

N2 WILD COAST TOLL HIGHWAY PROJECT

MINUTES OF AUTHORITIES COORDINATION COMMITTEE MEETING NUMBER 37

Date: 26 November 2025

Time: 08h30

Venue: MS Teams - Online

No.	Item	Action
1.	<u>OPENING AND WELCOME</u>	
1.1	Opening Mr Drew (NMA Effective Social Strategists) opened the meeting and welcomed everybody present. Refer to attendance register for list of attendees.	
1.2	Apologies Apologies were given for Ms Mlungu and Ms Makaula (ECPTA) who were running a meeting in Port St Johns, Ms Ndaba and Mr Nikelo (DEDEAT), Mr Yako (DFFE Woodlands and Indigenous Forest Management) and Mr Dyantyi (COGTA). Mr Gabula (DEDEAT) indicated he would have to leave the meeting early. Ms Nosisa Ndaba (DEDEAT) has been appointed Chief Director of the Alfred Nzo Region and Mr Dean Ricketts is Acting Regional Manager. The DFFE Chief Directorate: Integrated Environmental Authorisations will no longer have representation on the EMC and DFFE will be represented by the DFFE Chief Directorate: Compliance going forwards.	
2.	<u>ADOPTION OF AGENDA</u>	
2.1	The agenda was adopted as a suitable guide for the proceedings of the meeting without any amendments or additions.	
3.	<u>ADOPTION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES</u>	
3.1	The minutes were adopted as an accurate reflection of the proceedings of the previous meeting without any amendments or additions.	
4.	<u>MATTERS ARISING</u>	
	Matters Arising from the Minutes of ACC Meeting No 36 on 27 August 2025	
4.1	<i>Item 4.2: Mr Gabula and Mr Skenjana to provide an update on progress with the establishment of a legally permitted community run sand mine in Mkambathi and Lambasi: Did ECPTA meet with Chief Mhlanga (Taweni Traditional Authority) and sort out the involvement of the Traditional Authority? Was a meeting held with Ingquza Hill Local Municipality (IHLM) Local Economic Development (LED) Department to persuade them to lead the process? Was an approach made to Eastern Cape Development Corporation (ECDC) to see if they have a business development programme or someone who could perform an advisory role to assist in establishing the business entity for the community run sand mine?</i> Mr Gabula (DEDEAT) said the task team had been established and they met with Chief Mhlanga of the Taweni Traditional Authority to brief him about the project. Chief Mhlanga was very positive and said he believed a community-run sand mine was a good initiative but said it was important to ensure that the traditional authority was on board. Chief Mhlanga said he would indicate who should be involved from the Taweni Traditional Authority. The meeting went well and the task team was able to finalise the arrangements for the last site that the DMPR officials needed to visit. Mr Gabula said, however, that it was apparent there were challenges with the social facilitation in terms of the traditional authority, as mentioned by Mr Langa of ECPTA at the previous meeting, because the sub-headmen walked out of the meeting. He said he had heard that another meeting had subsequently taken place with the Amapondo Kingdom to try and resolve this matter. He said the main issue that needed to be addressed was the development and packaging of the sand mine and it was hoped that ECDC would come on board. He said discussions were held with ECDC who showed an interest in developing a programme for community run sand mining but funding was a challenge. He said it was also good that IHLM LED was on board and fully participating in all the meetings because they would be the ultimate beneficiaries of the project together with the local community. He said progress had therefore been made but there was a stalemate in terms of social facilitation with the Taweni	

	Traditional Authority and the development and packaging of the project which may require the procurement of external expertise to take the project forwards. Mr Drew said that Mr Gabula should arrange for the task team to fully brief the ECDC about the community run sand mining project because if they could design a programme for this type of project then it could be used throughout the Eastern Cape and not just for this specific initiative. He said that the ECPTA BOA facilitation unit should be able to assist with the social facilitation with the Taweni Traditional Authority because the community run sand mine was being established to try and address, among other issues, potential illegal sand mining impacts in the BOA offset areas. Mr Langa (ECPTA) said it was difficult for the ECPTA BOA facilitation unit to resolve this current problem because Chief Mhlanga had taken the matter to the AmaPondo Kingdom and they now had to wait for the outcome of this process before they could become actively involved in the social facilitation for the community run sand mine. He said ECPTA did have a meeting scheduled with Chief Mhlanga to discuss the Tahle BOA offset area and they could enquire at this meeting what the progress was regarding the process for the community run sand mine. Mr Skenjana (ECPTA) said that ECPTA had been requested by Prince Dumelani Sigcau, the Acting King of the AmaPondo Kingdom, to present the BOA offset project to him. Mr Skenjana said ECPTA could present the BOA project and the community run sand mining project to the Acting King and request assistance through the correct protocols to ensure that the project runs smoothly. He said ECPTA was not in a position to provide advice on the business aspects of the community run sand mine. However, he said ECPTA was part of a team together with Mr Gabula's OR Tambo office of DEDEAT, ECDC and the Small Enterprise Finance Agency (SEFA) which started in Port St Johns and moved along the coast to the Mtamvuna River addressing the Community Conservation Committee (CCC) members, traditional authorities and SMMEs. He said these meetings were focused on creating awareness of the business opportunities and funding available through the different sector departments so that everybody does not just focus on SANRAL and the N2 Wild Coast project for opportunities and they start to diversify and look for other opportunities. Mr Drew asked whether Chief Mhlanga had taken consultation around the community run sand mine to the AmaPondo Kingdom because he felt the correct protocols had not been followed or whether it was because he felt that such a project belonged at the level of the AmaPondo Kingdom. Mr Langa said the community run sand mining project belongs within the jurisdiction of the Taweni Traditional Authority but Chief Mhlanga was concerned that the correct protocol was not followed in the consultation process. He said Chief Mhlanga was new to the position following the recent passing of his father and historically there were problems during his father's reign which he was now trying to correct. Mr Drew said this was an issue that Mr Dyantyi (COGTA) could probably assist with because it is a traditional authority issue which falls under COGTA's jurisdiction but unfortunately he had tendered his apology for this meeting. Mr Langa said ECPTA would brief Mr Dyantyi about the problem and then he could form part of the team trying to resolve this issue and requested that Mr Drew provide him with Mr Dyantyi's contact details.	DEDEAT ECPTA ECPTA NMA
4.2	<i>Item 4.4: Update on carbon credits initiative with Prof Mills for the BOA offset areas.</i> Mr Skenjana said there would be a meeting taking place the following day with Prof Mills and some international investors who wanted to share their thinking around the carbon credit initiative. He said the CSIR had completed their site visit and were busy with their baseline assessment.	ECPTA
4.3	<i>Item 5.2: Chair of ACC to write a letter to the Director General of DMPR asking for prompt intervention with SANRAL's permit applications for borrow pits on Section 4 of the N2WCTH.</i> Mr Drew said that in 2021 SANRAL submitted four applications to DMPR for environmental authorisations for borrow pits on Package 4 and to date only one authorisation had been received. He said the contractor for Package 4 had been appointed and had now commenced work so there was a need for urgent intervention to expedite the approval of the material sources to avoid significant cost implications for SANRAL. He said a letter was sent on 8 October 2025 from the ACC to the Director General, Mr Jacob Mbele, and copied to Mr Tseliso Maqubela, Deputy Director General: Mineral and Petroleum Regulation, Adv Shadrack Nkuna, Director: Compliance and Enforcement and Ms Brenda Ngebulana, Regional Manager: Eastern Cape.	

	Ms Songxaba (SANRAL) said that after the letter was sent SANRAL received communication from the Eastern Cape Regional Manager, Ms Ngebulana, indicating that DMPR had held a meeting with the Acting King of the Amapondo Kingdom where they were informed that there were concerns regarding the issuing of permits for borrow pits in the Pondoland area. Ms Ngebulana requested SANRAL to have a meeting with DMPR and the Amapondo Kingdom to discuss this matter and a letter from the Amapondo Kingdom was attached to the email. Ms Songxaba said a meeting was held on 21 November between SANRAL's Board, the Eastern Cape MEC for Transport, the Mayors for IHLM and Port St Johns Municipality (PSJLM), Amapondo traditional leaders and representatives of the AmaFaku royal family. She said SANRAL now needed to respond in writing to DMPR. She said SANRAL had followed the regulated EIA process in applying for the environmental authorisations, including a full public consultation process, when submitting its applications for environmental authorisation in 2021 and it was not acceptable for DMPR to now turn round in October 2025 and say they could not approve the authorisations until there had been engagement between SANRAL and the Amapondo Kingdom. She said in the discussions on 21 November it was clear that the concerns of the Amapondo Kingdom had nothing to do with the material sources and involved unrelated issues. She said SANRAL therefore needed to write back to DMPR indicating that SANRAL had followed the correct legal process in applying for the environmental authorisations and DMPR needed to make a decision on the applications. She suggested that this letter should come from the ACC as the initial correspondence had been sent by the ACC. Mr Drew said he would be willing to write the letter but SANRAL would need to provide him with all the relevant information as was the case for the first letter. He asked what issues the Amapondo Kingdom had raised in the meeting of 21 November if they did not relate to material sources. Ms Songxaba said that the Amapondo Kingdom had been wanting to have a meeting with SANRAL for some time and when SANRAL received the letter from the Amapondo Kingdom attached to the DMPR email in October, Mr Peterson, SANRAL Provincial Head in the Eastern Cape and the SANRAL OR Tambo District Manager went to meet with the Amapondo Kingdom to advise them on the correct protocol they needed to follow to arrange a meeting with SANRAL's Board. This led to the meeting on 21 November. She said she was not present at the meeting but having looked at the minutes the issues that were discussed seemed to be high level issues relating to SMMEs and land. She said it was therefore important for a letter to be sent to DMPR requesting they issue a decision on the applications as they had nothing to do with the Amapondo Kingdom.	NMA / SANRAL
5.	<u>OTHER ISSUES / GENERAL</u> 5.1 Ms Songxaba said that DFFE and DWS had conducted site visits in response to the letter from the South African Human Rights Commission (SAHRC) that Mr Gabula raised in the last ACC meeting. She said the letter outlined allegations from the Amadiba Crisis Committee (AmDCC) about the situation in Khanyayo and were the same issues they had raised in the previous EMC meeting. She said that SANRAL had not yet received feedback from DFFE, DWS or the SAHRC on the site visits. Mr Drew said he received an email the previous day from the AmDCC which contained a number of attachments. One of the attachments was a Memorandum of Grievances (MoG) from the Khanyayo community to the contractor WBHO and IHLM which set out the same issues raised by the AmDCC in the previous EMC meeting as well as some additional issues regarding employment. That MoG was forwarded by IHLM to Mr Peterson, SANRAL Provincial Head in the Eastern Cape, who provided a written response to the Khanyayo community. This written response from SANRAL to the Khanyayo community had also been attached by the AmDCC to their email. The AmDCC had requested that the MoG be raised in the EMC meeting. Also attached to the email was written correspondence from DEDEAT to the SAHRC addressing the alleged pollution in Khanyayo and the issue of the springs, water tanks and boreholes. The DEDEAT correspondence did not make any adverse findings with regards to these issues. The final attachment was an inspection report from DEDEAT regarding a site inspection on 5 September 2025 of the alleged disturbance of a wetland in the Mkambathi area. This inspection report would require further explanation from DEDEAT as the findings were not very clear. It therefore appeared that all the relevant authorities had conducted site inspections at the request of the SAHRC and hopefully the SAHRC would provide feedback to SANRAL in due course. Ms Songxaba said she wanted to inform the ACC that the AmDCC had written to the Parliamentary Portfolio Committee on Transport (PCoT) regarding the route for the N2 through the Amadiba area and the PCOT determined that SANRAL should meet with the AmDCC under the chairmanship of the PCOT to find a way forwards on this issue. She said a meeting under the chairmanship of the PCOT took place on 24 November and the issue of the alleged disturbance of the wetland was raised in that meeting. She said further meetings would be taking place under the chairmanship of the PCOT and all the issues being raised by the AmDCC in the EMC meetings were also being covered in the meetings	

	chaired by the PCOT. She said SANRAL did not see the need for having two parallel processes with the same people and would prefer to address these issues through the PCOT and reach closure on them through that forum. Mr Drew agreed that it was not appropriate for the AmDCC to continue taking up so much of the EMC's time on issues that can and are being addressed through other forums. He said the AmDCC kept raising the same issues and even when they received responses they didn't accept those responses and continued making the same allegations. He said the AmDCC were welcome to attend the EMC meetings as observers as long as they followed the correct protocols but they would not be allowed to continually raise issues which have already been addressed in the EMC or other forums.	
5.2	Ms Gwentshe (DWS) confirmed that DWS did conduct a site visit to the Khanyayo area to investigate the issues raised by the AmDCC through the SAHRC. She said DWS provided feedback to the SAHRC and AmDCC. She said that the AmDCC then requested certain documents from DWS which DWS was not able to provide. DWS recommended that the AmDCC request those documents from SANRAL. She said at this stage that was all that she was able to report.	
5.3	Mr Drew said there did not appear to be anybody from the DFFE Chief Directorate: Compliance attending the meeting to provide an update on the site inspection undertaken by DFFE. He said since Mr Scheepers was transferred to another directorate there had not been anybody representing the Chief Directorate: Compliance on the EMC. He said he was copied on the email from Mr Scheepers requesting the Chief Directorate: Compliance to replace Mr Scheepers on the EMC but to date nobody had attended the EMC meetings since Mr Scheepers left. He said he would follow up with the Chief Directorate: Compliance to try and get somebody to attend the next meeting. Mr Fredericks (SLR) said the person from the Chief Directorate: Compliance who undertook the site inspection was Mr Jafta Mofokeng. Mr Lekota (DFFE: Biodiversity and Conservation) said he would send Mr Drew the contact details for Mr Mofokeng so that he could be invited to attend the EMC or indicate who from the Chief Directorate: Compliance would attend.	NMA DFFE NMA
6.	<u>WAY FORWARD AND CLOSURE</u>	
6.1	Mr Drew thanked everybody for their participation and closed the meeting.	