

# Meeting record

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|-----------------|------------------------------------------------------|--------------|------------|
| Project number  | 1001556                                              | Meeting date | 2022-04-20 |
| Project name    | Cato Ridge EIA                                       | Recorded by  | RA         |
| Meeting/subject | Assmang / Cato Ridge (Offset)<br>Planning Discussion | Total pages  | 2          |

| Present                             | Apology                  | Copy                                | Name                    | Organisation           |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            | Sabelo Nkosi (SN)       | eThekwini Municipality |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            | Chumisa Thengwa (CT)    | eThekwini Municipality |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            | Carlos Magalhaes (CM)   | Assmang / CRDC         |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            | Mel Pillay (MP)         | Zutari                 |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            | Douglas Macfarlane (DM) | Eco Pulse              |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            | George Karsten (GK)     | Assmang / CRDC         |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            | Werner Botha (WB)       | Assmang / CRDC         |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            | Rowan Albertyn (RA)     | Zutari                 |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            | Pumezo David (PD)       | Assmang / CRDC         |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            | Cameron McLean (CMcL)   | eThekwini Municipality |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            | Greg Mullins (GM)       | eThekwini Municipality |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            | Zinhle Dlamini (ZD)     | eThekwini Municipality |
| <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Lekha Allopi (LA)       | eThekwini Municipality |

| Item | Topic                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
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| 1    | <p><b>Introduction:</b></p> <p>RA provided an overview and background to the proposed project, including a description of the business model and proposed landuse options.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| 2    | <p><b>Summary of feedback from discussions with Lekha Allopi &amp; Chumisa Thengwa:</b></p> <p>MP indicated that the following points were previously discussed with CT and LA:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>How could the applicant contribute to existing conservation efforts.</li> <li>Based on the availability of KZN SS Grassland available, could a traditional offset process apply or would further consideration need to be given to financial offsetting as well.</li> <li>How can the offset process be limited to within the Metro boundaries so as to help achieve Metro based conservation targets. In addition, offsetting in another municipal area may negatively impact that specific Municipalities plans for growth and development.</li> </ul> |

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|   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The biodiversity offset guideline of 1:30 ratio cannot be overlooked or disregarded. This ratio will apply as a precedent has been set. Based on the availability of KZN SS Grassland within the Metro, a 1:30 ratio must be the target, and failing which, other offset considerations should be given within the Metro.</li> <li>A biodiversity offset can include the financial provision to a third party/ administrating agent to roll out the offset requirements in order to purchase/ lease land for conservation purposes. This is what SANRAL has done on the N2Toll Road Development.</li> <li>The Metro is open to consider the establishment of a conservation bank to enable and administer offsetting requirements.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| 3 | <p><b>Discussions:</b></p> <p>SN - The proposed layout of the land use options needs to be reconsidered to ensure that an already critically endangered ecosystem type is not lost completely. It is also important to demonstrate how you have applied the mitigation hierarchy to try and avoid certain impacts and getting to a stage where you can offset and if the offset is not possible, ecological compensation can be applied. The challenge is that it is difficult to determine the value of what is being lost.</p> <p>CT – For the purpose of taking this process forward, the developer and EMM needs to set aside their differences and end up with an authorisation that states that they have a requirement to conclude a biodiversity offset with EMM, as it was previously done in this manner. Note, however, CT confirmed that the EMM would prefer that the offset requirements are concluded within the Metro, prior to the EIA commences.</p> <p>DM – would like to highlight the fundamental challenge with the site in that on the side of EMM there is an indication that the 1:30 ratio will apply and on the landowner's side it is clear that it is important that a substantial portion of the land needs to be developed to make it feasible. What is on the table now is about 600ha which implies that about 18 000ha would be required for an offset and that EMM indicates that this land for offsetting must be within the municipality, but there is only about 3 500ha available and that securing this alone would be an immense task. One would be doing exceptionally well if you could secure about 1500ha and that there is a major disconnect between 18 000ha and 1 500ha. This means there would have to be a radical reduction in the footprint which implies if there is only 1 500ha available for offsetting one would end up with 50ha available for development. Unfortunately, 50ha would not be feasible in terms of development effort. Alternatively one would reasonably consider doing one's best in terms of conservation efforts towards KZNSS and then perhaps include other priority conservation areas or perhaps looking at other regions outside the municipality because if the lines are drawn so tightly it just seems completely unfeasible.</p> |
| 4 | <p>SN indicated that this project can help secure natural assets in the region where there aren't any. The principle of offsetting is to improve the conservation of the existing habitat type. The province does not have enough KZN SS to offset the development. The ratio of 1:30 is prescribed in the guidelines and will have to be adhered to.</p> <p>DM noted that this would unlikely be possible due to the availability of the KZN SS within the Metro.</p> <p>CT indicated that there has been a history where offsets have happened outside of the eThekweni Metro, this should not be allowed as the Metro cannot afford to loose its biodiversity.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| 5 | <p>SN indicated that the current land option proposal that has been tabled will not be feasible therefore CRDC/Assmang will need to draft a Development Proposal with other options that require lesser biodiversity offsetting, which also includes the financial provisioning for the Metro to consider. Phase 1, 2, 3 etc. of the development should be indicated.</p> <p>The David Styles report and Sensitivities report can be shared with the Metro so that they can review it and give feedback to CRDC and Assmang.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| 6 | <p><b>Way Forward</b></p> <p>CRDC will compile a revised Development Proposal and submit to eThekweni Metro for review. A follow up meeting will be arranged with eThekweni Metro to present and discuss the Development Proposal and outline the next steps for the regulatory EIA process.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |

Meeting closed.