perspective, and no significant aquatic constraints are expected to influence the project's feasibility. From a constructability standpoint, the absence of saturated soils, wetlands, or hydrophytic vegetation indicates favourable ground conditions for construction activities, provided that stormwater is appropriately managed during earthworks to prevent erosion along the drainage feature.

7.1.2.4. MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

Stormwater Management

A key consideration for the installation of Synchroniser condensers within an existing substation is the increase in stormwater runoff generated by additional impermeable surfaces such as concrete plinths, equipment bases, access routes, and associated hardstand areas. Elevated runoff volumes and higher flow velocities can concentrate stormwater within the substation platform and its discharge points. When this water is conveyed downslope into nearby drainage features, the resulting high-energy flows may accelerate erosion of the channel bed and banks. Given the steep slopes surrounding the substation, the non-perennial drainage line although located outside the development footprint, remains vulnerable to stormwater impacts arising from construction and operational activities. Effective stormwater attenuation, dispersion, and energy-dissipation measures will therefore be essential to prevent erosion and maintain the stability of the drainage feature. It is therefore important that stormwater generated on site should be managed according to Sustainable Drainage System (SuDS) principles.

Erosion Management

- Ensure that construction activities do not cause any preferential flow paths and concentrated surface runoff during rainfall events.
- Clearly demarcate the construction area and ensure that heavy machinery does not compact soil or disturb vegetation outside of these demarcated areas.
- Reduce transport of sediment through use of structures such as silt fences and biodegradable coir logs placed along a contour below the development footprint.

7.1.3 HERITAGE IMPACT ASSESSMENT:

7.1.3.1 ASSUMPTIONS AND DISCLAIMER

The investigation has been influenced by the unpredictability of buried archaeological remains (absence of evidence does not mean evidence of absence) and the difficulty in establishing intangible heritage values. It should be remembered that archaeological deposits (including

graves and traces of mining heritage) usually occur below the ground level. Should artefacts or skeletal material be exposed during development activities, such activities should be halted immediately, and a competent heritage practitioner and SAHRA must be notified for an investigation and evaluation of the find(s) to take place (see NHRA (Act No. 25 of 1999), Section 36 (6). Recommendations contained in this document do not exempt the applicant from complying with any national, provincial, and municipal legislation or other regulatory requirements, including any protection or management or general provision in terms of the NHRA. Mudzunga Consulting & ICT (Pty) Ltd assumes no responsibility for compliance with conditions that may be required by SAHRA in terms of this report.

7.1.3.2 RESULTS OF THE FIELD STUDY

Archaeology

The study did not identify any significant archaeological remains within the proposed development site. Morris (2010) notes that previous studies have indicated that substantial MSA scatters are uncommon in the Bushmanland/Namaqualand areas. Herder sites were more limited to rock shelters and dune areas close to water sources such as pans and rivers. Based on the field study results and field observations, it is the considered opinion of the author that the receiving environment for the proposed development has low potential to yield previously unidentified archaeological sites during construction work. The most important observation is that the dryer inland has yielded low-density scatters of lithic tools, while the rocky coastal area is rich in archaeological remains (see Kaplan 2001, Prins 2011, Morris 2013). In terms of Archaeology, there are no fatal flaws or NO GO Areas. No significant sites were identified within the proposed development site.

Burial grounds and Graves

The field survey did not identify any burial sites within the proposed site. It should be noted that burial grounds and gravesites are accorded with the highest social significance threshold (see Appendix 3). Graves must be protected because they have both historical and social significance and are considered sacred. Whether they exist or not, they may not be tampered with or interfered with without a permit from SAHRA. The possibility of encountering human remains during subsurface earth-moving works anywhere in the landscape is ever-present. However, the possibility of encountering previously unidentified burial sites within the proposed development site is low; should such sites be identified during construction, they are still protected in terms of Section 36 of NHRA.

Graves and burial grounds can be encountered in most areas; however, the chances of encountering them in the project site are very limited. Farm graveyards are generally located near farmsteads and farmworker dwellings, which means they can be easily identified and avoided. However, the main concern of this study is the potential of encountering isolated and unmarked archaeological/historical graves and burial grounds. These are commonly found close to archaeological sites and abandoned settlements; however, since the site did not yield any archaeological remains, the chances of encountering archaeological graves are very low. It is often difficult to detect the presence of archaeological human burials on the landscape, as these burials, in most cases, are not marked at the surface and are concealed by dense vegetation cover.

If any human remains are exposed during the course of construction work, then they should be reported to an archaeologist and work in the immediate vicinity should cease until the appropriate actions have been carried out by the archaeologist. Where human remains are part of a burial, they would need to be exhumed under a permit from either SAHRA (for pre-colonial burials as well as burials later than about AD 1500) or the Department of Health for graves younger than 60 years.

Public Monuments and Memorials

The study did not record any public memorials or monuments within the proposed development site. As such, the proposed installation of new synchronous condensers at the Gromis Substation may be approved without any further investigation and mitigation in terms of Section 37 of the NHRA.

Buildings and Structures

In terms of the built environment, the study did not identify any buildings and structures that qualify for protection in terms of Section 34 of the NHRA.

7.1.3.3 RECOMMENDATIONS

The report makes the following recommendations:

- It is recommended that SAHRA endorse the report as having satisfied the requirements of Section 38 (8) of the NHRA.

- It is recommended that SAHRA make a decision in terms of Section 38 (4) of the NHRA to approve the proposed installation of new synchronous condensers at the Gromis Substation.
- From a heritage perspective, supported by the findings of this study, the proposed installation of new synchronous condensers at the Gromis Substation is supported. However, the proposed developments should be approved under the observation that activities do not extend beyond the area considered in this report/affect the identified heritage sites.
- Should chance archaeological materials or human remains be exposed during construction on any section of the site, work should cease on the affected area, and the discovery must be reported to the heritage authorities immediately so that an investigation and evaluation of the finds can be made. The overriding objective, where remedial action is warranted, is to minimize disruption in construction scheduling while recovering archaeological and any affected cultural heritage data as stipulated by the NHRA regulations.
- Subject to the recommendations herein made and the implementation of the mitigation measures and adoption of the project EMP, there are no significant cultural heritage resource barriers to the proposed installation of new synchronous condensers at the Gromis Substation. SAHRA may approve the proposed installation of new synchronous condensers at the Gromis Substation as planned without any further investigation in terms of Section 38 (8) of the NHRA.

7.2. Potential Impact Associated with the Proposed Project

Potential impacts for the proposed site area include post-impact evaluations, which encompass assessing the effects of the project after its completion. Additionally, there will be other post- impact evaluations considered, but not limited to:

- Loss of biodiversity: The clearing of vegetation for the construction for installation of the synchronous condensers impacts the loss of biodiversity.
- Bird collisions
- Increased influx of job seekers in the proposed area.
- Soil erosion: The absence of a stormwater management system and removal of vegetation expose bare soil, leading to erosion.
- Soil pollution: Contamination from oil leaks and spills can result in soil

pollution.

- Surface water pollution: Inadequate stormwater management infrastructure, slopemanagement, and oil spill management systems can lead to surface water pollution. Lack of flood management strategies also contributes to this.
- Groundwater pollution: The absence of a soil pollution management system can lead to groundwater pollution.
- Increased ambient noise level: Construction machinery and equipment, as well as labourers on-site, contribute to an increase in ambient noise levels.
- Increased traffic: Construction trucks during both the construction and operational phases lead to increased traffic in the area.
- Visual aspects: Dust from site establishment without dust suppression methods, emissions from extended use of trucks and equipment during the construction phase, and the impact of substation on the aesthetics of the area are all visual concerns.
- Dust emissions during the construction phase.
- Socio-economic aspects: This includes job creation, opportunities for local economic development, development and empowerment of local small, medium, and micro- enterprises (SMMEs), as well as skills development and training opportunities. Increase in the electricity capacity within the receiving communities.
- Impacts on the nature reserve and species migration
- Habitat fragmentation

7.3. ENVIRONMENT IMPACT DETERMINATION AND EVALUATION

According to the NEMA EIA Regulations, a significant impact means ‘an impact that may have a notable effect on one or more aspects of the environment or may result in non-compliance with accepted environmental quality standards, thresholds, targets and is determined through rating the positive and negative effects of an impact on the environment based on criteria such as duration, magnitude, intensity and probability of occurrence’.

The primary objective of the environmental impact assessment (EIA) is to evaluate and manage the potential environmental impacts associated with the proposed project. This assessment is conducted based on the environmental features and characteristics identified on-site, such as vegetation, wildlife, soils, and land uses. These factors are investigated by Environmental

Assessment Practitioners (EAPs) and specialists through field studies, supplemented by input from public submissions. The identified impacts are carefully assessed for their relevance and significance. A rating is assigned to each impact to gauge its level of importance. Mitigation measures are then proposed as necessary to mitigate, avoid, prevent, or minimize any adverse impacts and to enhance positive ones.

The impact significance ranking/scoring for each identified impact considers the extent, duration, probability of occurrence, intensity, magnitude of an impact and to which degree the impact and risk can be mitigated.

The impacts of the proposed expansion of Gromis Substation and associated infrastructure will be assessed across the following project stages:

1. Pre-construction phase:

- Initial site assessment
- Environmental baseline studies
- Identification of potential environmental impacts

2. Construction phase:

- Clearing of vegetation and land preparation
- Installation of synchronous condensers infrastructure
- Construction of access roads and temporary facilities
- Potential disturbances to local ecosystems and habitats

3. Operation phase:

- Routine maintenance activities
- Electromagnetic field emissions from synchronous condensers operation
- Potential long-term effects on biodiversity, water quality, and surrounding landscapes
- Bird collisions

Throughout each stage, the environmental impacts will be carefully evaluated to identify potential risks and opportunities for mitigation. This assessment will ensure that the project is conducted in an environmentally responsible manner and minimizes adverse effects on the surrounding ecosystem and communities.

7.4. IMPACT RATING METHODOLOGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

After a list of potential impacts has been identified, the aim of the EIA process is to predict the nature of the impact, rank, and quantify it. From the rating system, the impacts of most significance can be highlighted.

According to the EIA Regulations of 2014, a significant impact means: “An impact that may have a notable effect on one or more aspects of the environment or may result in non-compliance with accepted environmental quality standards, thresholds, targets, and is determined through rating the positive and negative effects of an impact on the environment based on criteria such as duration, magnitude, intensity, and probability of occurrence”.

The list of identified impacts for the proposed expansion of the Gromis Substation footprint, through the addition of six synchronous condensers, will be evaluated by considering several rating scales as listed below. These ratings include: extent, duration, intensity, significance, status of impact, and probability. The significance of impacts will be calculated as follows:

$$\text{Significance} = (\text{Extent} + \text{Duration} + \text{Intensity}) \times \text{Probability}$$

The rating system is described below in the set of pages and then thereafter the impacts are listed and assessed.

Table 9: Extent and duration criteria rating for impacts

Criteria		Extent: defines the physical extent or spatial scale of the potential impact
Rating	Spatial Area	Description
1	Site specific	Impacts extending only as far as the activity, limited to the site and its immediate surroundings
2	Local	Impacts extending within 5km from the site boundary
3	Regional	Impacts extending to the district (20km from the boundary of the site) of the local municipality
4	Provincial	Impacts extending to provincial scale, e.g., Easter Cape Province / Northern Cape Province
5	National	Impacts extending to within the country, i.e., South Africa.
6	International	Impacts extending beyond the international border / the borders of South Africa

Criteria		Duration: defines the temporal scale
Rating	Period	Description
1	Immediate	Less than 1 year
2	Short term	1-5 years
3	Medium term	6-15 years
4	Long term	Between 16 – 30 years
5	Permanent	Over 30 years. Where mitigation either by natural processes or by human intervention will not occur in such a way or in such time span that the impact can be considered transient.

Table 10: Intensity criteria rating for impacts

Criteria		Intensity: establishes whether the impact would be destructive or benign.
Rating (Positive)		Description
0	Negligible	Where impacts affect the environment in such a way that natural, cultural and social functions and processes are not greatly and in instances no mitigation measures will be required. (environment not really affected)
1	Low	Minor improvement is anticipated over a short term on the social and/or natural environment.
2	Medium	Where moderate improvements are anticipated over a medium- to long-term on the social and/or natural environment.
3	High	Where large improvements are anticipated over a long term on social, economic and/or bio-physical environment.

Criteria		Intensity: establishes whether the impact would be destructive or benign.
Rating (Negative)		Description
0	Negligible	Where impacts do not really affect the environment and no mitigation is required
1	Low	Where impacts will result in short term effects on the social and/or natural environment. These impacts are not deemed largely substantial and are likely to have little real effect. (marginally affected)
2	Medium	Where impacts will result in medium term effects on the social and/or natural environment. These impacts will need to be considered as constituting a fairly important and usually medium-term change to the environment, these impacts are real but not substantial. Impacts are fairly easy to mitigate
3	High	Whereby effects will be long term on social, economic and/or bio-physical environment. These will need to be considered as constituting usually long-term change to the environment. Mitigation is considered challenging and expensive

4	Very High	This results in permanent improvements at the social/or natural environment.
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4	Very High	Where impacts should be considered as constituting major and usually permanent change to the environment, and usually result in severe to very severe effects. Mitigation would have little to now effect on irreversibility
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Table 11: Status and probability criteria rating for impacts

Criteria		Status: describes whether the impact would have a negative, neutral or positive effect on the affected environment
Rating	Spatial Area	Description
+	Positive	Benefit to the environment
=	Neutral	Standard/impartial
-	Negative	cause damage to the environment

Criteria		Probability: describes the likelihood of the impact occurring.
Rating	Period	Description
0	Improbable	Where the possibility of the impact occurring is low.
1	Probable	Where there is a distinct possibility that the impact will occur.
2	Highly probable	Where it is most likely that the impact will occur.
3	Definite	Where the impact will occur regardless of any prevention measures

Table 12: Significance criteria rating for impacts

Criteria		Significance: attempts to evaluate the importance of a particular impact with mitigation measures included and excluded. The significance was calculated using the following formula: Significance = (Extent + Duration + Intensity) X Probability
RATING		DESCRIPTION
0-4	Very Low	Where the impacts will not influence the development, social, cultural or natural environment
5 -12	Low	Where impacts will result in short term effects on the social and / or natural environment. The impacts merits attention however is not deemed largely substantial are likely to have little real effect
13-25	Medium	Where impacts will have a medium-term effect on the social and/or natural environment. These impacts need to be considered as constituting an important and usually medium-term change to the environment, these impacts can be mitigated by implementing effective mitigation measures.
26-44	High	Whereby effects will be long term on social economic and or biophysical environment. The impacts could have a major effect on the environment. This may bring forth the consideration of no-go areas/open areas on the development land regardless of mitigations implemented. Mitigation is however possible.
45	Very High	Whereby effects will be permanent on the social economic and or biophysical environment. Such impacts cannot be mitigated.

7.5 PRE- CONSTRUCTION

Table 13: Impacts identified during pre-construction or planning phase

Aspects	Potential Impacts	Significant rating without mitigation	Mitigation measures	Significant rating with mitigation
Permits and regulatory compliance	Not adhering to current policies and legal obligations could result in the project violating local, provincial, and national regulations, policies, and guidelines. This non-compliance may lead to a loss of institutional backing for the project, potentially causing it to fail and causing unwarranted disruption to the natural environment.	(16) Medium (-)	• Prior to commencing any construction activities, it is imperative to fulfil all legal requirements pertaining to Environmental Authorisation, Water-Use Licenses, tree permit and any other relevant permits. • Ensure comprehensive consultation of all pertinent legislation and policies, and ensure strict compliance with these regulations. • Integrate best practice guidelines into the planning process for both the construction and operation phases of the proposed installation of Synchronous condensers.	(4)Very Low (-)

Community engagement	During the pre-construction or planning phase, it is common to engage stakeholders to gather information and consult with affected communities, landowners, and Indigenous groups. This engagement process may give rise to social tensions, conflicts, or concerns regarding the impacts and benefits of the project.	(22) Medium (-)	- Community engagement should be initiated as early as possible in the planning process. This can be achieved by organizing public meetings, workshops, and consultation sessions to inform affected parties about the project, gather feedback, and openly address any concerns in a transparent manner. - Appointing a Community Liaison Officer is essential to facilitate communication, mediation, and dispute resolution between the project team and the community. This role will help address conflicts and grievances effectively, fostering better collaboration and understanding between all parties involved.	(9) Low (-)
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Site Establishment	Insufficient micro-siting of the pylon structures may lead to encroachment and impact on sensitive areas such as wetlands, bird migratory paths, and heritage features. Additionally, the site establishment process can result in the loss of vegetation. Movement of equipment and personnel for the site establishment may have impact on the neighbouring nature reserve flora and fauna species.	(30) High (-)	• Specialist walkthroughs are essential to ensure the optimal micro-positioning of the switching station and pylon structures. • The specialist walkthrough should include identifying sensitive habitats before any vegetation is cleared considering the site's proximity to the nature reserve. • Vegetation clearance should be restricted to the construction area, and any disturbed areas should be revegetated with native plant species. • Specialists should conduct comprehensive investigations to identify any Red Data species. • Movement of equipment and personnel to the site should be limited to the project site only.	(10) Low (-)
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Stormwater	Inadequate stormwater design may elevate the risk of erosion and flooding, potentially leading to adverse impacts on nearby wetlands and other water sources. This could include issues like sedimentation and degradation of water quality.	(22) High (-)	During the planning phase, it is essential to implement proper stormwater design to mitigate the risk of flooding and minimize the impact on watercourses.	(9) Low (-)
Civil aviation	Go through the FAA guidelines for the siting of facilities away from radar, navigational and other communication devices.	(11) Low (+)	Consult or notify the relevant authority in Civil Aviation Authority for proper guidance.	(5) Low (+)

7.6 CONSTRUCTION

Table 14: Impacts identified during construction phase

Aspects	Potential Impacts	Significant rating without mitigation	Mitigation measures	Significant rating with mitigation
Air quality	The impact on air quality will primarily stem from heightened dust emissions due to site clearance and the movement of construction vehicles, especially on gravel roads.	(8) Low (-)	+ Reduce or limit earthmoving activities when weather conditions are excessively windy. + Implement dust suppression techniques as needed to control dust emissions generated by vehicle movement and site clearance. + Enforce a speed limit of 30km/h for vehicles traveling along the access road.	(6) Low (-)
Noise pollution	During the construction phase, there will be heightened levels of noise due to the movement of construction vehicles, operation of heavy machinery, and various physical activities	(10) Low (-)	+ Construction vehicles can be equipped with noise-suppressing equipment such as noise barriers, mufflers, and silencers to mitigate the impact of noise pollution.	(7) Low (-)

	such as hammering, drilling, and grinding.		+ Construction activities should be scheduled between 07:00 and 17:00 on weekdays, and from 07:00 to 14:00 on Saturdays.	
Surface and groundwater contamination	The potential for leaking equipment and hydrocarbon spillages poses a risk of groundwater pollution. Construction activities also have the potential to cause sediment to be deposited into drainage lines, wetlands, and other water bodies.	(20) Medium (-)	• Regular maintenance and monitoring of construction plant and machinery are essential to prevent oil or fuel leakage. • All chemicals should be stored on impermeable surfaces within secure and designated storage areas that are equipped with bunds. • Cement should be stored in impermeable areas protected from rain and should only be mixed in designated zones. Any cement residue should be promptly cleaned up. • Vehicle repairs, servicing, refuelling, and washing should only take place in designated areas with impermeable surfaces.	(7) Low (-)

			• During service and repair of construction plant, it is imperative to use drip trays to capture drips, spills, and leaks. • Furthermore, spill kits should be readily accessible at all sites where chemicals or hydrocarbons are stored, handled, or used, and any spills must be promptly cleaned up.	
Erosion	Construction activities necessitate the removal of vegetation and topsoil, which destabilizes the soil and exposes it to erosive forces from wind and water. Additionally, heavy machinery and equipment used during construction can compact the soil, reducing its porosity and permeability. Compacted soil is less capable of absorbing water, resulting in heightened surface runoff and erosion.	(32) High (-)	• Vegetation clearance should be restricted to the construction footprint only. • Newly cleared areas must be promptly restored with native vegetation to prevent soil erosion. Temporary stabilization methods should be employed, if necessary, until vegetation establishes. • A comprehensive plan should be developed to prepare for severe weather conditions such as heavy rainfall, runoff events, or strong winds.	(10) Low (-)

	Soil erosion and disturbance to affect growth and stability of flora		• Implement appropriate erosion control measures and establish a monitoring program to prevent erosion. • Remedial action should be taken at the first sign of erosion. • Implement measures to disperse runoff effectively to minimize erosion. •	
Soil Contamination	Leakage or spillage of oil from construction vehicles may result in soil contamination. Soil erosion may transpire due to the removal of vegetation, exposing bare soil, which can result in the loss of soil productivity and fertility.	(22) Medium (-)	• Protect all areas vulnerable to erosion and prevent undue soil erosion resulting from activities within and adjacent to the construction area. • Utilize drip trays during service and repair of construction plant to prevent spills and leaks onto the soil. • Promptly remove contaminated soil and dispose of it appropriately.	(8) Low (-)
Vegetation	Vegetation will be cleared during the excavation of pylon foundations.	(18) Medium (-)	• Pylons should ideally be situated outside of the remaining natural vegetation fragments, if feasible.	(3) Low (-)

	Vegetation Clearance could cause habitat loss and fragmentation		• Harvesting of plants must be prohibited. • Open fires must be prohibited, as they can easily ignite nearby vegetation and spread rapidly.	
Avifauna	Electrocution poses a risk to birds when they make contact with energized . This can happen when birds perch or land on powerline structures, resulting in electrical current flowing through their bodies. Electrocution can cause injury or death, impacting the local bird population. Habitat Loss and Fragmentation: Clearing vegetation for the installation of the synchronous condensers can lead to habitat loss and fragmentation, which affects the availability of suitable nesting sites, foraging areas, and shelter for birds.	(14) Medium (-)	• The erection of the proposed power line should take place during the winter season, avoiding the breeding period of the majority of birds and the absence of migratory species. • A comprehensive survey should be conducted to identify nesting sites, foraging areas, and migration routes of avifauna. • The design of steel monopoles should be used and must incorporate standard bird perches. • Workers must be instructed to minimize disruptions to bird populations throughout the construction process. • Efforts must be made to prevent any illegal hunting of birds.	(9) Low (-)

	Habitat fragmentation can isolate bird populations, decrease genetic diversity, and heighten vulnerability to predation and competition. Collision Risks: Synchronous condensers and their associated infrastructure can present collision risks for birds, particularly large raptors and migratory species. Birds may collide with powerlines, towers, or guy wires, resulting in injury or mortality. These incidents can occur during flight, hunting, or migration.		• All construction and upkeep activities must strictly adhere to Eskom Transmission's environmental best practices guidelines. • Bird perches should be installed over water sources and roads including areas identified as bird hot spot areas by the avifauna specialist.	
Visual intrusion	Visual impacts will result from stockpiles and poles erections	(13) Medium (-)	• Construction waste and rubble should be promptly disposed of at the appropriate dumpingsite. • Disturbed areas should be rehabilitated as soon as possible to minimize the	(10) Low (-)

			duration of exposed soil surfaces. • Maintain cleanliness and organization in the construction camp by removing waste from the site or containing it within enclosed areas away from sensitive viewpoints. • Enhance screening of construction camps by erecting temporary fences with 3-meter-high shade cloth to mitigate their visual impact. • Ensure that stockpiles do not exceed a height of 2 meters.	
Archaeology	While no heritage or cultural sites were discovered on the project site, it's important to note that archaeological artifacts may be unearthed and inadvertently damaged or destroyed during the construction phase.	(6) Low (-)	• Chance find protocols are recommended in case any resources are unearthed: • If any heritage resources are uncovered or found, construction activities should halt immediately. • If any evidence of archaeological sites or remains (such as indigenous ceramics, bones, stone artifacts,	(3) Very Low (-)

			charcoal, ash, etc.) or fossils are discovered during construction, SAHRA must be alerted in accordance with Section 35(3) of the National Heritage Resources Act. • In the unlikely event of discovering unmarked graves, the SAHRA Burial Groups and Graves Unit must be alerted immediately as per Section 36(6) of the National Heritage Resources Act. • A professional paleontologist or archaeologist must be contacted as soon as possible to investigate or inspect the findings.	
Traffic	The area experiences moderate traffic, particularly as it is near a shopping center. Therefore, construction activities will likely result in an increase in traffic congestion.	(22) Medium (-)	• Movement of construction vehicles to and from the site should be scheduled during off-peak traffic flow times. • Heavy vehicle crossing signs and entrance road construction signs must be placed along the gravel road to alert	(8) Low (-)

			motorists. • Traffic safety measures, including traffic warning signs, must be implemented during the construction phase to ensure safe passage for all road users.	
Allien invasive species	Construction activities related to the installation of the synchronous condensers, such as land clearing and soil disturbance, can inadvertently facilitate the spread of invasive species to new areas. Alien invasive species have the potential to outcompete native vegetation, leading to disruption of local species. Failure to plan for the removal and management of alien vegetation could result in the invasion of alien species in wetland and riparian areas during the construction phase.	(20) Medium (-)	• Remove alien plants from the affected area as soon as they emerge to prevent their spread. • Continuously monitor the project site for any new growth of invasive plants until construction is completed. • Conduct short-term monitoring for a duration of 12 months after construction completion to ensure that invasive plants do not reestablish themselves. • Ensure that vehicles and machinery park and operate only within designated areas to minimize disturbance to the surrounding environment. • Limit the use of vehicles and machinery	(9) Low (-)

			within areas of moderate and high sensitivity to further reduce environmental impact.	
Health, safety and security	The movement of people in the local area may pose security threats, including increased crime rates.	(18) Medium (-)	✦ A code of conduct for construction workers should be compiled, and all relevant stakeholders should be provided with and required to sign it. This will provide guidance on permissible behavior during the construction process. ✦ An HIV/AIDS awareness program should be developed, and regular training sessions and roadshows should be conducted for both community members and workers. These sessions should focus on risky behaviors that could expose individuals to diseases. ✦ The development area should be fenced off to prevent unauthorized trespassing, enhancing security and	(15) Medium (-)

			safety. ✦ Whenever feasible and reasonable, laborers, especially semi-skilled and low-skilled workers, should be sourced locally. This approach reduces the influx of new individuals into the area and helps alleviate pressure on accommodation facilities. ✦ Buffer zones and signages should be established around the trees to help safeguard them.	
Social and economic impact	Temporary employment opportunities Business opportunity for local SMMEs Influx of people looking for employment	(11) Low (+)	✦ No mitigation measures recommended	
Civil Aviation	✦ Use of crane, temporary tall equipment can interfere with aerodrome airspace.	(21) Medium (-)	✦ Use non-reflective coatings or dull-finish materials to reduce potential for glint/glare. ✦ Use anti-perching devices and avoid placing lines near wetlands or areas	(11) Low (+)

	✦ Powerlines connected to the Synchronous condensers and stations may attract birds, increasing the risk of bird strikes near aerodrome airspace. ✦ Metallic parts of the structures can reflect sunlight, potentially impairing pilots' vision.		with high bird activity. ✦ Ensure structures do not penetrate OLS; otherwise, obtain necessary approvals and implement compensatory measures (e.g., lighting, markings). ✦ Submit Notice to Airmen (NOTAMs) during construction. ✦ Mark temporary equipment with high-visibility flags or lights.	
Nature Reserve	✦ Loss or Alteration of natural habitats ✦ Habitat fragmentation ✦ Habitat displacement from noise or disturbance ✦ Introduction of alien and invasive species	(30) High (-)	✦ Vegetation Clearing must be limited to only the project site. ✦ The nature reserve should be established as a no-go area. ✦ Buffer zones should be implemented to safeguard and protect the nature reserve. ✦ Implement Alien Species Control	(10) Low (-)

	✦ Safety and security of species at the nature reserve ✦ Changes to landscape ✦ Soil erosion		Measures. ✦ Only authorised personnel should be allowed on site. Site access control measures should be in place for visitors. ✦ Soil erosion management measures including proper drain and spill management should be implemented to combat soil erosion,	
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7.7. OPERATIONAL PHASE

Table 15: Impacts identified during operational phase

Identified impacts	Significance without mitigation	Mitigation measure	Significance with mitigation
Noise emissions from rotating machinery and cooling systems	High	To ensure continued compliance and minimise potential impacts, the following mitigation measures should be implemented: • Install acoustic enclosures around major noise-generating equipment. • Use low-noise cooling fans and machinery where feasible.	Low

Identified impacts	Significance without mitigation	Mitigation measure	Significance with mitigation
		• Maintain equipment regularly to prevent excessive noise due to wear and tear. • Conduct periodic noise monitoring to ensure compliance with applicable standards.	
Oil leakage from lubrication and auxiliary systems	High	To ensure continued compliance and minimise potential impacts, the following mitigation measures should be implemented: • Secondary containment (bund walls) • Oil leak detection systems • Routine inspections and maintenance • Spill response plan and spill kits on-site	Low
Transformer oil contamination (step-up transformer used)	High	To ensure continued compliance and minimise potential impacts, the following mitigation measures should be implemented: • Bunded transformer bays (110% capacity) • Oil-water separators • Regular inspection of seals and valves • Emergency spill response procedures	Low

Identified impacts	Significance without mitigation	Mitigation measure	Significance with mitigation
Stormwater contamination	Medium	To ensure continued compliance and minimise potential impacts, the following mitigation measures should be implemented: • Maintain drainage systems • Install oil interceptors • Prevent discharge of contaminated water • Routine inspection after rainfall events	Low
Fire risk (oil systems, electrical faults)	Medium	To ensure continued compliance and minimise potential impacts, the following mitigation measures should be implemented: • Fire detection and suppression systems • Fire walls between equipment • Routine thermographic inspections • Emergency response plan	Low
Waste generation (used oil, filters, oily rags)	Medium	To ensure continued compliance and minimise potential impacts, the following mitigation measures should be implemented: • Hazardous waste storage in labelled containers • Use licensed hazardous waste contractors • Maintain waste manifests	Low

Identified impacts	Significance without mitigation	Mitigation measure	Significance with mitigation
Soil contamination from oil leaks or spills	Medium	Install bunded areas, spill containment systems, and implement spill response plans	Low
Dust generation during construction activities	Medium	Implement dust suppression measures such as water spraying and covering of materials	Low
Increased energy consumption for auxiliary systems	Low	Use energy-efficient auxiliary equipment and optimize operational performance	Low
Improvement in grid stability and voltage control	High	Not applicable – maintain proper operation and maintenance	Medium

8. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT

8.1 SUMMARY OF IMPACTS

The comprehensive method used for assessing each identified potentially significant impact and risk has been thoroughly discussed in the preceding sections. Below is a summary table (Table 16) providing an overview of the impacts, including their significance before and after mitigation measures are implemented:

Table 16: Summary of Impacts

Impact	Significance (Pre-mitigation)	Significance (Post-mitigation)
Pre-construction/planning phase		
Permits and regulatory compliance	(16) Medium (-)	(4) Very Low (-)
Community engagement	(22) Medium (-)	(9) Low (-)
Site establishment	(30) High	(10) Low
Stormwater	(22) Medium (-)	(9) Low (-)
Construction phase		
Air quality	(8) Low (-)	6 Low (-)
Noise pollution	(10) Low (-)	(7) Low (-)
Surface and groundwater contamination	(20) Medium (-)	(7) Low (-)
Erosion	(32) High (-)	(10) Low (-)
Soil contamination	(22) Medium (-)	(8) Low (-)
Vegetation	(18) Medium (-)	(3) Low (-)
Avifauna	(14) Medium (-)	(9) Low (-)
Visual	(13) Medium (-)	(10) Low (-)
Archaeology	(6) Low (-)	(3) Very low (-)
Traffic	(22) Medium (-)	(8) Low (-)
Alien Invasive Species	(20) Medium (-)	(9) Low (-)
Health, safety and security	(18) Medium (-)	(15) Low (-)

Social and economic impact	(11) Low (+)	No mitigation measure
Nature Reserve	(30) High (-)	(10) Low (-)
Operational phase		
Electrocution	(14) Medium (-)	(9) Low (-)
Vegetation	(8) Low (-)	(5) Low (-)
Alien Invasive Species	(18) Medium (-)	(10) Low (-)
Visual impact	(11) Low (-)	(7) Low (-)
Disturbance of wetland habitat	(7) Low (-)	(5) Low (-)
Nature Reserve	(20) Medium (-)	(9) Low (-)

Several negative impacts with moderate and low significance ratings have been identified for the planning, construction, and operational phases of the project. The majority of these impacts can be reduced, controlled, or remedied to a low significance rating, ultimately resulting in minor effects. Additionally, due to the location of the proposed development and the nature of activities within the area, most communities will not be significantly affected.

SECTION E: CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

9. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

The proposed expansion of Gromis substation should be authorised to ensure compliance with environmental laws and regulations. The expansion of the Gromis Substation footprint, through the addition of two synchronous condensers each with a capacity of 300 Mvar, will significantly enhance electricity network stability, voltage control, and overall system reliability.

The environmental assessment identified potential impacts primarily associated with the construction and operational phases; however, these impacts are expected to be localised and can be effectively managed through the implementation of appropriate mitigation measures. In addition, the project will contribute positively to infrastructure development and create short-term employment opportunities. Based on the assessment findings, the benefits of the project

outweigh the potential environmental impacts. It is therefore recommended that Environmental Authorisation be granted, subject to the implementation of the proposed mitigation and environmental management measures.

10. OPINION OF THE EAP

The Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP) believes that any potential adverse impacts associated with the proposed expansion of the existing Gromis Substation can be effectively mitigated to prevent long-term degradation of the surrounding environment. Following the completion of a comprehensive Basic Assessment process, QEMS recommends that the proposed expansion of the existing Gromis Substation be authorised, provided that all mitigation measures outlined in the Environmental Management Programme (EMPr) are implemented and adhered to during the planning, design, construction, and operational phases of the project.

Furthermore, based on the assessment undertaken, the EAP is satisfied that the proposed expansion will take place within an already disturbed and existing substation footprint, thereby minimising additional environmental impacts. The proposed development is therefore considered environmentally acceptable, as it will enhance the reliability and capacity of the electricity supply network while limiting disturbance to surrounding land uses and sensitive environmental features.

In addition, the proposed project is expected to contribute positively to the local and regional economy through the creation of temporary employment opportunities during the construction phase and improved electricity infrastructure that may support future economic development initiatives.

11. UNDERTAKING BY EAP

I, Dr. Patrick Sithole, declare that I act as the independent environmental practitioner in this application:

- I do not have and will not have any financial interest in the undertaking of the activity other than remuneration for work performed in terms of the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations, 2014;
- do not have and will not have a vested interest in the proposed activity proceeding;
- have no, and will not engage in, conflicting interests in the undertaking of the activity;
- undertake to disclose to the competent authority any material information that has or may have the potential to influence the decision of the competent authority or the objectivity of any report, plan or document required in terms of the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations;
- will ensure that information containing all relevant facts in respect of the application is distributed or made available to interested and affected parties and the public and that participation by interested and affected parties is facilitated in such a manner that all interested and affected parties will be provided with a reasonable opportunity to participate and to provide comments on documents that are produced to support the application;
- will ensure that the comments of all interested and affected parties are considered and recorded in reports that are submitted to the Department in respect of the application, provided that comments that are made by interested and affected parties in respect of a final report that will be submitted to the Department may be attached to the report without further amendment to the report;
- will keep a register of all interested and affected parties that participated in a public participation process and will provide the Department with access to all information at my disposal regarding the application, whether such information is favourable to the applicant or not.



Signature of the Environmental Assessment Practitioner:

QEMS Business Solutions and Management CC

Name of Business