

SECTION 5: PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCESS

5.1 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCESS

Public participation is an integral aspect of any EIA process and should aim to meaningfully engage stakeholders at all levels throughout the project, to ensure that the public's views on the project are taken into consideration by decision-makers. Public participation therefore involves consultation with, amongst others, the general public, nearby communities, relevant authorities and community-based and non-governmental organisations.

The public participation process followed thus far is described in this section and a summary is provided of the issues and concerns regarding the proposed expansion and the EIA process that were raised by Interested & Affected Parties (I&APs). Please refer to Appendix 4 for a detailed table of these issues and concerns raised.

The aim of the public participation process undertaken as part of this Scoping phase is to:

- promote a responsible and transparent approach to the proposed project;
- ensure the consideration of I&APs input in the decision-making process; and
- lay a foundation for ongoing consultation throughout the life of the proposed project.

The specific objectives of the public participation process being conducted as part of Scoping are:

- To provide appropriate opportunities and forums to enable all stakeholders to raise issues, concerns and queries regarding the proposed project and the EIA process;
- To facilitate information dissemination using the appropriate means in order to keep all stakeholders informed about the progress of the project and to give feedback and responses regarding questions and concerns;
- To draw on local knowledge and skills to improve and enhance the EIA process and investigations/reports;
- To provide opportunity for stakeholders to give comment and input into the specialist Terms of Reference and investigations for the EIA;
- To provide opportunity for stakeholders to provide input into the decision-making process; and
- To establish relationships and channels of communications to facilitate ongoing stakeholder liaison, throughout the life of the proposed operation.

5.2 PROCESS FOLLOWED TO DATE

The public participation process thus far has entailed the following steps, which are discussed in more detail in the sections below:

- Pre-application meeting with relevant authorities;
- Compilation of a stakeholder database;
- Compilation and distribution of a Background Information Document (BID);
- Advertising;
- Public open days; and
- Focus group meetings.

5.2.1 Pre-application meeting with relevant authorities

A pre-application meeting and site visit were held on 3 May 2006 to discuss the proposed project and the EIA process with the relevant authorities. The meeting was attended by representatives of the following organisations:

- National Department of Environmental Affairs & Tourism (DEAT);
- DEAT: Marine and Coastal Management (MCM);
- Western Cape Department of Environmental Affairs & Development Planning (DEA&DP): Integrated Environmental Management;
- DEA&DP: Coastal Management;
- South African National Parks (West Coast National Park);
- Transnet Projects Hatch Mott McDonald Goba Joint Venture (TPHMG), on behalf of Transnet;
- National Ports Authority (NPA);
- South African Port Operations (SAPO); and
- The PDNA/SRK JV.

Prior to this meeting a single EIA was planned for the port and rail expansions. It was then decided to assess the port and rail components in separate EIAs, because the two activities are quite distinct, there are

significant regional environmental differences, and the I&APs for the two components differ considerably. The meeting discussed the merits of having two EIAs. Notes on the discussions at this meeting are provided in Appendix A1.

5.2.2 Compilation of a stakeholder database

The identification of stakeholders is an ongoing process throughout the project, but it is important that key stakeholders are identified and included as early on in the process as possible. Stakeholders can be defined as those people or organisations that could have an impact on or be affected by the proposed activities and include all people who may be interested in the proponent or its activities. Stakeholders are therefore often referred to as Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs).

A preliminary database of I&APs for this project was compiled at the start of the EIA process, using as a starting point the database of stakeholders that participated in the EIA for the Phase 1B expansion. Additional I&APs were added to the database through advertisements and from the attendance registers of the public open days and focus group meetings (see details below).

The identification of key stakeholders focussed on the municipal area of the Saldanha Bay Local Municipality (part of the larger West Coast District Municipality), within which the Port of Saldanha is located. In particular, key stakeholders were identified from the three larger towns within the municipal area, namely Saldanha, Vredenburg and Langebaan.

A full list of I&APs on the stakeholder database for this project, including individual I&APs as well as key stakeholder groups, is provided in Appendix A2. The stakeholder database currently contains 494 I&APs (individuals and stakeholder groups).

Key stakeholder groups on the database are listed below:

National authorities:

- DEAT;
- Department of Water Affairs & Forestry (DWAF);
- South African National Parks (West Coast National Park);

Provincial authorities:

- DEA&DP;

- Department of Transport & Public Works;
- CapeNature;

Local authorities:

- West Coast District Municipality;
- Saldanha Bay Local Municipality;

Local environmental and community forums:

- Saldanha Bay Forum;
- Cape West Coast Biosphere Reserve;
- Ratepayers and Residents Associations (Langebaan, Vredenburg and Saldanha);

5.2.3 Compilation and distribution of a Background Information Document

A Background Information Document (BID) was compiled to provide a brief description of the proposed Phase 2 expansion project and the proposed EIA and associated public participation process. English, Afrikaans and Xhosa versions of the BID were produced. A full colour, booklet version of the BID was posted to all I&APs on the preliminary database and copies were made available at all public open days and focus group meetings (see details below). Additional copies were left at strategic public locations such as libraries and tourism offices. An electronic version was e-mailed to all I&APs for whom e-mail addresses are available.

The BID was posted and e-mailed between 31 July and 4 August 2006 along with a cover letter that invited I&APs to attend the public open days (see details below) and to provide written or telephonic comment on the information contained in the BID. The BID and cover letter also contained the contact details of the EIA team member responsible for recording and responding to I&AP queries and comments. The closing date for the public comment period was Friday, 1 September 2006.

Copies of the English version of the BID and the covering letter are provided in Appendix A3 (Copies of the Afrikaans and Xhosa versions can be provided on request).

5.2.4 Advertising

The start of the Scoping phase process was advertised in order to:

- Provide information on the proposed project;
- Invite I&APs to register on the project database;
- Invite I&APs to attend the public open days (see details below);
- Announce the availability of the BID;
- Invite the public to comment on the proposed project by a certain date; and
- Provide contact details of the relevant members of the project team to whom any enquiries should be directed.

The advertisements drew considerable response and several I&APs requested further information and/or asked to be registered on the stakeholder database as a result. A number of advertising media were utilised, namely:

- Newspaper advertisements;
- Poster advertisements; and
- Radio broadcasts.

Block advertisements were placed in the main body of selected national, regional and local newspapers as listed in Table 6 below.

Table 6: Newspaper advertisements

Newspaper:	Dates:	Distribution:	Language:
Weslander	Thursday, 20 July 2006	West Coast	English & Afrikaans
Swartland & Weskus Herald	Thursday, 20 July 2006	Swartland & West Coast	English & Afrikaans
Cape Argus	Friday, 21 July 2006	Greater Cape Town	English
Die Burger	Friday, 21 July 2006	Western Cape	Afrikaans
Cape Times	Friday, 21 July 2006	Western Cape	English
Sunday Times	Sunday, 13 August 2006	National	English
Rapport	Sunday, 13 August 2006	National	Afrikaans

Copies of the advertisements placed in these newspapers are provided in Appendix A4.

Posters announcing the study and advertising the open days (see below) were put up at strategic public locations in the towns of Saldanha, Vredenburg and Langebaan, including the local libraries, municipal offices,

shopping areas and known community notice boards. The posters contained information in all three official languages of the Western Cape (English, Afrikaans and Xhosa). A copy of the poster advertisement is provided in Appendix A5.

Radio broadcasts were used to advertise the start of the EIA process and, in particular, to inform I&APs about the three public open days (see details below). These advertisements were broadcast by the local radio station, Radio West Coast, once every hour between the hours of 8 am and 6 pm on Monday, 14 August 2006 and Tuesday, 15 August 2006. The text provided to the station for use in the broadcasts is provided in Appendix A6.

5.2.5 Public Open Days

Three public open days were held to provide information about the project and provide I&APs with an opportunity to discuss and provide comment on the project. Details of the open days are provided in Table 7 below.

Table 7: Public Open Days

Date	Venue	Time	Attended by
Tuesday, 15 August 2006	Langebaan Library	12h00 to 18h30	16 I&APs
Wednesday, 16 August 2006	Saldanha Protea Hotel	12h00 to 18h30	27 I&APs
Thursday, 17 August 2006	Vredenburg High School	14h30 to 19h00	24 I&APs

At the public open days, members of the PDNA/SRK JV project team and representatives of Transnet were available to discuss the project with attendees. Copies of the BID were available and a poster presentation of the information contained in the BID was provided. English, Afrikaans and Xhosa versions of the posters were displayed. A reproduction of the English version of the poster presentation provided at the public open days is provided in Appendix A7.

I&AP attendees were asked to sign an attendance register and were provided with a comment form to facilitate the submission of written comments. Copies of the attendance registers for the three public open days are provided in Appendix A8. A total of 67 I&APs attended the open days.

5.2.6 Focus Group Meetings

Seven focus group meetings were held with key stakeholders who were selected on the basis that they represent larger stakeholder groups or have a particular institutional interest in the project. Focus group meetings allow for a more focussed discussion of those issues specific to the relevant group and facilitate information exchange and circulation within groups of stakeholders.

Focus group meetings are held on an ongoing basis during the EIA process as and when they are required and/or expedient. For example, if a particular focus group has its own regular meetings, representatives of the EIA team would attend one of these rather than arrange a separate meeting.

The seven focus group meetings that were held (or attended) as part of the public participation process thus far include the following:

5.2.6.1 Phase 1A SAPO Bulk Terminal Environmental Management Committee (EMC), 1 August 2006

Representatives of the PDNA/SRK JV project team and Transnet attended the regular meeting of the EMC convened for the Phase 1A expansion of the iron ore facility. (This EMC is being replaced by a new committee specifically for the Phase 1B expansion project, which was authorised by DEA&DP in August.) The proposed Phase 2 expansion project was discussed. A copy of the minutes (including an attendance register) is provided in Appendix A9.

5.2.6.2 Saldanha Bay Forum, 16 August 2006

Representatives of the PDNA/SRK JV and Transnet attended the meeting of the Saldanha Bay Forum in Langebaan on 16 August 2006. A presentation about the proposed Phase 2 expansion was given and attendees were given the opportunity to ask questions and/or raise concerns. The Saldanha Bay Forum submitted the minutes of the meeting as its preliminary comments on the proposed project and the EIA. Copies of the minutes and attendance register of this meeting are provided in Appendix A9.

5.2.6.3 Relevant authorities and government institutions, 24 August 2006

A focus group meeting was held with relevant authorities and government institutions in Cape Town on 24 August 2006. This meeting was attended by representatives of:

- DEAT;
- DEA&DP;
- West Coast District Municipality;
- Department of Transport & Public Works: Roads Infrastructure Branch;

- TPHMG; and
- SRK/PDNA JV.

Representatives of DEA&DP: Air Quality Management, the Department of Water Affairs & Forestry (DWAF) and the Saldanha Bay Local Municipality were also invited to this meeting but could not attend.

At the meeting, a presentation about the proposed Phase 2 expansion project was given, followed by a discussion that focussed on issues regarding the EIA scope and process. Notes of this meeting and a copy of the attendance register are provided in Appendix A9.

5.2.6.4 Local communities, 4-6 September 2006

Four focus group meetings were held with representatives of the local communities from civil society, the business sector and local government, as follows:

- Vredenburg civil society and business sector, 4 September 2006;
- Vredenburg Council members, 4 September 2006;
- Saldanha civil society and business sector, 5 September 2006; and
- Saldanha Council members, 5 September 2006.

Copies of the attendance registers for these four focus group meetings are provided in Appendix A9.

The community and local government focus group meetings were not very well attended; only 17 of the 39 I&APs that confirmed their attendance arrived for the meetings. A meeting arranged for the Langebaan civil society, business and local government sectors was scheduled but nobody attended. However, the discussions at the meetings that were held were lively and many issues were discussed that were not raised previously. Notes of these four focus group meetings are provided in Appendix A9.

5.3 ISSUES RAISED TO DATE

Comments made by stakeholders at the focus group meetings as well as written comments submitted during the public comment period were incorporated into the Issues and Responses Table presented in Appendix A10. Comments are grouped and categorised according to the issue raised and copies of all written comments received are provided.

5.4 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION CONCLUSION

I&APs indicated both support for and opposition to the project. Support is mainly based on the potential socio-economic benefits of the proposal and the need for social upliftment and job creation in the West Coast. Opposition to the project stemmed mainly from concerns regarding pollution (specifically dust and noise) and the possible exacerbation of the Langebaan beach erosion problem. There also appears to be a generally negative perception of the role of large industries in the local community, which contributes to a general sense of trepidation among the local residents with regards to large industrial developments in the area.

Table 8 below provides a summary of the issues raised by stakeholders during the public participation process to date. The summary is based on the detailed Issues and Responses Table provided in Appendix A10. The issues raised are presented in alphabetical order.

Table 8: Summary of issues raised by I&APs

Issue	Specific Concerns
Alternatives:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The need to assess feasible alternatives; • The no-go alternative; • Process alternatives; • Project alternatives; • Stockyard extension alternatives; and • Water supply alternatives.
Cumulative impacts:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cumulative effects of all phases of the expansion project.
Dust (iron ore):	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nuisance issues • Health issues; • Proposed mitigation measures; and • Property prices.

Issue	Specific Concerns
Ecological issues:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Avifauna; • Botany (including the impact of iron ore dust); • The Spreeuwalle dune system; • Fauna; • Geology; and • Marine ecology (including the impact of blasting, dredging, iron ore dust, run-off and shipping traffic).
EIA process	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EIA regulations (ECA vs NEMA Regulations); • Enforcement of EIA recommendations; • Information disclosure; • Peer review; and • Stakeholders.
General issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Additional breakwaters • Saldanha's beaches; • Biodiversity offsets; • Blasting; • Suggestion of an inland harbour; • Impact on local communities; • A suggested no development zone; • The oil pipeline; • Public access; • Rail upgrades; • The Langebaan RAMSAR site; and • The scarcity of water in the area.
Heritage issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maritime archaeology; and • Terrestrial archaeology.
Marine hydrodynamics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potential changes in ocean currents • Beach erosion (including possible causes of the existing problems, possible solutions to the existing problems and issues of responsibility for rehabilitation).
Noise	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Noise impacts on nearby residents
Planning issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local planning (IDP issues) • The Port's draft Master Plan • Regional planning issues
Risk management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oil spill risks • The need for a risk management plan

Issue	Specific Concerns
Services & infrastructure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The access road • Energy supply • Roads
Shipping traffic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Responsibility for implementing EIA recommendations
Socio-economic issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Crime • Housing • Influx of work seekers • Job creation • The area's sense of place & community • Social infrastructure • Tourism • Unemployment • The inclusion of women
Visual	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The iron ore facility's visual impact

The concerns were noted and will be addressed in the EIA Report. At this stage Transnet has provided a preliminary response to the issues based on the information currently available.