



NEWSLETTER MAY 2016

A FEW CURRENT PROJECTS @ SES

AFRICA'S FIRST SOLAR POWERED AIRPORT



Airports Company South Africa (ACSA) and the Minister of Transport, Minister Dipuo Peters, launched Africa's first solar powered airport in George on Friday, 26 February 2016. The solar plant is designed to supply the airport with 750 kilowatts of its electricity needs for the daily operation of the airport. The Environmental Impact Assessment for the solar plant was undertaken by Sharples Environmental Services cc(SES) and subsequently approved by the Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA). SES also played a part during the construction phase by being appointed as the Environmental Control Officer (ECO). As the ECO it was SES's duty to ensure that the conditions of the Environmental Authorisation are complied with and reported on as well as to ensure that the mitigation measures and recommendations of the Environmental Management Programme are adhered to.

By making use of solar energy, the ACSA George Airport will not only operate on a clean and renewable energy source, but will also be self-reliant as far as energy provision is concerned, lessening the burden on the local energy grid. SES recently submitted an application to the DEA to extend the footprint of the solar plant in order to increase the generating capacity to 1 megawatt i.e. 1000 kilowatt.

MAINTENANCE MANAGEMENT PLANS REPLACING THE NEED TO CONDUCT IMPACT ASSESSMENTS



The Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations of 2014, promulgated in terms of the National Environmental Management Act (NEMA), list certain activities that if "triggered", the person undertaking the activities (the applicant) is required to undertake an Impact Assessment Process with the aim of receiving an Environmental Authorisation permitting them to undertake the "Listed Activities". However, there are exceptions to the rule that apply to certain "Listed Activities" that involve the maintenance of existing infrastructure. For example, it is a "Listed Activity" in the EIA Regulations to deposit or remove more than 5m³ of material from within a watercourse or from within 100m from the high water mark of the sea, but if this activity is triggered for maintenance purposes then an Impact Assessment is not required, instead, it is only required to submit a Maintenance Management Plan to the Authorising Authority for approval.

Sharples Environmental Services (SES) has prepared two Maintenance Management Plans recently. A Maintenance Management Plan was prepared for the Mossel Bay Municipality because they propose to repeatedly for the foreseeable future, remove more than 5m³ of sand from the parking lot at Dana Bay 2nd Beach as part of their maintenance plans for the parking lot. The Municipality needs to remove sand from the parking lot because there is a nearby dune system that is migrating in the direction of the parking lot. SES therefore recommended mitigation measures to stabilise the dune during the short term with dune fences. In addition, by planting vegetation to stabilise the dune system less sand will be deposited in the parking lot and less maintenance will therefore be required over the medium -

long term.

SES also recently compiled a Maintenance Management Plan for the rebuilding and maintenance of an instream dam in the Elandsvallei, near Uniondale. A private farmers' water storage dam was lost in the 2007 floods. He therefore proposes to reconstruct the original dam wall on the same footprint and to the same dimensions as the original dam (i.e. a "like-for-like" replacement). The proposed development triggers "Listed Activities" in the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations, 2014. However, as provided for in the Regulations, a proponent can be exempted from the requirement to obtain Environmental Authorisation to undertake these listed activities, provided that the activity is undertaken in accordance with a Maintenance Management Plan, approved (agreed to) by the Competent.

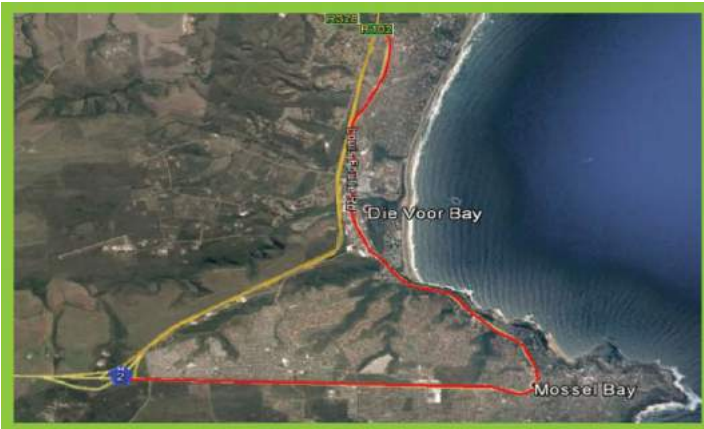
ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION GRANTED FOR A 75MW PV SOLAR FACILITY, TOUWS RIVER



Sharples Environmental Services has successfully completed the Environmental Impact Assessment Process for our 5th Photovoltaic (PV) Solar, Renewable Energy Facility to be constructed near Touws River in the Western Cape Province. The National Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA) issued the Environmental Authorisation to Montague Road Energy (Pty) Ltd in the beginning of April 2016. The Photovoltaic Solar facility will comprise of arrays of PV panels, approximately 4m in height, orientated from East to West. The facility will also comprise of steel pile driven mounting structures, internal roads, underground cabling, approximately 90 central inverters, step up station, numerous small mini-substations and interconnecting above ground powerlines.

One of the main findings of the impact assessment was that the benefit for South Africa of this renewable energy facility in terms of its contribution to the security of energy supply, the reduced risk of 'blackouts' that negatively affect investment and Gross Domestic Profit (GDP), and the positive socio economic impact in terms of job creation over the next 20 - 30 years completely outweighed the negative biophysical impacts associated with, inter alia, the loss of grazing land, the removal of indigenous vegetation, fauna impacts and impacts to the hydrological environment (erosion, sedimentation, flooding) that could occur. Mitigation measures were put in place and approved in the Environmental Management Plan with the aim of first avoiding impacts and for unavoidable environmental impacts, measures were put in place to reduce them to an acceptable level of impact significance. Montague Road Energy (Pty) Ltd will now submit a BID to the Department of Energy as part of the Renewable Energy Independent Power Producers Programme (REIPPP).

UPGRADING OF LOUIS FOURIE ROAD IN MOSSEL BAY



Development along the Louis Fourie Road built environment corridor has highlighted the need to protect not only the regional functionality of the route but also the strategic nature of the provincial road. In light of this, the Department of Transport and Public Works (as the responsible road authority) has undertaken to assist the Mossel Bay Municipality in preparing a Road Master Plan for Mossel Bay. This will provide guidelines for future development approvals and mitigate the impact of traffic operations on Louis Fourie Road and the local road network in the short, medium and long term. In addition to the long term planning, it is acknowledged that there is a need to implement improvements to Louis Fourie Road in the short term.

The following upgrades and improvements are therefore proposed to improve safety and alleviate localized congestion issues:

- Widening the road to an urban dual carriageway with two lanes in each direction for the entire length of Louis Fourie Road.
- Adding exclusive turning lanes at intersections.
- Constructing a curbed median to facilitate pedestrian safety.
- The addition of kerbed sidewalk ways and separate footways (between km1 and km7) to address pedestrian safety.
- Closing or consolidating some of the accesses onto Louis Fourie to ensure an optimal spacing of signalized intersections as to improve traffic flow.

The Basic Impact Assessment is being conducted by Sharples Environmental Services (SES).

The Pre-Application Basic Assessment Report is available until the 27th of May 2016 for review and comment on our website. [CLICK HERE](#)

KEY EVENTS TAKING PLACE

IAIASa CONFERENCE IN PORT ELIZABETH: 17 - 19 AUGUST 2016

SAVE
THE
DATE



IAIA_{sa}

2016 NATIONAL CONFERENCE

17-19 August | The Boardwalk, Port Elizabeth

ENVIRONMENTAL CHANGE & CHALLENGES
 Resilience, Adaptation & Sustainability



Sharples Environmental Services (SES) is actively engaged in the fields of Environmental Planning, Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA), Monitoring and Project Management. We operate all over Southern Africa and have two offices one located in George and one in Cape Town. We undertake Full Scoping / EIA and Basic Environmental Impact Assessments, Waste Licensing, Water Use Licensing, Mining Rights / Permit Applications, Air Emissions Licensing and Environmental Management Plans. We also supply Monitoring and Environmental Control Services during the construction phase of developments. Please view our [COMPANY PROFILE HERE](#) for more information on our staff and the services we offer.

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