

# COMMUNITY INFORMATION PAMPHLET

Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) for

## Proposed Boegoebaai Port, Special Economic Zone and Regional Renewable Energy Infrastructure

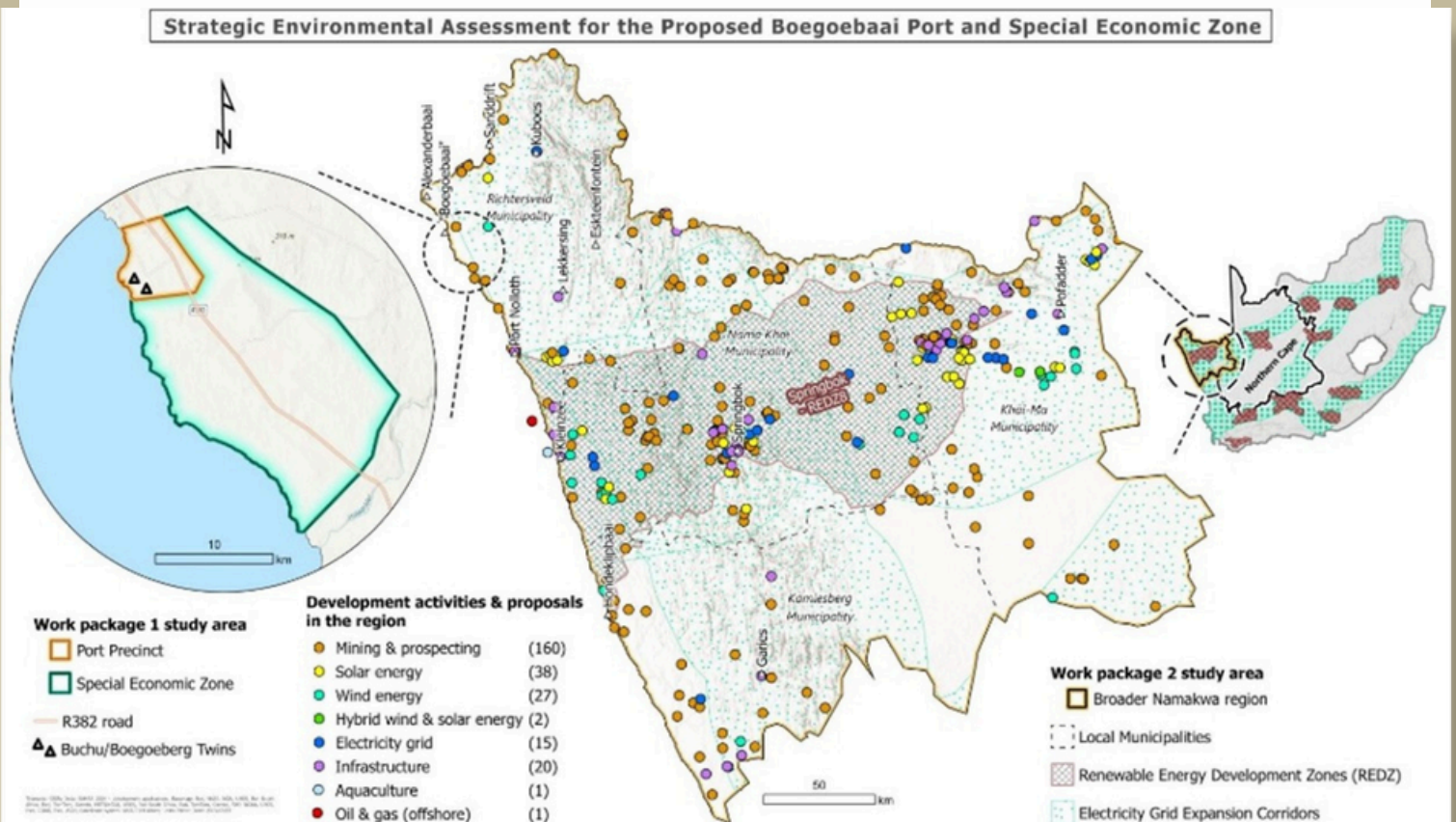
COMMENTS DUE  
8 MAY 2026



**Work Package 2 Public Comment Process**

# What is this about?

The Northern Cape Economic Development, Trade and Investment Promotion Agency (NCEDA) and other government stakeholders, has proposed the large-scale development of the Boegoebaai Port, Special Economic Zone (SEZ) and Namakwa regional infrastructure in the Northern Cape Province. This project includes different developments being considered over a period of time and may have immediate and long-term impacts that affect communities and the environment in the region.



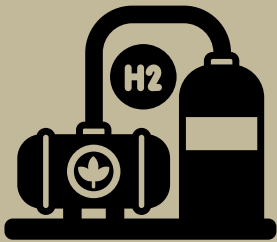
**Figure I: The proposed Boegoebaai port and SEZ (WPI study area) and Namakwa region study area (WP2 study area) in the Namakwa District of the Northern Cape Province. CSIR WP2, 2026.**

The proposed developments include a new deep-water port, a Special Economic Zone, Green Hydrogen (GH<sub>2</sub>) and renewable energy projects for the purpose of powering linked industrial facilities. Roads, rail, pipelines and water desalination plants are also proposed as part of the infrastructure spread across the Namakwa District Municipal area.

These activities and plans may have large-scale and long-term environmental, social and economic impacts, and therefore a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) is being done before any of the proposed projects undergo approval processes such as an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA).

# What is Green Hydrogen?

Green Hydrogen (GH<sub>2</sub>) is an energy carrier, meaning it stores renewable energy power for future use. It is produced by splitting water using renewable energy inside an electrolyser. It can also be used for energy storage from excess energy or grid balancing when electricity demands are high.



Read More about green hydrogen here:

<https://unfccc.int/technology/green-hydrogen>.

## Strategic Environmental Assessment

### Proposed Special Economic Zone layout

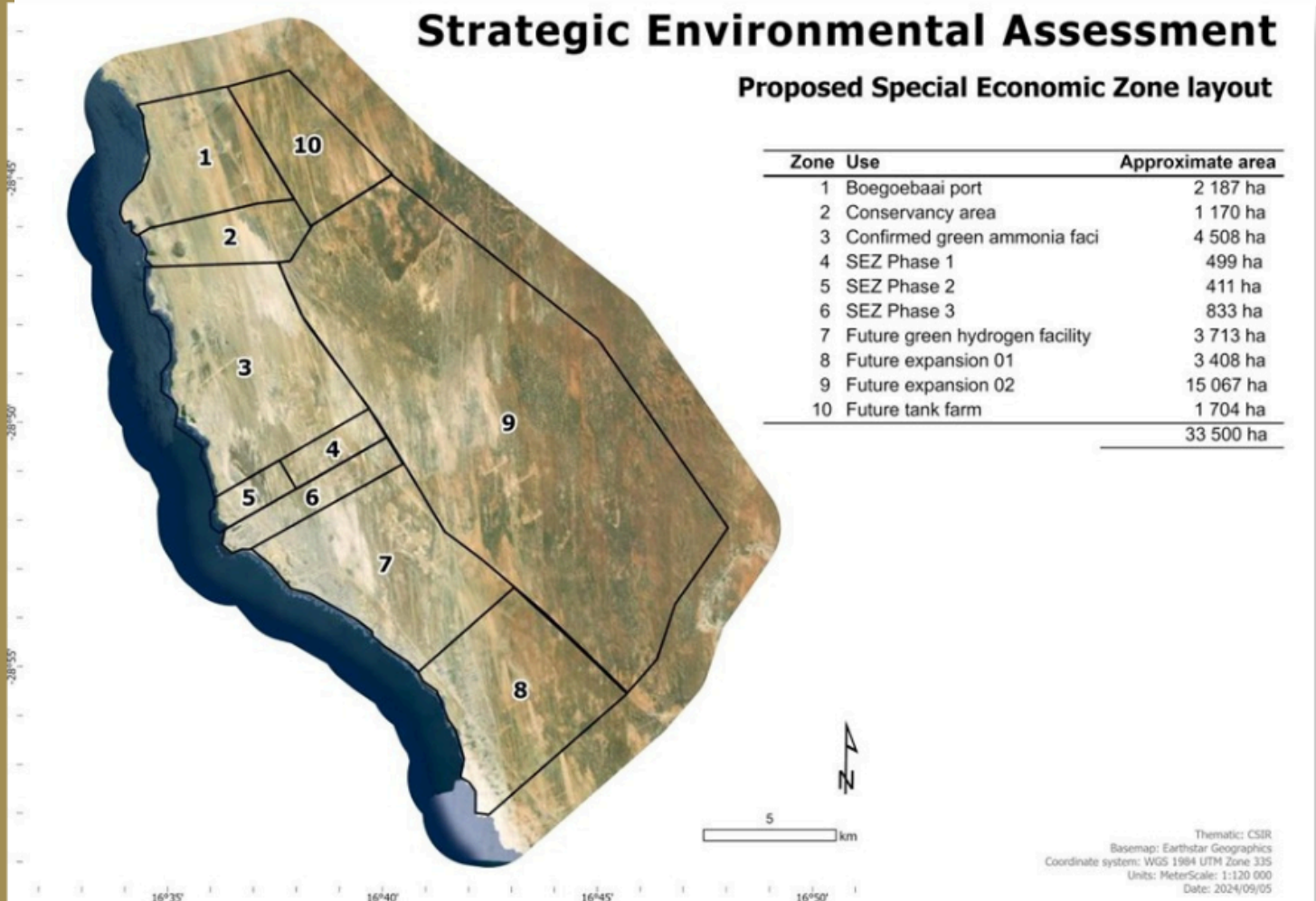



Figure 2: Proposed layout for Special Economic Zone, detailing various zones including a port, conservation area, ammonia facility, and future expansions, with specific areas and coordinates provided. CSIR WP2, 2026.

# What is a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)?

According to the National Environmental Management Act (NEMA), a SEA is an environmental management tool. This means that it is an environmental research process used for planning to **inform** decision making at a local level. It helps the government and other interested and affected parties (I&AP) to have a good idea about:

- When development is too risky or whether it should be avoided completely;
- Whether development might be possible, or not;
- What the long-term environmental, social and economic risks are;
- What the benefits could be.

This SEA looks at the whole Namakwa region and considers the cumulative impacts of many projects together, over time. This research tests future possibilities and identifies high-sensitive social and ecological areas. It informs future EIAs, government planning and decisions.



**Note: A SEA is not the same as an EIA. A SEA does not result in permission for any project to go ahead, but guides future decisions.**

This SEA is undertaken because the proposed development involves many connected projects over a large, environmentally sensitive and water-scarce area. The area is communal and reclaimed land with cultural significance, and impacts will be felt over decades after construction.

## What does this SEA show?

SEA research covers a large amount of information; for this reason, the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) has been asked to undertake the SEA research. CSIR has published the SEA in two Work Packages.



### 1 Work package 1 (WP1)

WP1 was published for public comment in August 2025 and focused on the local area around the proposed Boegoebaai Port site and the Special Economic Zone (SEZ).



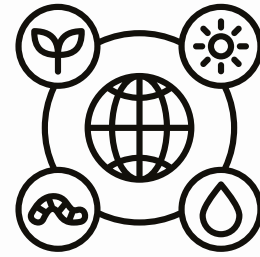
### 2 Work package 2 (WP2)

WP2 looks at the whole Namakwa region and many related projects together. **It provides a region-wide assessment of the combined social, economic and environmental impacts of a large-scale green hydrogen (GH<sub>2</sub>) economy in the Northern Cape.**



## WP2 Findings for Communities to Know

WP2 investigates different important issues for the Boegoebaai project and the wider Namakwa region, including **Ecology, biodiversity and conservation planning; Biodiversity offset; Water resources and aquatic ecology; Heritage; Infrastructure and planning; and Socio-economics.**



The research in WP2 was done and checked by independent experts. They explain the overall picture of the region, how sensitive the local environment is and the possible risks and benefits of a future GH<sub>2</sub> economy.



You can find the research for WPI and WP2 on CSIR's website:

<https://www.csir.co.za/boegoebaai-port>

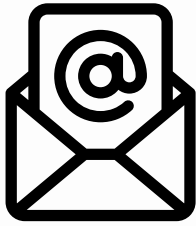
## Have Your Say

Local public briefing sessions will be held to present the draft findings of WP2 of the SEA. Communities and other I&AP are invited to attend public briefing meetings as follows:

Town/Community	Date	Venue	Time
Springbok	21 April 2026	Libra Hall: Libra Street, Bergsig, Springbok	09:00 – 11:30
Port Nolloth	21 April 2026	Port Nolloth Community Hall	13:30 – 16:00
Pofadder	22 April 2026	Blyvooruitsig Community Hall	12:00 – 14:30
Garies	23 April 2026	Garies Community Hall	10:00 – 12:30

An **online** briefing session will be held on **5 May 2026**, from 09:00 – 11:30. To receive the link to the online session, send an email to [ems@csir.co.za](mailto:ems@csir.co.za).

# How to comment

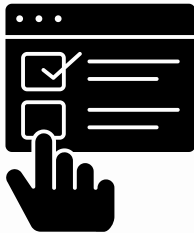


Your comments must be submitted in writing via email to [ems@csir.co.za](mailto:ems@csir.co.za).



A guideline on how to comment on WP2 can be found on the CSIR website (<https://www.csir.co.za/boegoebaai-port>)

or at this link: [Comment Guideline](#).



A comment form with instructions is available here: [Comment Form](#)

However, if you are unable to access the guideline or the comment form, you can **place your comments in an email or in a Word document and send it to CSIR.**