

Appendix G.7

SOCIAL SCOPING REPORT





Sasol South Africa Limited

THE PROPOSED SECUNDA GAS TO POWER FACILITY

Social Impact Assessment Scoping Report





Sasol South Africa Limited

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Social Impact Assessment Scoping Report

REPORT (VERSION 0) CONFIDENTIAL

PROJECT NO. ZA0068671.2768

OUR REF. NO. ZA0068671.2768-REP-00001

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WSP

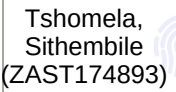
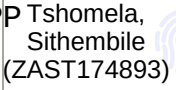
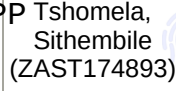
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ACRONYM LIST

Acronym	Full Term
CCGT	Combined-Cycle Gas Turbine
CHP	Combined Heat and Power
CO ₂	Carbon Dioxide
DEE	Department of Electricity and Energy
EA	Environmental Authorisation
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
ESIA	Environmental and Social Impact Assessment
GBVF	Gender-Based Violence and Femicide
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GHG	Greenhouse Gas
GIIP	Good International Industry Practice
GtP	Gas to Power
GVA	Gross Value Added
HPA	Highveld Priority Area
HRSG	Heat Recovery Steam Generator
IBL	Inside Battery Limit
IDP	Integrated Development Plan
IFC	International Finance Corporation
ILO	International Labour Organization
IRP	Integrated Resource Plan
JET	Just Energy Transition
LED	Local Economic Development

Acronym	Full Term
LNG	Liquefied Natural Gas
MRG	Methane-Rich Gas
NDP	National Development Plan
NEMA	National Environmental Management Act
NEM:AQA	National Environmental Management: Air Quality Act
NEM:WA	National Environmental Management: Waste Act
MRG	Methane Rich Gas
OBL	Outside Battery Limit
IBL	Inside Battery Limi
OCGT	Open-Cycle Gas Turbine
OHSA	Occupational Health and Safety Act
PAIA	Promotion of Access to Information Act
PAJA	Promotion of Administrative Justice Act
PM	Particulate Matter
PM ₁₀	Particulate Matter less than 10 Microns
PM _{2.5}	Particulate Matter less than 2.5 Microns
PS	Performance Standard
SG	Surveyor-General
SIA	Social Impact Assessment
SO	Secunda Operations
SSP	Shared Socioeconomic Pathway
STI	Sexually Transmitted Infection
WSP	WSP Group Africa (Pty) Ltd



UNITS OF MEASUREMENT

Unit	Description
%	Percent
ha	Hectare
km	Kilometre
km ²	Square kilometre
kV	Kilovolt
m	Metre
m ²	Square metre
m ³	Cubic metre
m ³ /h	Cubic metres per hour
m/s	Metres per second
MW	Megawatt
MWh	Megawatt-hour
p/d	Vehicles per day
R	South African rand



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Sasol South Africa (Pty) Ltd proposes the development of the Secunda Gas to Power (GtP) Facility within the existing Sasol Secunda Operations, located within the Govan Mbeki Local Municipality and Gert Sibande District Municipality of Mpumalanga Province. The proposed facility will generate electricity using Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG), with Methane-Rich Gas (MRG) considered as a back-up feed source, and will contribute towards national energy security and South Africa's transition towards a more diversified energy mix. The proposed facility will have a capacity of approximately 778,6 MW to 800,6 MW and will be developed on a brownfield site within the existing industrial complex.

The purpose of this Social Impact Assessment (SIA) Scoping Report is to identify the key social opportunities, risks, sensitivities and constraints associated with the proposed development and to inform the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Phase. The assessment considered the legislative and policy framework, social baseline environment, social sensitivity of the receiving environment and high-level screening of potential social impacts associated with the construction, operation and decommissioning phases of the Project.

The social baseline indicates that Govan Mbeki Local Municipality is characterised by an economy driven by petrochemical production, mining, manufacturing, community services and trade. The municipality forms an important industrial and economic hub within Mpumalanga Province and contributes significantly to both the district and provincial economy. At the same time, the municipality experiences a number of socioeconomic challenges including unemployment, poverty, inequality and dependence on industrial and energy-related activities. These conditions are relevant when considering community expectations regarding employment, procurement opportunities and local economic benefits arising from the proposed Project.

The social sensitivity assessment confirmed that the proposed Gas to Power Facility is located within an existing industrial environment associated with Sasol Secunda Operations. The immediate Project area is characterised by existing industrial infrastructure and disturbed land. Residential communities, schools, health facilities and other social receptors occur within the broader area of influence, particularly within Secunda and eMbalenhle. The receiving environment is therefore considered to exhibit an overall moderate level of social sensitivity, with sensitivity increasing towards residential and community-facility concentrations located outside the immediate industrial footprint.

Several specialist studies were reviewed and incorporated into the social assessment. The Traffic Impact Assessment indicates that construction will represent the period of greatest traffic-related impact, with an estimated 100 to 200 daily construction trips, while operational traffic impacts are anticipated to be limited due to the highly automated nature of the facility. The Health Assessment concluded that a significant influx of people settling in the area is not expected and that there is no health-based reason preventing the Project from proceeding to the next phase of assessment (Van Niekerk, 2026). The Air Quality Assessment confirms that the site is located within the Highveld Priority Area, where existing particulate matter exceedances already occur, while the Climate Change Assessment highlights the Project's contribution to broader Just Energy Transition objectives and the need to consider future climate resilience (Khan, 2026).

The high-level impact screening identified a number of positive and negative social impacts.

Key potential positive impacts include:

- Temporary employment and household income generation during construction.
- Local procurement and business opportunities.
- Skills development and work experience.
- Operational employment opportunities.
- Technology transfer and capacity building.
- Contribution to energy security.
- Support for local economic activity.
- Contribution to broader Just Energy Transition objectives.

Key potential adverse impacts include:

- Employment and procurement expectations.
- Increased traffic and road-safety risks during construction.
- Dust and noise nuisance.
- Community health and safety risks.
- Unequal distribution of project benefits.
- Environmental quality concerns and perceptions.
- Climate-related operational risks.
- Loss of employment and economic activity during eventual decommissioning.

No social fatal flaws were identified during the Scoping Phase. The Project is proposed within an existing industrial environment and many of the identified impacts are considered manageable through the implementation of standard mitigation measures, stakeholder engagement processes and environmental management controls. Furthermore, a number of the potentially significant construction-related impacts are temporary in nature and are expected to be reversible following completion of construction activities.

The EIA Phase will verify and refine the social baseline, incorporate stakeholder feedback, evaluate project alternatives, assess cumulative impacts and undertake a detailed significance assessment of identified impacts. Findings from the Air Quality, Health, Traffic, Climate Change, Aquatic Biodiversity, Terrestrial Biodiversity and Visual specialist studies will be integrated into the detailed assessment to further inform project planning and mitigation measures.

Based on the findings of this Scoping Phase SIA, no social fatal flaws have been identified that would prevent the proposed Secunda Gas to Power Facility from proceeding to the Environmental Impact Assessment Phase, subject to the completion of the detailed specialist studies, stakeholder engagement process and development of site-specific mitigation and enhancement measures. The EIA Phase will provide the detailed assessment necessary to determine the overall social acceptability of the proposed development and its contribution to local socioeconomic development, energy security and Just Energy Transition objectives.

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1 INTRODUCTION

WSP Group Africa (Pty) Ltd (WSP) has been appointed by Sasol South Africa Limited (Sasol) to undertake the necessary specialist assessments in support of the Scoping, baseline and impact assessment phases of the environmental regulatory process for the proposed Secunda Gas to Power Facility. The proposed infrastructure footprint is located at the Sasol Secunda Factory in Mpumalanga Province, South Africa.

The Social Impact Assessment (SIA) forms part of the environmental assessment process for the proposed project. The purpose of this SIA Scoping Report is to describe the existing socio-economic environment, identify sensitive social receptors and undertake a high-level screening of the potential social impacts associated with the construction, operational and decommissioning phases of the proposed Secunda Gas to Power Facility.

The assessment considers the proposed project as an addition to the existing Sasol Secunda industrial complex. Accordingly, the assessment considers the existing industrial and socio-economic context, the impacts already experienced within the receiving environment and the additional or incremental social effects that may arise from the proposed project. Potential social impacts will therefore be considered in relation to the project's contribution to existing conditions rather than through the automatic application of a standard impact checklist.

1.1 PROJECT LOCATION AND BACKGROUND

The proposed Secunda Gas to Power Facility is located in Secunda in the Govan Mbheki Local Municipality and Gert Sibande District Municipality, in the Mpumalanga Province of South Africa (Figure 1-1). The proposed Secunda Gas to Power Facility would have a project footprint area of approximately 50 000 m² or 5 ha.

The details of the property associated with the proposed Secunda Gas to Power Facility, including the 21-digit Surveyor General (SG) codes for the cadastral land parcels, are outlined in Table 1-1.



Figure 1-1 - Secunda Gas to Power Facility Locality Map

Table 1-1 - Secunda Gas to Power Facility Affected Farm Portions

Farm Name and Number	Portion	21 Digit Surveyor General Code of Each Cadastral Land Parcel
45/290 (ERF 8488)	0	T0IS00190000848800000
8/290 (ERF 8342)	0	T0IS00190000834200000
FABRIEK 601 IS (ERF 8341)	0	T0IS00190000834100000

1.2 PROJECT BACKGROUND

South Africa is faced with significant increases in electricity demand and a shortage in electricity supply. South Africa is the seventh-largest coal producer in the world, with approximately 77% of the country's electricity generated from coal. This large dependence on coal and its use has also resulted in a variety of negative impacts on the environment, including the contribution to climate change. South Africa is also the highest emitter of greenhouse gases in Africa; attributed to the country's energy-intensive economy that largely relies on coal-based electricity generation.

A new energy mix Gas to Power (GtP) is regarded as an important contribution to meeting international and national targets of reducing reliance on fossil fuels, such as coal, which contribute towards greenhouse gas emissions and resultant climate change. The need and desirability of the proposed Secunda Gas to Power Facility has been considered from an international, national, and regional perspective.

Among available technologies, GtP remains one of the most competitive sources of dispatchable electricity, offering proven reliability compared to energy storage solutions such as batteries and thermal storage. While alternative technologies are rapidly improving in cost and performance, GtP continues to provide an effective and flexible solution for meeting dispatchable power requirements in a grid with increasing renewable energy penetration.

1.2.1 DESIRABILITY OF THE PROJECT SITE

A brownfield site adjacent to the existing Gas Turbines within the primary area of Sasol's Secunda Operations has been identified as the preferred location for the new gas-to-power facility. This site is considered the most suitable option because it leverages an already industrialised footprint with established access to supporting infrastructure, services, and power-related interfaces, thereby reducing the extent of new civil works, utility connections, and land disturbance that would typically be required for a greenfield development.

1.3 PROJECT DESCRIPTION

This section provides a description of the proposed development, its location and the alternatives that were considered for the project. The descriptions encompass the activities to be undertaken during the construction and operational phases as well as the consideration for site accessibility,

water demand, supply, storage, and site waste management. This section also considers the need and desirability of the project in accordance with Appendix 1 of GNR 326.

The Secunda GtP project aims to generate electricity through Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) (methane rich gas being considered as back-up feed), with the objective to provide power to the national grid, supporting South Africa's growing energy needs.

The Inside Battery Limit (IBL) scope includes the main equipment for generating electricity, which will be proposed by the vendor. The Outside Battery Limit (OBL) scope will focus on the external infrastructure and utilities required to support the Secunda GtP project (integration into the Secunda facility). The electrical scope will cover the reconfiguration of the electrical network. The installation of transmission lines, along with the routing of high-voltage cables through existing servitudes, will also be considered.

In addition to the electrical work, the OBL scope will involve the installation and routing of various pipelines. These will include pipelines for LNG, Methane Rich Gas (MRG) and any required utilities such as cooling water, raw water, polished water, firewater, potable water, instrument air, nitrogen and any effluent depending on the IBL requirements. Raw water treatment will also be included to achieve the necessary water quality specifications.

Alternatives were considered such as OCGT (blue), CHP (blue & yellow) and CCGT (blue, yellow and red), it has been established that CCGT is the option to be taken forward (Figure 1-2).

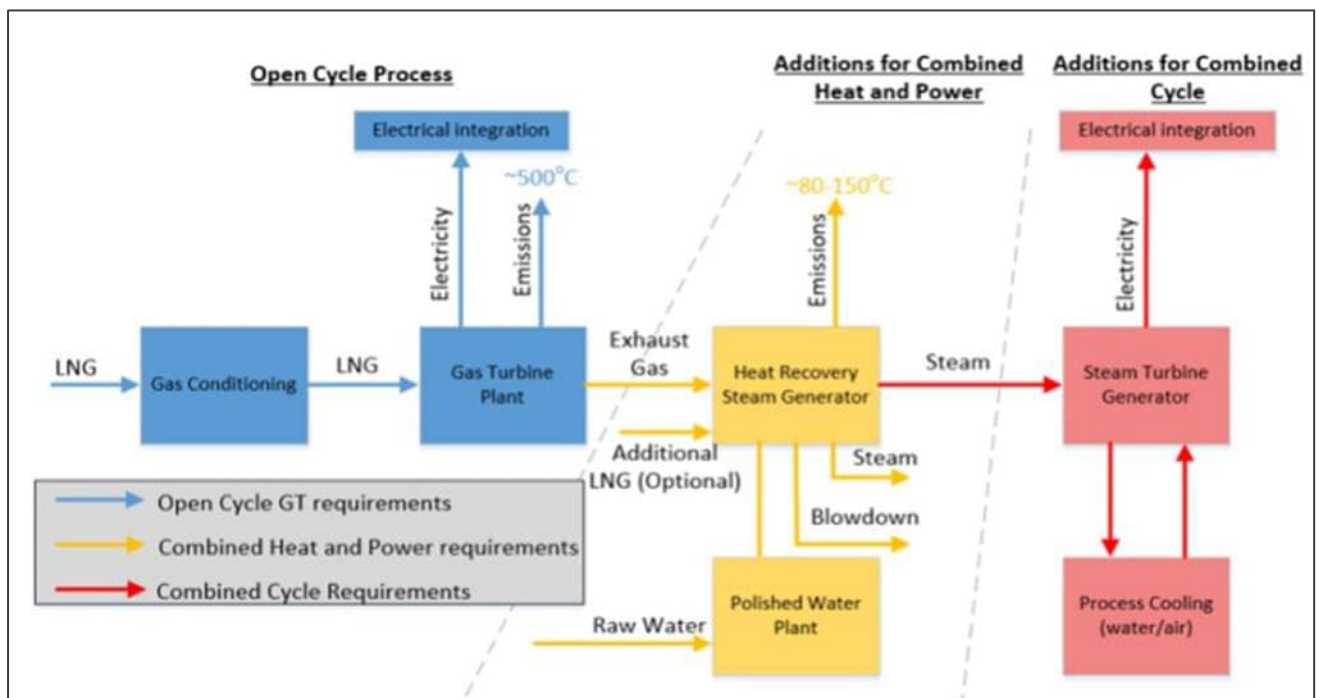


Figure 1-2 - Overview of the Gas to Power Facility

1.4 PROJECT INFRASTRUCTURE

The proposed Secunda Gas to Power Facility will be developed with a capacity of up to 800 megawatts (MW). The key components are outlined in Table 1-2.

Table 1-2 - Proposed Project Infrastructure

Technical Details of the Proposed Secunda Gas to Power Facility		
Farm Portions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Portion 0 of farm ALLENDALE 601 IS ■ Portion of 45 farm GOEDEHOOP 290 IS 	
Central coordinates of the site and activity location	Gas to Power Facility	Central point on the site: -26.563088, 29.161332
	MRG Pipeline	East factory: - Start point: -26.553602, 29.173919 - Central point): -26.558468, 29.171505 West factory: - Start point: -26.551528, 29.155120 - Central point): -26.558140, 29.157479
	LNG Pipeline	Route 1(through primary area): - Start point: -26.548064, 29.189061 - Central point): -26.555818, 29.171938 Route 2 (around the factory): - Start point: -26.548064, 29.189061 - Central point): -26.568217, 29.178204
Total Site Extent	Approximately 50 000 m ²	
Design Specifications		
Capacity of power plant (including all equipment and auxiliaries to enable operation)	778.6 – 800.6 MW	
Length of pipeline (LNG)	Route 1, through primary area: 5.38 km Route 2, around the south-eastern side of the factory: 5.87 km	
Pipeline specifications (LNG)	16" pipeline, C3 line class (carbon steel)	
Length of pipeline (MRG)	Total length of piping is 5.54 km (including piping from east and west factories).	
Pipeline specifications (LNG)	14" pipeline, C line class (carbon steel)	
Raw water treatment	The raw water infrastructure requirements are as follows:	

Technical Details of the Proposed Secunda Gas to Power Facility

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Two stormwater attenuation facilities (evaporation ponds/dams) with surface areas of approx. 0.5 ha and 0.3 ha, each to a depth of 1.0 m, providing a combined storage capacity of 9,000 m³;Main raw water storage tanks with a total storage capacity of up to 10,000 m³;Raw water storage tanks for the water treatment system used for demi-water production, with a total storage capacity of 6,000 m³, supplied from the main raw water tanks;Demineralised water storage tanks with a total storage capacity of up to 3,000 m³, supplied from the raw water tanks of the water treatment system;Water storage tanks for the fire-fighting system, with a total storage capacity of up to 1,250 m³, supplied from the raw water tanks.												
Emissions	<p>Number of Stacks:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">1 stack per HRSG1 stack for HRSG Bypass2 stacks for each GTStack Dimensions: 7 to 9 m stack diameter and 60 to 65 m stack height.Exit Velocity: 15 to 20 m/s flue gas velocity at stack exit and will be verified with project specific details												
Construction schedule	<table><tr><th>Phase</th><th>Duration</th><th>Key Outcome</th></tr><tr><td>Development & Financial Close</td><td>12-24 months</td><td>Permits + funding secured</td></tr><tr><td>Construction</td><td>24-36 months</td><td>Plant built and commissioned</td></tr><tr><td>Operation</td><td>25-30 years</td><td>Power generation lifecycle</td></tr></table>	Phase	Duration	Key Outcome	Development & Financial Close	12-24 months	Permits + funding secured	Construction	24-36 months	Plant built and commissioned	Operation	25-30 years	Power generation lifecycle
Phase	Duration	Key Outcome											
Development & Financial Close	12-24 months	Permits + funding secured											
Construction	24-36 months	Plant built and commissioned											
Operation	25-30 years	Power generation lifecycle											
Traffic	<p>Construction:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Light vehicles 50 – 100p/d;Heavy trucks 50 – 100p/d <p>Operation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Staff cars 40–60p/d												
Powerlines	117m 132 kV Line												
Access Roads	<p>PDP Kruger Avenue</p> <p>Energy Road, Synfuels East Road, Road 21, Road 2D (inside Secunda Operations)</p>												
Associated Infrastructure	Utilities and effluent streams piping between SO and power plant												

1.5 GENERAL CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITIES

The construction process will follow industry-standard methods and techniques. Key activities associated with the construction phase are described in Table 1-3.

Table 1-3 - Construction Activities

Activity	Description
Site preparation and establishment	Site establishment will include clearing of the footprint of the GtP Facility, for laydown area and access routes. The temporary laydown area will be constructed, including establishment of the construction camp (temporary offices, storage containers, concrete batching plant etc). Site establishment will also entail the installation and/or connection of services (sanitation, electricity, etc).
Transport of components and equipment to site	Bulk materials (aggregate, steel etc.), infrastructure components, lifting and construction equipment (excavators, trucks, compaction equipment etc.) will be sourced and transported to site via suitable National and provincial routes and designated access roads.
Excavation and earthworks	Subject to the determination of founding specifications, earthworks will be required. This is likely to entail:
Establishment of ancillary infrastructure	Ancillary infrastructure will include construction site office, temporary laydown area and workshop area for contractor's equipment.
Rehabilitation	Once all construction is completed on site and all equipment and machinery has been removed from the site, the site will be rehabilitated.

1.6 PROJECT ALTERNATIVES AND MOTIVATION

The EIA Regulations of 2014 (as amended) require that the S&EIA process must identify and describe alternatives to the proposed activity that were considered, or motivation for not considering alternatives. Different types or categories of alternatives could be considered including different locations, technology types, and project layouts. At the scoping level the evaluation of alternatives is provided at a high level in the absence of detailed environmental comparators for each alternative; due to the two-staged nature of the S& EIA process it is more suitable to identify and describe the potential alternatives on a high-level basis within scoping, and to perform a more detailed analysis of alternatives (with environmental comparators) in the EIA phase of the project. As such, the S&EIA will holistically assess the impacts and risks of each alternative in a comparative way, as suggested by Appendix 2 of the EIA Regulations of 2014 (as amended).

1.6.1 SITE ALTERNATIVES

A brownfield site adjacent to the existing Gas Turbines within the primary area of Sasol's Secunda Operations has been identified as the preferred location for the new gas-to-power facility. This site is considered the most suitable option because it leverages an already industrialised footprint with established access to supporting infrastructure, services, and power-related interfaces, thereby reducing the extent of new civil works, utility connections, and land disturbance that would typically be required for a greenfield development. Locating the new facilities adjacent to the existing GT

infrastructure also supports more efficient integration with the current operational environment, simplifies constructability and interface management, and can shorten development timelines by making use of land that is already compatible with power generation activities. The use of this brownfield site is advantageous because it limits encroachment on undeveloped land, minimises incremental ecological disturbance, and aligns with the general preference to intensify development within existing industrial areas where practical. A greenfield site has not been considered in this study.

The selection of the Secunda Gas to Power Facility site is the outcome of a feasibility assessment by the proponent, which inter alia served to identify site options that would be optimal for energy production and grid interconnection. Multiple locations were assessed, including sites within Sasol Secunda Operations (brownfield site), a greenfield site in the secondary area of Secunda Operations, and coastal locations outside Secunda (e.g., Richards Bay). The evaluation concluded that the brownfield site within Secunda Operations area offered the most benefits. The Secunda Gas to Power Facility site was selected because it is strategically located due to the following factors:

- Proximity to the electrical infrastructure to enable evacuation of generated power to the grid, along with access to the utilities that can be supplied by Sasol Secunda Operations (SO) to support the power plant, and proximity to the existing gas supply line to SO, thereby maximising the use of existing infrastructure.
- Land Availability and Landownership – adequate land is available within Sasol Secunda Operations (SO) to accommodate the power plant footprint.
- Strategic Approach – South Africa’s gas demand is predominantly inland (~70%) and ~30% coastal. Integrating this demand with a Secunda (inland) based GtP project can underpin import infrastructure and supply agreements of LNG, while absence of an anchor demand risks stranding a significant portion of inland demand given the anticipated natural gas shortfall.
- Road and labour pool accessibility – existing access roads are available to support project construction and operations.
- Topography – refer to the summary section above
- Competition – the selected brownfield site within SO provides a competitive advantage over a greenfield location in Secunda or other areas due to its proximity to existing electrical and utilities infrastructure, thereby reducing integration scope.

The site is considered suitable for these reasons and the investigation of an alternative site is not currently proposed within this Scoping Report.

1.6.2 ALTERNATIVE TECHNOLOGY

Gas-to-Power will play a critical role in South Africa’s energy transition by bridging the gap between coal-fired generation and non-dispatchable renewable energy. This need is reflected in the Integrated Resource Plan (IRP) and reinforced by the Department of Electricity and Energy’s (DEE) GASIPPPP RFP, which targets the procurement of up to 3,000 MW of new GtP capacity.

Among available technologies, GtP remains one of the most competitive sources of dispatchable electricity, offering proven reliability compared to energy storage solutions such as batteries and thermal storage. While alternative technologies are rapidly improving in cost and performance, GtP continues to provide an effective and flexible solution for meeting dispatchable power requirements in a grid with increasing renewable energy penetration.

The following technologies were considered in this project:

- Open Cycle Gas Turbine (OCGT) – alternatively referred to as a peak load facility,
- Combined Heat and Power (CHP), and a
- Combined Cycle Gas Turbine (CCGT) – alternatively referred to as a base load facility

The project will not aim to generate steam for utilisation within the existing facility, the steam that is produced as part of base load facility option will be used for electricity production via a steam turbine. Thus, the Combined Heat and Power (CHP) option was not pursued further. Given its higher efficiency and subsequent lower cost per unit of electricity generated, only the CCGT technology will be further developed.

For the proposed 780 MW power plant at the Sasol Secunda site, gas is the preferred fuel option because it provides the most practical combination of large-scale dispatchable generation, site integration, operational flexibility, and comparatively lower environmental impact relative to the most credible alternatives. By contrast, wind and solar PV are inherently variable and non-dispatchable, and would therefore be unable to provide equivalent firm capacity without substantial overbuild and large-scale energy storage, which would materially increase land requirements, system complexity, and cost. Diesel-fired generation, while dispatchable, is not considered suitable for sustained operation at this scale because of its significantly higher fuel cost, higher emissions profile, and the logistics burden associated with continuous bulk fuel supply. Relative to liquid fuels and coal-based alternatives, gas-fired generation also offers lower specific CO₂ emissions per unit of electricity generated, with materially lower particulate, sulphur oxide, and nitrogen oxide emissions when modern combustion systems are applied, which is particularly relevant in the Secunda area given the existing regional air quality and decarbonisation pressures.

Gas is also strongly aligned with the site's existing industrial energy infrastructure and Sasol's demonstrated gas-to-power capability, including the presence of existing gas turbine operations, established power-generation interfaces, and the strategic role of Secunda in the emerging gas market and future LNG transition. In addition, gas-fired generation can be deployed in high-efficiency combined-cycle form at this plant size, making it substantially more efficient and more suitable for sustained mid-merit to baseload duty than simple-cycle or reciprocating engine alternatives at equivalent capacity.

For a plant of around 780 MW, a combined cycle gas turbine (CCGT) configuration is technically superior because it maximises fuel utilisation at large scale by recovering the high-grade exhaust heat from the gas turbine in a heat recovery steam generator to drive a steam turbine, achieving net efficiencies typically in the ~55-62% range, compared with ~35-40% for an open cycle gas turbine (OCGT) where exhaust heat is wasted, and lower overall plant efficiency for gas engine installations when scaled to this size. At ~780 MW, an OCGT would require multiple large simple-cycle units with significantly higher specific fuel consumption, higher CO₂ emissions per MWh, and poorer economics for baseload or mid-merit operation, as OCGTs are optimised for peaking and fast start rather than sustained high load factors. Gas engines, while efficient and flexible at smaller capacities, become impractical and less competitive at hundreds of megawatts due to the very large number of units required.

F-class machines (GE 9F.06 and SGT5-4000F) were evaluated in a 2x2x1 configuration. Under the site-specific power plant conditions, the SGT5-4000F delivers a higher net power output than the GE 9F.06, while both models achieve the same efficiency. For the purposes of this study, the 2x2x1

SGT5-4000F configuration will be used. However, a detailed technology selection will have to be conducted during the feasibility stage.

1.6.3 LAYOUT ALTERNATIVES

Layout alternatives for the proposed Secunda Gas to Power Facility include alternative pipeline routing options and water supply cases. The preferred alternatives will be informed by the development of the project design and the consideration of environmental sensitivities and technical inputs during the EIA phase.

1.6.3.1 PIPELINE ROUTING

Two alternative pipeline routing options have been identified for the LNG pipeline from the Pressure Protection Station (PPS) to the brownfield plot where the Secunda Gas to Power plant will be located. A route passing through the primary area (LNG alt 1) and an alternative route passing through the secondary area (LNG alt 2) along the south-eastern side of the factory. The final LNG pipeline routing will be selected as the project design develops and following consideration of environmental sensitivities and technical inputs obtained during the EIA phase. This routing is illustrated in Figure 1-3.

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Sasol South Africa Limited

Furthermore, the preliminary MRG pipeline routings for both the eastern and western options, identified during the screening activities, extend from Gas Circuit to the brownfield site through the primary area. These MRG pipeline routings remain preliminary and may be refined should alternative alignments be identified as the project progresses and the specialists undertake their site sensitivity verification processes. Both the eastern and western MRG pipeline routings are still subject to confirmation during the EIA phase.

1.6.3.2 WATER SUPPLY

Two water supply cases are being considered for the proposed CCGT system. In the first case, raw water would be treated in a water treatment plant to produce polished water for the CCGT system, using a combination of ultrafiltration, reverse osmosis and mixed-bed ion exchange technologies, with air cooling assumed for the system's cooling requirements. Under this case, the estimated raw water make-up requirement would be approximately 20–40 m³/h, supplied from the existing Bosjesspruit Dam (through existing pipelines) that provides raw water to the Secunda facility with a demand expected to remain within Sasol's permitted raw water abstraction limit. Buffer storage for raw water feed, effluent and polished water would also be required as part of the water treatment plant, and certain dosing chemicals for the water treatment facility may need to be stored on site.

In the second case, raw water would be required as feed to the cooling water system to generate the necessary cooling water for the CCGT process using a mechanical draft cooling tower system. In this instance, the estimated make-up requirement would be approximately 780 m³/h, also supplied from the existing Bosjesspruit Dam (through existing pipelines). This abstraction would remain within Sasol's permitted abstraction limit. The intention would be to use blowdown from the cooling water system as feed to the water treatment plant to produce the polished water required for the CCGT system. As with the first case, buffer storage for feed water, effluent and polished water would be required, and dosing chemicals for both the cooling tower system and the water treatment facility may need to be stored on site. No further licensing would be required for these two potential effluent streams as their capacities and throughputs would not exceed their current licensing limits.

2 LEGISLATIVE AND POLICY FRAMEWORK

The proposed Secunda Gas to Power Facility will be undertaken within a legislative and policy environment that promotes sustainable development, environmental protection and socio-economic wellbeing. A range of national legislation and government policies are applicable to the assessment and management of potential social impacts associated with the project. These instruments provide guidance on environmental authorisation requirements, public participation, labour relations, community wellbeing, sustainable economic development and the protection of vulnerable groups.

The Social Impact Assessment considers the legislative and policy instruments that are relevant to the identification and management of potential social impacts associated with the construction, operation and decommissioning of the proposed Secunda Gas to Power Facility. The assessment also considers national development, climate-change and Just Energy Transition objectives relevant to the project. The key legislative and policy instruments are discussed below.

2.1 CONSTITUTION OF THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA, 1996 (ACT NO. 108 OF 1996)

The Constitution of South Africa was adopted in 1996 and serves as the overarching law governing the Republic of South Africa. It outlines the rights and responsibilities of its citizens, establishes the Republic's legal foundation, and defines the structure of the Government. (Republic of South Africa, 1996).

It also contains a Bill of Rights that enshrines the fundamental human rights of all people in the country. The state must respect, protect, promote, and fulfil the rights set out in the Bill of Rights. In summary, the Constitution contains the following elements.

The South African Constitution represents a commitment to democracy, human rights, and social justice, addressing the historical injustices of apartheid and building a more inclusive and equitable society. It is a cornerstone of South Africa's legal and political system, shaping the country's governance and protecting its citizens' rights. Section 24 of the Constitution states that everyone has the right:

- a) to an environment that is not harmful to their health or well-being; and
- b) to have the environment protected, for the benefit of present and future generations, through reasonable legislative and other measures (Republic of South Africa, 1996).

The Bill of Rights is relevant to the proposed Secunda Gas to Power Facility because the project must be assessed and implemented in a manner that respects the constitutional right to an environment that is not harmful to health or wellbeing. From a social perspective, the assessment must consider potential implications for community wellbeing, environmental quality, public safety and the interests of present and future generations.

2.1.1 PROMOTION OF ADMINISTRATIVE JUSTICE ACT, 2000 (ACT NO. 3 OF 2000)

The purpose of the Promotion of Administrative Justice Act, 2000 (PAJA) is principally to give effect to the right to administrative action that is lawful, reasonable and procedurally fair, to the right to written reasons for administrative action as contemplated in section 33 of the Constitution, and to provide for matters incidental thereto.

Administrative law governs the relationships between public bodies, and between public and private bodies and individuals. Because activities affecting the environment may require authorisation from a public body, administrative-law principles are relevant to environmental-law processes and the environmental authorisation requirements provided for under Section 24 of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 and the associated Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations.

Environmental licensing and Environmental Authorisations (EAs) issued under section 24 of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (NEMA) constitute administrative action for purposes of the Promotion of Administrative Justice Act, 2000 (PAJA). As such, decisions to grant, refuse, amend, suspend or withdraw an EA must comply with PAJA's requirements of lawfulness, reasonableness and procedural fairness.

PAJA gives effect to section 33 of the Constitution, while NEMA gives effect to section 24 of the Constitution. The two statutes operate in complementary ways in environmental governance: NEMA establishes substantive environmental principles and procedures, and PAJA regulates the quality and fairness of administrative decision-making within those processes.

2.1.2 PROMOTION OF ACCESS TO INFORMATION ACT, 2000 (ACT NO. 2 OF 2000)

Closely linked to the notion of administrative justice is the right of access to information. Without access to information, a person may be unable to determine whether their right to just administrative action (or to an environment that is not harmful to human health or well-being, or, for that matter, any other Constitutional right) has been infringed.

The Promotion of Access to Information Act, 2000 (PAIA) gives effect to section 32 of the Constitution, which guarantees everyone the right of access to:

- Information held by the State, and
- Information held by another person that is required for the exercise or protection of any rights.

In the environmental context, PAIA supports the constitutional right in section 24 by enabling access to environmental information necessary to protect environmental, health, and socio-economic rights. PAIA applies to information held by public bodies and to information held by private bodies where that information is required for the exercise or protection of a right.

For the proposed Secunda Gas to Power Facility, access to relevant project and environmental information supports transparent public participation and enables interested and affected parties to understand the proposed development and raise informed concerns during the environmental assessment process.

2.2 NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT ACT, 1998 (ACT NO. 107 OF 1998)

The National Environmental Management Act (NEMA) provides the overarching legislative framework for environmental management and sustainable development in South Africa. NEMA promotes the integration of environmental, social and economic considerations into decision-making processes to ensure that development occurs in a sustainable manner. The Act requires environmental impact assessments to identify and evaluate the potential impacts of proposed developments on the receiving environment and affected communities. NEMA also promotes environmental justice, public participation and protection of human wellbeing (South African Government, 2023).

The principles established under NEMA are relevant to the proposed Secunda GtP Facility because the project may give rise to environmental and social effects during its construction, operational and decommissioning phases. From a social perspective, these effects may relate to community wellbeing, employment and procurement opportunities, traffic and road safety, community health and safety, environmental quality, stakeholder concerns and the potential distribution of project-related benefits and risks.

The SIA therefore forms part of the broader environmental assessment process for the proposed project. It provides information on the existing socio-economic environment, identifies sensitive social receptors and screens the potential positive and negative social impacts that may require further assessment during the EIA Phase.

2.3 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT REGULATIONS, 2014 (AS AMENDED)

The Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations, promulgated under NEMA, provide the procedural framework for undertaking environmental authorisation processes in South Africa. The Regulations prescribe the requirements for Scoping and Environmental Impact Assessment studies, including specialist assessments, public participation, impact identification, assessment of alternatives and mitigation measures. The Regulations require consideration of cumulative impacts and the identification of potential impacts on both the biophysical and social environment (Blakley, 2021).

The Regulations also establish requirements for the appointment and work of Environmental Assessment Practitioners and specialists, the consideration of project alternatives and the undertaking of public participation. They require registered interested and affected parties to be provided with opportunities to comment on relevant reports and plans, with those comments recorded in reports submitted to the competent authority.

The EIA Regulations of 2014 (as amended) require that the S&EIA process must identify and describe alternatives to the proposed activity that were considered, or the motivation for not considering alternatives. Different types or categories of alternatives could be considered including different locations, technology types, and project layouts. At the scoping level the evaluation of alternatives is provided at a high level in the absence of detailed environmental comparators for each alternative; due to the two-staged nature of the S& EIA process it is more suitable to identify and describe the potential alternatives on a high-level basis within scoping, and to perform a more detailed analysis of alternatives (with environmental comparators) in the EIA phase of the project. As such, the S&EIA will holistically assess the impacts and risks of each alternative in a comparative way, as suggested by Appendix 2 of the EIA Regulations of 2014 (as amended).

For the proposed Secunda GtP Facility, the SIA contributes to the Scoping and EIA process by:

- providing a description of the existing socio-economic receiving environment;
- identifying communities and sensitive social receptors that may be affected by the project;
- identifying potential social opportunities, risks and constraints;
- undertaking a high-level screening of potential impacts associated with construction, operation and decommissioning;
- considering the potential social implications of project alternatives;
- identifying cumulative social impacts that require further investigation;
- identifying data gaps, assumptions and limitations;
- providing high-level mitigation and enhancement measures; and
- setting out the social specialist Plan of Study for the EIA Phase.

The high-level screening undertaken during the Scoping Phase will be based on the project description, the proposed infrastructure and construction activities, the socio-economic baseline and

the identified social sensitivities. The detailed significance of the identified social impacts will be assessed further during the EIA Phase once additional project information, specialist findings and stakeholder input become available.

2.4 LABOUR RELATIONS ACT, 1995 (ACT NO. 66 OF 1995)

The Labour Relations Act establishes a framework for fair labour practices and regulates relationships between employers, employees and organised labour within South Africa. The Act promotes fair employment practices, collective bargaining and effective dispute resolution mechanisms (Subramanien & Joseph, 2019).

The Labour Relations Act is relevant to the proposed Secunda Gas to Power Facility because the construction, operation and eventual decommissioning of the project may involve employees, contractors and subcontractors. The project may also give rise to employment, training and skills-development opportunities, subject to the project's labour requirements and recruitment arrangements.

From a social perspective, relevant considerations include fair labour practices, transparent recruitment processes, labour stability, contractor management and the management of community expectations regarding employment opportunities. The number and nature of project-related employment opportunities have not yet been confirmed and will require further consideration during the EIA Phase.

The SIA will therefore consider potential positive impacts associated with employment, household income and skills development, as well as potential adverse effects associated with employment expectations, perceived unfairness in recruitment, labour disputes and unequal access to project-related opportunities.

2.5 OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY ACT, 1993 (ACT NO. 85 OF 1993)

The Occupational Health and Safety Act (OHSA) provides for the health and safety of workers and other persons who may be affected by activities undertaken within the workplace. The Act requires employers to implement measures that minimise health and safety risks associated with construction and operational activities (Republic of South Africa, 1993).

The proposed Secunda GtP Facility will include construction activities, heavy machinery, vehicle movements, pipelines, electrical infrastructure and industrial plant and equipment. The project will be situated within the existing Sasol Secunda industrial complex, where access and interaction with operational areas will require appropriate health and safety management.

From a social perspective, the Act is relevant because workplace activities may create risks not only for workers but also for contractors, road users and other persons who may encounter project-related activities. Relevant considerations include:

- occupational health and safety;
- contractor and worker safety;
- transportation of workers, materials and equipment;

- safe use of plant and machinery;
- control of access to construction and operational areas;
- accident and incident prevention;
- emergency preparedness and response; and
- protection of persons outside the immediate workplace from project-related hazards.

The SIA will consider community health and safety primarily at interfaces between activities within the industrial complex and the surrounding receiving environment. Particular attention will be given to project-related traffic, transport routes, access points, emergency events and any activities that may extend beyond the controlled industrial footprint.

The detailed technical assessment of occupational hazards remains the responsibility of the project's health and safety systems and relevant technical specialists. The SIA focuses on the potential social and community implications arising from these activities.

2.6 NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN: VISION 2030 (2012)

The National Development Plan (NDP) 2030 serves as South Africa's long-term development strategy and aims to eliminate poverty, reduce inequality and promote inclusive economic growth. The NDP emphasises the importance of infrastructure investment, employment creation, skills development, economic transformation and sustainable development (Chigova, 2021).

The NDP is relevant to the proposed Secunda GtP Facility because the project involves investment in large-scale energy infrastructure and is intended to provide electricity to the national grid. The project should therefore be considered in relation to national objectives concerning energy security, infrastructure development, employment creation, skills development and inclusive economic growth.

From a social perspective, the NDP provides a framework for considering the extent to which the proposed project may:

- support investment in energy infrastructure;
- contribute to employment and household income;
- create opportunities for local procurement and business participation;
- support skills development and work experience;
- contribute to energy security; and
- support inclusive and sustainable socioeconomic development.

The potential contribution of the proposed project to these objectives will depend on the final labour requirements, procurement arrangements, supplier-development opportunities, training commitments and operational requirements. These details are not yet confirmed and will require further assessment during the EIA Phase. Accordingly, the project's potential contribution to the NDP should not be overstated during the Scoping Phase.

2.7 INTEGRATED RESOURCE PLAN AND GAS-TO-POWER PROCUREMENT CONTEXT

The Integrated Resource Plan (IRP) provides the national planning framework for South Africa's electricity-generation requirements. It guides the development of the country's electricity supply system while taking into account energy security, affordability, environmental sustainability, projected electricity demand and the need for a diversified energy mix. The current national framework includes consideration of gas-fired combined-cycle generation as part of South Africa's future electricity mix.

The IRP is relevant to the proposed Secunda Gas to Power Facility because the Project is intended to generate dispatchable electricity for supply to the national grid. The Project must therefore be considered within the broader national context of electricity demand, energy security, diversification of the energy mix, power-system flexibility and the transition towards lower-carbon electricity generation.

Gas-to-Power will play a critical role in South Africa's energy transition by bridging the gap between coal-fired generation and non-dispatchable renewable energy. This need is reflected in the Integrated Resource Plan (IRP) and reinforced by the Department of Electricity and Energy's (DEE) GASIPPPP RFP, which targets the procurement of up to 3,000 MW of new GtP capacity.

Among available technologies, GtP remains one of the most competitive sources of dispatchable electricity, offering proven reliability compared to energy storage solutions such as batteries and thermal storage. While alternative technologies are rapidly improving in cost and performance, GtP continues to provide an effective and flexible solution for meeting dispatchable power requirements in a grid with increasing renewable energy penetration.

The proposed Secunda Gas to Power Facility will also aid in overcoming the power shortages that are currently faced in the country. In 2023, South Africa witnessed its longest recorded hours of load shedding, with the power being off for 6 800 hours of the year, as illustrated in Figure 2-1. The South African Government has taken strides to try reducing these power cuts through the implementation of bid Windows in REIPPP and lifting the independent power generation threshold to 100MW, but it is still expected that the country will undergo more load shedding.

From a social perspective, the IRP and Gas-to-Power procurement context are relevant because the development of new electricity-generation capacity may create opportunities for employment, skills development, local procurement, supplier participation and investment in supporting infrastructure. The Project may also contribute to energy security and economic continuity. However, the extent of these potential benefits will depend on the final workforce requirements, labour-sourcing arrangements, procurement strategy, training commitments and operational requirements, which will require further consideration during the EIA Phase.

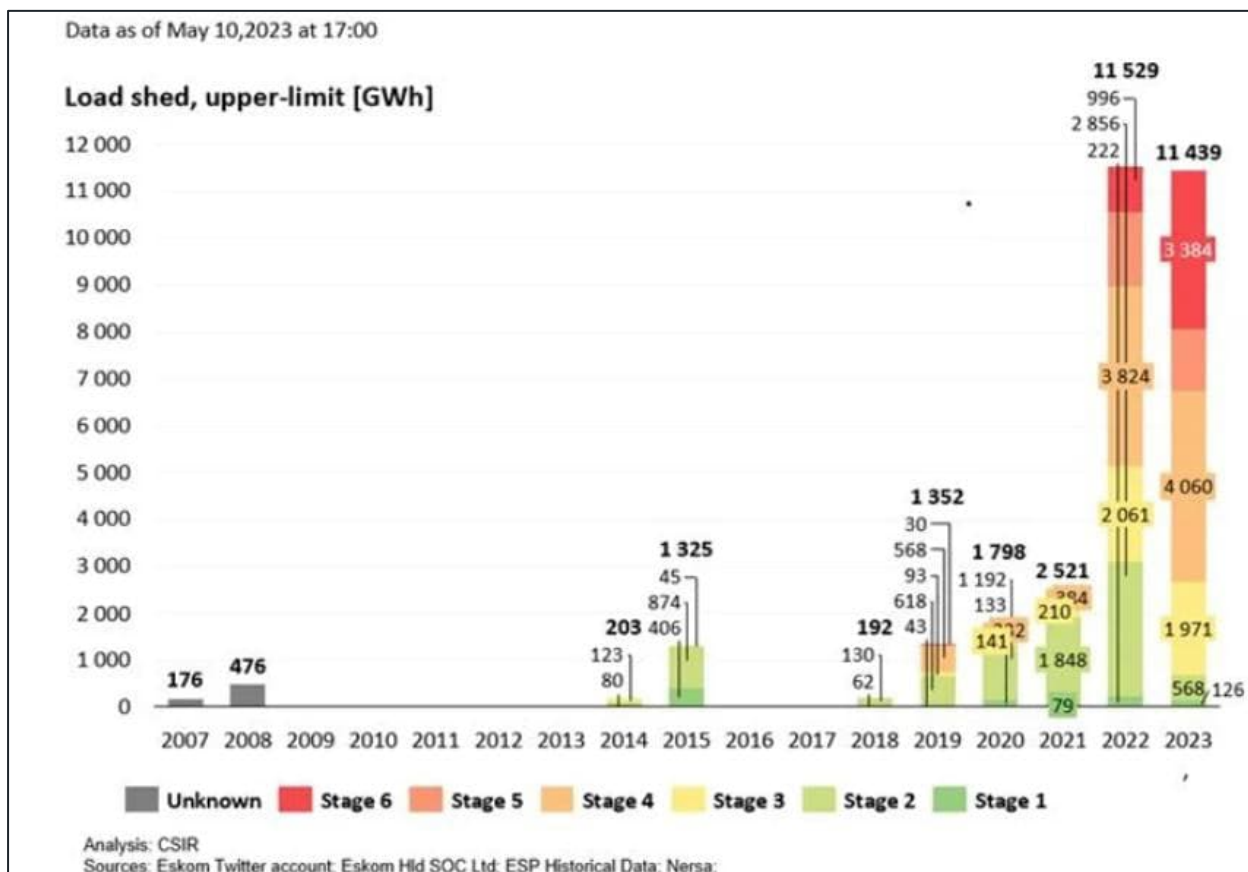


Figure 2-1 - Load Shedding Hours Over the Years in South Africa (Gwaka, 2025)

2.8 JUST ENERGY TRANSITION (JET) FRAMEWORK

South Africa's Just Energy Transition (JET) Framework seeks to ensure that the transition towards a lower-carbon economy occurs in a manner that is socially inclusive, equitable and economically sustainable. The framework recognises the potential socio-economic implications associated with changes within the energy sector and seeks to minimise negative impacts on workers and communities while maximising opportunities for skills development, employment diversification and economic resilience (Harrahill & Douglas, 2019).

This project will pave the way for the Just Energy Transition in South Africa and promote the transition from a fossil fuel-based economy to a low-carbon economy. South Africa is the seventh-largest coal consumer in the world and the leading African carbon emitter, with 435,9 million metric tons of carbon emissions recorded in 2022. South Africa heavily relies on coal to generate 30 000 MW of electricity, which serves an estimated 80% of the country's energy needs.

Coal power stations and the coal mining industry play a vital role in the economic and social components of the local Mpumalanga economy. Shifting to a low-carbon economy will thus need to offset or exceed the benefits being realised by fossil fuels in the province. Thus, a key factor to ensuring the success of the Just Energy Transition is not only to focus on the transition from fossil fuels to a diversified energy supply but to simultaneously ensure the Just Transition of jobs and skills.

2.8.1 ROLE OF GAS TO POWER IN THE JUST ENERGY TRANSITION

Gas to Power is widely recognised as a key transitional technology, providing reliable, dispatchable, and comparatively lower-carbon electricity generation relative to coal. In this regard, the Project represents a strategic intervention that supports South Africa's energy transition while addressing regional socio-economic realities.

As a major participant in South Africa's energy sector, both as a supplier of gas and a significant consumer of electricity, Sasol is uniquely positioned to support the Just Energy Transition. South Africa's current gas market is characterised by an estimated 70% inland and 30% coastal demand split, largely driven by small- to medium-scale industrial and commercial users. On a standalone basis, this fragmented inland demand is insufficient to underpin long-term liquefied natural gas (LNG) import infrastructure and associated supply contracts.

The aggregation of this inland gas demand with a large-scale GtP project provides a viable pathway to anchor the necessary import infrastructure and supply arrangements. In the absence of such an anchor demand, there is a material risk that up to 70% of the inland gas market could become stranded, particularly in light of the impending natural gas supply shortfall currently facing the country. The Project therefore plays a critical role in ensuring continuity of gas supply for inland users, supporting energy security and market stability. This national gas demand context is illustrated in Figure 2-2 below.

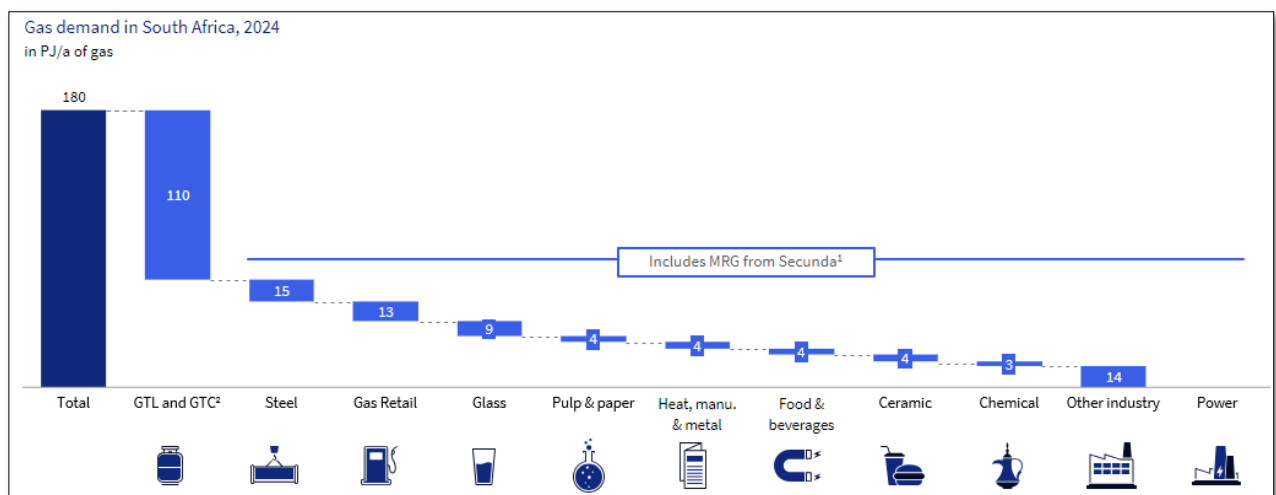


Figure 2-2 - Gas Demand in South Africa (Energy Council of South Africa, 2026)

From a Just Energy Transition perspective, GtP offers several key socio-economic benefits at both local and regional levels:

- It enables a gradual transition away from coal, avoiding abrupt shutdowns that could result in large-scale job losses.
- It supports job retention and skills transfer, particularly for workers with experience in power generation, process engineering, mechanical maintenance, and industrial operations.
- It creates new employment opportunities during the construction, operation, and maintenance phases of the facility.

- It contributes to lower carbon intensity electricity generation, supporting national climate commitments while maintaining reliable baseload power.

2.9 LOCAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (LED) FRAMEWORKS

Local Economic Development (LED) Frameworks and associated municipal LED Plans provide strategies for promoting economic growth, employment creation and community development at a local level. These frameworks identify development priorities, investment opportunities and interventions aimed at improving socio-economic conditions within municipal areas (Malizia, et al., 2020).

Municipal LED frameworks, Integrated Development Plans and associated economic development strategies provide mechanisms for promoting economic growth, employment creation, investment, business development and community wellbeing at the local level. These planning instruments identify local development priorities, economic opportunities and interventions intended to improve socio-economic conditions.

The proposed Secunda Gas to Power Facility is located within Govan Mbeki Local Municipality and Gert Sibande District Municipality. The Govan Mbeki Local Municipality LED Strategy includes an assessment of the local economy, an LED strategy framework, development objectives, programmes, projects and an implementation framework. The municipal Integrated Development Plan further provides the municipality's strategic direction, situational analysis, ward needs, service-delivery priorities and implementation programme.

The transition towards diversified energy mix will improve the socio-economic conditions of the Govan Mbeki Local Municipality. The Govan Mbeki Local Municipality recorded an unemployment rate of 34.4% in 2011 (Stats SA, 2011)¹. The Project will aid in solving two of the leading challenges faced by most municipalities in the country, namely the cost of electricity and lack of adequate employment opportunities. The developer foresees this project as being one of the main the catalysts to realizing a true Just Energy Transition for Mpumalanga.

Large-scale energy infrastructure projects, such as the proposed GtP facility, are desirable in this context as they provide opportunities for employment, skills application, and skills transition across the project lifecycle, particularly in areas with an established industrial skills base. Employment opportunities typically arise during the project development, construction, and operational phases, supporting both short-term and longer-term economic activity.

From a social perspective, the LED frameworks are relevant because the proposed project may create opportunities associated with employment, skills development, local procurement, supplier participation and broader economic activity. The frameworks also provide a basis for assessing whether project-related opportunities are aligned with municipal and district development priorities.

¹ The most recent Statistics South Africa Census 2022 datasets do not provide municipal-level data for certain demographic indicators, including languages spoken at home, in the same level of detail available in Census 2011. Consequently, Census 2011 data were used as the most recent reliable and publicly available source for these variables.

The extent of these potential benefits will depend on the final workforce requirements, recruitment approach, procurement strategy, supplier-development arrangements, training commitments and the capacity of local workers and businesses to meet the Project's technical, commercial and safety requirements. These matters have not yet been confirmed and will require further assessment during the EIA Phase.

The SIA will therefore consider potential employment and household-income benefits, skills development and skills-transition opportunities, local procurement and supplier participation, alignment with municipal and district economic-development priorities, transparent access to employment and procurement opportunities, community expectations regarding economic benefits, potential inequalities in the distribution of benefits, and opportunities to strengthen local economic resilience. Detailed information regarding local unemployment, employment, household income, economic structure and vulnerable groups will be addressed in the Socio-Economic Baseline to avoid duplication within the legislative and policy framework.

2.10 NATIONAL CLIMATE CHANGE RESPONSE WHITE PAPER

The National Climate Change Response White Paper presents the South African Government's approach to responding to climate change and supporting a long-term transition towards a climate-resilient and lower-carbon economy and society. Its objectives include managing unavoidable climate-change impacts through measures that strengthen social, economic and environmental resilience, while contributing fairly to international efforts to stabilise greenhouse-gas concentrations in the atmosphere.

The White Paper is relevant to the proposed Secunda Gas to Power Facility because the project forms part of the broader national energy-transition context. It provides a policy basis for considering climate-change mitigation, climate resilience, energy-sector transition and the socioeconomic consequences of moving towards a lower-carbon economy.

The proposed Secunda Gas to Power will contribute to South Africa's Just Energy Transition (JET) by supporting the transition from a predominantly coal-based energy system towards a lower-carbon and more diversified energy mix. The facility aligns with national energy objectives aimed at improving energy security, enabling a reliable transition, and reducing greenhouse gas emissions relative to conventional fossil fuel generation. The Gas to Power Facility will contribute to reduced emissions and subsequently climate change whilst promoting industrial development and job creation.

The use of natural gas, in the form of Liquid Natural Gas (LNG) and Mineral Rich Gas (MRG), represents a lower-emissions alternative to coal and liquid fuels and is recognised as a transitional energy source that can facilitate the integration of renewable energy into the national grid. These three paragraphs have been retained from the approved Sasol project description without substantive revision. Their inclusion in the legislative and policy framework establishes the project's stated relationship with national climate-change and energy-transition objectives.

From a social perspective, the National Climate Change Response White Paper is relevant because the transition to a lower-carbon economy may create both opportunities and risks for workers, businesses and communities that are linked to existing energy and industrial activities. The SIA

therefore considers potential implications for employment, skills development, livelihoods, economic resilience, community wellbeing and the distribution of transition-related benefits and risks.

Detailed conclusions regarding the project's greenhouse-gas emissions, comparative carbon performance and contribution to climate-change mitigation must be informed by the Climate Change Specialist Report. The SIA will use those findings only where they establish a clear social pathway, such as implications for employment, economic transition, community resilience or stakeholder perceptions.

3 ASSUMPTIONS AND LIMITATIONS

The Social Impact Assessment (SIA) was undertaken during the Scoping Phase of the environmental assessment process and is based on the project information available at the time of the assessment. The purpose of the Scoping Phase assessment is to identify the principal social opportunities, risks, sensitivities and information gaps that require further investigation during the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Phase.

The proposed Secunda Gas to Power Facility is still within the planning and design-development stage. Consequently, certain project details remain subject to confirmation or refinement. The assumptions and limitations identified below are considered appropriate for a Scoping Phase assessment and will be reviewed as additional project information, specialist findings and stakeholder input become available.

3.1 ASSUMPTIONS

The following assumptions were made during the preparation of this Social Impact Assessment:

- The project description, development footprint and associated infrastructure information made available during the Scoping Phase are representative of the proposed Secunda Gas to Power Facility and are sufficient to identify the principal social issues requiring further assessment.
- The proposed GtP Facility will be developed predominantly within an existing Sasol-owned brownfield site situated within the Sasol Secunda Operations industrial complex.
- The development of the Project within the existing industrial complex is expected to reduce the likelihood of extensive new land-use conflicts and physical displacement compared with development on an undeveloped greenfield site.
- The proposed facility footprint, preliminary LNG and MRG pipeline routes, powerline, access roads and supporting infrastructure will remain subject to further design development and assessment during the EIA Phase.
- The final LNG pipeline route will be selected following further consideration of environmental sensitivities and technical inputs during the EIA Phase.
- Existing roads and access routes within Sasol Secunda Operations will be used where feasible, while the final construction and operational transport arrangements will be informed by the Traffic Impact Assessment.

- The Project will be developed within an established industrial environment where surrounding communities and other social receptors may already experience impacts associated with existing industrial, transport and infrastructure activities.
- Potential social impacts will therefore be assessed in relation to the Project's additional or incremental contribution to existing conditions rather than through the automatic application of a standard impact checklist.
- The environmental assessment stakeholder-engagement process will provide an appropriate platform for identifying stakeholder concerns, expectations and perceptions regarding the proposed Project.
- Available demographic, socioeconomic, municipal-planning and spatial information obtained from secondary sources is assumed to provide a reasonable high-level representation of the existing social conditions within the study area.
- Communities and businesses may anticipate employment, procurement, training and other economic benefits associated with the proposed Project.
- No physical displacement of residential households or community facilities is currently anticipated within the proposed approximately 5 ha GtP Facility footprint.
- Air cooling is assumed to represent the base case for the purposes of the environmental authorisation application.
- The assessment of potential social effects associated with air quality, traffic, community health, aquatic biodiversity, terrestrial biodiversity, visual impacts and climate change will be informed by the findings of the relevant specialist studies.

The proposed MRG pipeline route largely follows existing disturbed corridors and pipeline servitudes within the operational area, while the facility footprint occurs within a transformed industrial environment.

3.2 LIMITATIONS

The Social Impact Assessment is subject to the following limitations:

- The significance ratings assigned to social impacts during this assessment are preliminary and may change following additional investigations, stakeholder engagement and the refinement of project information during the EIA Phase
- The assessment was undertaken primarily as a desktop study and did not include comprehensive field-based social investigations during the Scoping Phase.
- Detailed stakeholder-engagement findings and community-specific perceptions were not available for incorporation at the time of preparing the assessment.
- The SIA is based on the project description and associated infrastructure information available at the time of assessment. The findings may require revision if material changes are made to the Project design, footprint, technology, infrastructure or routing alternatives.
- The final LNG and MRG pipeline routes and the detailed locations of all associated infrastructure have not yet been confirmed.
- Detailed information regarding construction and operational workforce numbers, skills requirements, labour-sourcing arrangements, worker accommodation and recruitment procedures was not available at the time of the assessment.

- Detailed local procurement commitments, supplier-development arrangements and expected expenditure within the local economy were not available.
- The number, duration and accessibility of temporary and permanent employment opportunities have not yet been confirmed.
- The final construction schedule, sequencing of activities and detailed working arrangements remain subject to confirmation.
- The exact number, timing and routing of construction and operational vehicle movements will be informed by the Traffic Impact Assessment and final Project arrangements.
- The presence, location and sensitivity of social receptors within the Project's area of influence will require further verification through receptor mapping, stakeholder engagement and site investigations during the EIA Phase.
- Potential impacts associated with air quality, noise, traffic, water, visual change, climate change and community health cannot be assessed conclusively by the SIA without reference to the findings of the relevant technical specialist studies.
- The Project is proposed within an existing industrial complex. It may therefore be difficult to distinguish some existing environmental and social effects from the incremental contribution of the proposed Project without appropriate specialist modelling, baseline information and cumulative-impact analysis.
- The assessment of employment and procurement benefits remains preliminary because the Project's labour and procurement strategies have not yet been finalised.
- The social implications of the final pipeline routes, powerline and associated infrastructure cannot be confirmed until the preferred layout and relevant servitude or land-access requirements have been finalised.
- The significance ratings assigned during the Scoping Phase will be preliminary and may change following stakeholder engagement, site verification, specialist input and refinement of the Project information during the EIA Phase.

These limitations do not prevent the identification of the principal social issues requiring further investigation. They indicate where additional project information, stakeholder input and specialist findings will be required to support the detailed SIA during the EIA Phase.

4 SOCIO-ECONOMIC BASELINE

The purpose of the socio-economic baseline is to describe the existing social and economic environment within which the proposed Secunda Gas to Power Facility will be developed. Understanding the existing conditions of the receiving environment is important for identifying sensitive social receptors, determining potential social opportunities and constraints, and assessing how the proposed Project may affect surrounding communities during the construction, operational and decommissioning phases.

The proposed Project is located within the existing Sasol Secunda Operations industrial complex. The receiving environment is therefore characterised by established industrial activities, supporting infrastructure, transport networks, surrounding residential areas and communities with direct and indirect economic relationships with Sasol and the broader energy and industrial sectors.

The socio-economic baseline provides a high-level description of the demographic, social and economic characteristics of the study area. It considers population characteristics, education, employment, household income, economic activity, access to services, community health and safety, livelihoods and vulnerable groups. The baseline also provides context for understanding potential issues relating to employment, local procurement, community wellbeing, traffic, social infrastructure, environmental quality and the Just Energy Transition.

The baseline presented in this report is based primarily on available secondary information, municipal planning documents, desktop review and social receptor mapping undertaken during the Scoping Phase. The baseline will be refined and verified during the Environmental Impact Assessment Phase through stakeholder engagement, site verification, review of updated municipal information and consideration of the findings of the relevant specialist studies. The findings of the socio-economic baseline will inform the identification and assessment of potential social impacts and the development of appropriate mitigation and enhancement measures for the proposed Project.

4.1 LOCATION OF THE PROJECT

The proposed Secunda Gas to Power Facility is located at the Sasol Secunda Operations in Secunda, within the Govan Mbeki Local Municipality and Gert Sibande District Municipality, in Mpumalanga Province, South Africa (Figure 1-1). The proposed facility will have a development footprint of approximately 50 000 m² or 5 ha

The facility is proposed on a brownfield site within the existing Sasol Secunda industrial complex. The proposed facility footprint and preliminary Methane Rich Gas pipeline route occur within the existing operational area, which is characterised by industrial infrastructure, existing service corridors, artificial fill, paved surfaces and gravel hardstands.

The proposed Project also includes Liquefied Natural Gas and Methane Rich Gas pipelines, electrical infrastructure, water-treatment infrastructure, utilities and other associated infrastructure required to integrate the Gas to Power Facility into the existing Secunda Operations. The final infrastructure routes and detailed layout remain subject to further design development and environmental assessment.

The Project is located in Ward 5 of Govan Mbeki Local Municipality. The broader social area of influence will be determined by the location of surrounding settlements, social facilities, transport routes and other receptors that may be directly or indirectly affected by the proposed Project. For the purposes of the SIA, particular consideration will be given to receptors situated within approximately 1 km, 3 km and 5 km of the proposed Project, as well as receptors situated along relevant access and transport routes

The socio-economic baseline is structured progressively from the provincial to the local level. Mpumalanga Province, Gert Sibande District Municipality and Govan Mbeki Local Municipality are discussed to provide context regarding the demographic, social, economic and development characteristics of the receiving environment within which the proposed Project is located.

4.2 MPUMALANGA PROVINCE

The proposed Secunda Gas to Power Facility is located within Mpumalanga Province (Figure 1-1). An understanding of the provincial context is therefore important for establishing the broader socio-economic environment within which the Project will be developed. The province provides the regional demographic, economic and development context that influences the receiving environment surrounding the proposed Project.

Mpumalanga Province is located in the north-eastern part of South Africa. The province borders Mozambique and Eswatini, as well as the South African provinces of Gauteng, Limpopo, KwaZulu-Natal and the Free State (Figure 4-1). Mpumalanga is characterised by the high plateau grasslands of the Middleveld, which extend eastwards towards the escarpment and mountainous areas of the province (Mpumalanga Provincial Government, 2022).

According to Census 2022, Mpumalanga has a total population of 5,143,324 people (Census, 2022). The province is commonly referred to as the “Province of the Rising Sun”, reflecting both the meaning of its name and its eastern location within South Africa (Census, 2022). Mpumalanga is also home to several internationally recognised tourism attractions, including the Kruger National Park, Sudwala Caves, God’s Window, the Three Rondavels and the Blyde River Canyon.

Beyond tourism, Mpumalanga plays a strategic role in South Africa’s economy and energy sector. The province is a significant contributor to national mining and electricity generation activities and remains central to the country’s coal-based energy industry. In 2022, Mpumalanga contributed approximately 8% to South Africa’s Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and was estimated to contain more than 80% of the country’s coal resources (Census, 2022). The proposed Project is located within the existing Sasol Secunda industrial complex, which forms part of this established provincial energy and industrial landscape.

In 2024, Mpumalanga contributed approximately 7.7% of South Africa’s economy at current prices. The three largest contributors to the provincial economy at constant 2015 prices were personal services at 18.7%, finance at 18.2% and mining at 15.2%. These figures demonstrate the importance of both service-based and resource-related economic activities within the province.

Mpumalanga continues to experience significant labour-market and socioeconomic pressures. In the second quarter of 2025, approximately 1,22 million people were employed in the province, while the strict unemployment rate was 34.0%. The youth unemployment rate for persons aged between 15 and 34 years was 47.3%, indicating continued difficulty among young people in accessing sustainable employment opportunities.

Poverty and household vulnerability also remain important provincial considerations. In 2024, approximately 52.5% of Mpumalanga’s population lived below the lower-bound poverty line². These conditions increase the importance of employment, skills development, local procurement and

² The lower-bound poverty line (LBPL) is the minimum level of expenditure required for an individual to meet basic food and essential non-food needs (Stats SA, 2025). Statistics South Africa calculates and updates the poverty lines annually using household expenditure patterns and inflation-adjusted costs of basic goods and services. Individuals whose income or expenditure falls below the LBPL are considered unable to meet their minimum basic living requirements.

economic diversification, while also contributing to heightened expectations regarding the socioeconomic benefits associated with major infrastructure developments.

The most commonly spoken languages in the province are SiSwati (30.5%), IsiZulu (27.8%), Xitsonga (10.6%), Sepedi (10.3%) and IsiNdebele (9.9%) (Census, 2022). These linguistic patterns provide an indication of the cultural and demographic context within which stakeholder engagement for the proposed project will occur. Stakeholder communication should therefore take account of the linguistic diversity of the receiving environment to support meaningful participation and access to Project information.

The provincial context is particularly relevant to the proposed Secunda Gas to Power Facility because Mpumalanga is closely associated with coal mining, electricity generation and energy-intensive industrial activities. The transition towards a more diversified energy system may create opportunities for infrastructure investment, employment, skills development and supplier participation. However, the transition may also affect workers, businesses and communities that remain economically dependent on existing energy and industrial activities.

The Project must therefore be considered within the wider provincial context of unemployment, poverty, economic dependence on mining and energy-related industries, and the need for skills transition and economic diversification. These conditions will inform the assessment of potential employment and procurement benefits, community expectations, distribution of benefits, worker and community vulnerability, and the Project's relationship with the Just Energy Transition.

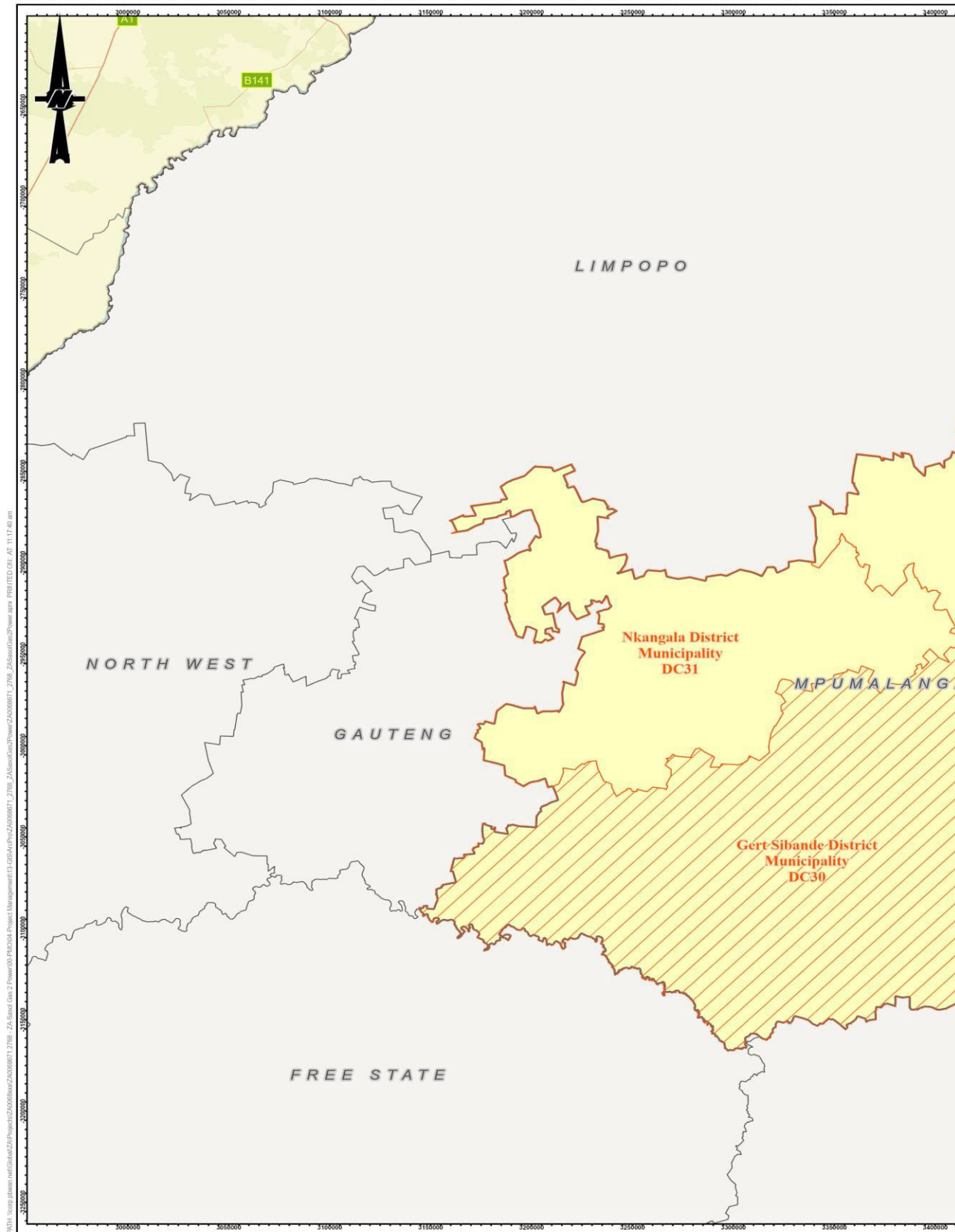


Figure 4-1 - Mpumalanga Province Showing the Location of Gert Sibande District Municipality and

4.3 GERT SIBANDE DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY

The proposed Secunda Gas to Power Facility is located within Govan Mbeki Local Municipality, which forms part of Gert Sibande District Municipality. An overview of the district municipality is therefore provided to establish the broader socio-economic context within which the proposed Project is located.

According to the Census, Gert Sibande District Municipality has a population of 1,283,459 people (Census, 2022). The district is classified as a Category C3 municipality and is the largest of the three district municipalities in Mpumalanga, covering approximately 31,840 km², which accounts for nearly half of the province's geographical area (Municipalities of South Africa, 2026). As shown in Figure 4-2, Gert Sibande District Municipality comprises seven local municipalities, namely Chief Albert Luthuli, Dipaleseng, Dr Pixley Ka Isaka Seme, Govan Mbeki, Lekwa, Mkhondo and Msukaligwa. The district is strategically positioned along several national transport routes, including the N3 corridor linking Gauteng and KwaZulu-Natal, the N17 connecting Gauteng and Eswatini, and the N11, which provides north-south connectivity into KwaZulu-Natal. The district includes towns such as Ermelo, Standerton, Secunda, Volksrust, Bethal, Breyten, Carolina, Balfour, Grootvlei and Wakkerstroom, forming a mixed urban-industrial and agricultural landscape. Economic activity is particularly concentrated within the urban and industrial complex formed by Secunda, Evander, Kinross and Trichardt in Govan Mbeki Local Municipality.

Economically, Gert Sibande District Municipality is characterised by a diversified economy driven by community services, manufacturing, mining and finance, with coal-based energy generation remaining an important contributor to economic activity within the district. The district plays a significant role in Mpumalanga's mining, manufacturing, agriculture and energy sectors and contributes approximately 25.6% to the provincial economy. Major economic activities include electricity generation, mining, agriculture, forestry, manufacturing and trade, which collectively support employment opportunities and regional economic development.

Gert Sibande District Municipality is also home to major industrial and energy operations, including Sasol's petrochemical activities, coal-mining operations and coal-fired power stations. Manufacturing and mining are important economic drivers, particularly within Govan Mbeki Local Municipality, while agriculture, forestry and service-related activities are prominent in other parts of the district.

The Sasol Secunda Operations form part of the district's long-established industrial and energy landscape and contribute to the broader socio-economic profile of the area. The proposed Secunda Gas to Power Facility will be developed within this existing industrial complex. Accordingly, its potential social and economic effects must be considered in relation to existing industrial activity, established supply-chain linkages, employment patterns and the district's wider transition towards a more diversified energy system.

³ In terms of the Municipal Structures Act (Act 117 of 1998), South African municipalities are classified into three categories. Category A municipalities are Metropolitan Municipalities with exclusive municipal executive and legislative authority in their areas. Category B municipalities are Local Municipalities that share municipal executive and legislative authority with a District Municipality. Category C municipalities are District Municipalities that coordinate and support multiple local municipalities within a district area.



Potential employment, skills-development and procurement opportunities associated with the Project may support regional economic activity. However, these potential benefits will depend on the final workforce requirements, recruitment arrangements, procurement strategy and the capacity of local workers and businesses to meet the Project's technical, commercial and safety requirements.

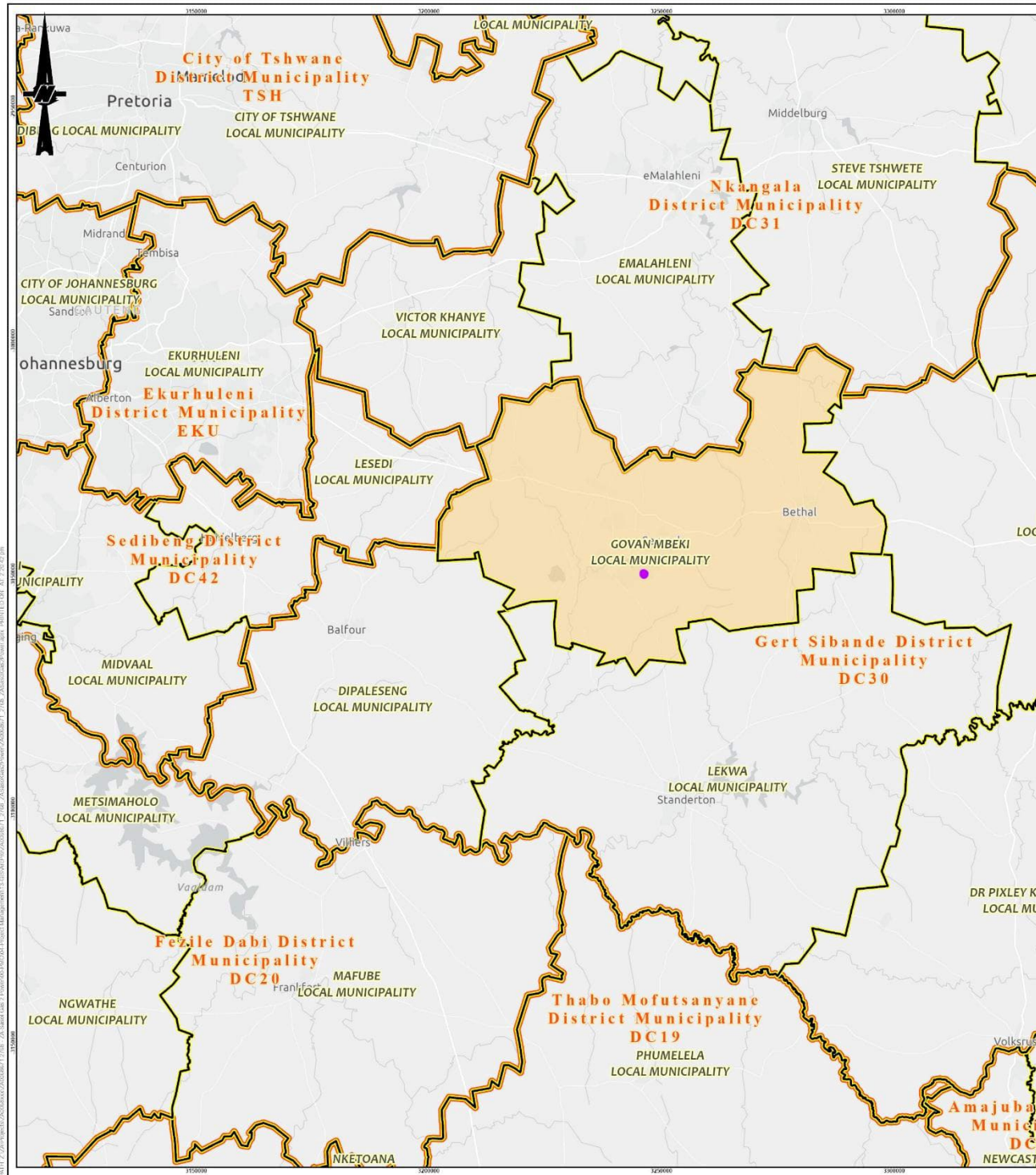


Figure 4-2 - Local municipalities within Gert Sibande District Municipality, showing the location of

4.4 GOVAN MBEKI LOCAL MUNICIPALITY

The proposed Secunda Gas to Power Facility is located within Govan Mbeki Local Municipality and forms part of Mpumalanga's established energy, mining and industrial landscape. The Project is situated within the existing Sasol Secunda Operations, an established industrial complex characterised by petrochemical production, energy-related infrastructure, mining activities, transport networks, agricultural land uses and surrounding urban settlements. The Sasol Secunda Operations form an important component of the municipal socio-economic environment through their contribution to industrial activity, employment, supply-chain linkages and associated economic activity. The proposed Project will be developed on a brownfield site within this existing industrial complex and must therefore be considered in relation to the established industrial setting, existing environmental conditions and surrounding land uses.

Govan Mbeki Local Municipality, previously known as Highveld East Local Municipality, is a Category B municipality situated within Gert Sibande District Municipality in Mpumalanga Province. It is bordered by Nkangala District Municipality to the north, Dipaleseng and Lekwa Local Municipalities to the south, Msukaligwa Local Municipality to the east and Gauteng Province to the west. The municipality covers approximately 2 955 km² and accounts for approximately 9% of the district's geographical area. Secunda is the administrative seat of the municipality (Municipalities of South Africa, 2026). The municipality comprises 32 wards and includes Bethal, Charl Cilliers, eMbalenhle, Evander, Kinross, Leandra, Secunda and Trichardt. Its spatial structure is characterised by urban and industrial nodes surrounded by agricultural and rural areas, with the Greater Secunda complex functioning as the principal economic hub. The main economic sectors are mining, manufacturing, community services and finance.

4.4.1 POPULATION

The population of Govan Mbeki Local Municipality increased from 294,538 in 2011 to 340,091 in 2016, before declining to 310,117 in 2022, reflecting population fluctuation over the 11-year period (Municipalities of South Africa, 2026). As shown in Figure 4-3, the municipality has a near-balanced gender distribution, with males accounting for 50.1% of the population and females accounting for 49.9% in 2022 (Census, 2022).

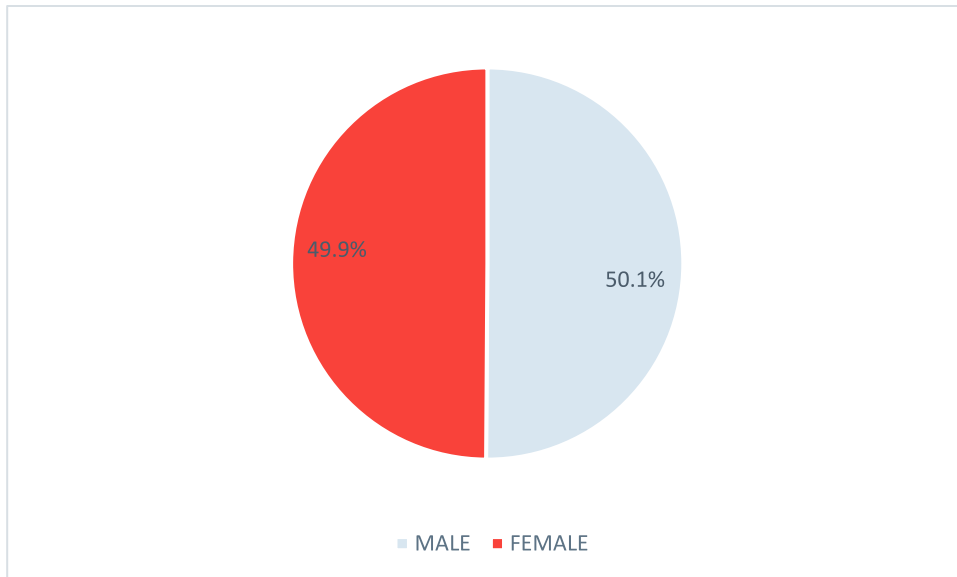


Figure 4-3 - Population Structure of Govan Mbeki Local Municipality, Showing Gender (Census, 2022)

4.4.2 ETHNICITY AND LANGUAGE

The population of Govan Mbeki Local Municipality is predominantly Black African (89.4%), with a notable White population (8.6%) and smaller proportions of Indian/Asian (1.1%) and Coloured (0.9%) residents (Figure 4-4). Other population groups account for a negligible proportion of the municipal population (Census, 2022).

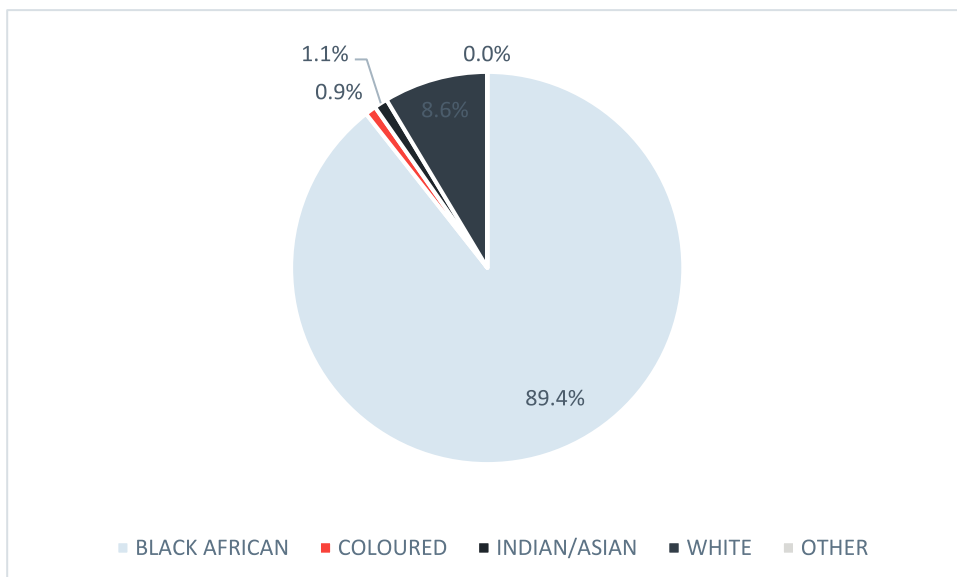


Figure 4-4 - Population Group Distribution of Govan Mbeki Local Municipality (Census, 2022)

Language patterns in Govan Mbeki Local Municipality reflect a diverse linguistic profile shaped by the municipality's urban-industrial character and history of labour mobility. IsiZulu is the most commonly spoken home language, accounting for 47.0% of the population, followed by Afrikaans at 15.8% and isiNdebele at 7.6% (Table 4-1). Other commonly spoken languages include Sesotho at 6.0%, isiXhosa at 5.7% and English at 5.1%, while a range of other South African languages are spoken by smaller proportions of residents (Stats SA, 2011). This linguistic diversity should be considered during stakeholder engagement to support effective communication and meaningful participation across affected communities.

Table 4-1 - Distribution of Govan Mbeki Local Municipality by Language Spoken at Home (Stats SA, 2011)

Language	Percentage
Afrikaans	15.8%
English	5.1%
IsiNdebele	7.6%
IsiXhosa	5.7%
IsiZulu	47.0%
Sepedi	2.4%
Sesotho	6.0%
Setswana	1.2%
Sign Language	0.4%
SiSwati	3.5%
Tshivenda	0.5%
Xitsonga	2.7%
Other	1.4%
Not applicable	0.9%

4.4.3 EDUCATION

Most residents aged 20 years and older in Govan Mbeki Local Municipality have attained secondary education, with Grade 12/Matric forming the largest category at 41.9% (Census, 2022). A further 32.5% of adults have some secondary schooling, indicating that most of the adult population has reached at least part of the secondary phase (Census, 2022). Higher education attainment remains relatively limited, with 8.1% of adults holding post-school qualifications. Lower levels of educational attainment include 7.1% of adults with no formal schooling, 6.7% with some primary education and

3.2% who have completed primary education (Census, 2022). Other forms of education account for 0.6% of the adult population (Table 4-2).

Table 4-2 - Education Levels of the Population Aged 20+ in Govan Mbeki Local Municipality (Census, 2022)

Education Level	Percentage
No schooling	7.1%
Some primary	6.7%
Completed primary	3.2%
Some secondary	32.5%
Grade 12 / Matric	41.9
Higher education	8.1%
Other	0,6%

Education levels in Govan Mbeki Local Municipality show improvement in secondary-school completion, although participation in higher education has declined. The proportion of adults with no formal schooling decreased from 7.9% in 2011 to 6.5% in 2016, before increasing to 7.1% in 2022 (Municipalities of South Africa, 2026). Matric attainment increased from 31.3% in 2011 to 37.3% in 2016 (Municipalities of South Africa, 2026). Although a directly comparable matric percentage is not available in the historical dataset for 2022, Census 2022 records Grade 12/Matric as the largest educational-attainment category. Higher education attainment declined from 11.8% in 2011 to 10.5% in 2016 and 8.1% in 2022, indicating reduced progression into post-school education.

The Govan Mbeki Municipality Integrated Development Plan indicates that approximately 70.2% of people aged between 5 and 24 years attend an educational institution, while nearly 30% are not enrolled (Govan Mbeki Municipality, 2026). The municipal matric pass rate improved from 71.7% in 2020 to 84.2% in 2024 (Govan Mbeki Municipality, 2026). The IDP further records an increase in Grade 12 completion among adults, from 32.2% to 41.3%, reflecting an improvement in secondary-level educational attainment (Govan Mbeki Municipality, 2026). However, Early Childhood Development participation remains a concern, with more than 12 000 children reportedly not attending an early-learning programme.

Overall, the municipal education profile reflects improving secondary-school outcomes but comparatively limited and declining higher education attainment. The IDP also identifies uneven access to educational facilities, with some children travelling long distances to schools in neighbouring townships. These conditions highlight the importance of strengthening early childhood learning, post-school education, technical training and skills-development pathways that are relevant to the municipality's established industrial economy and future energy transition.

4.4.4 EMPLOYMENT AND INCOME PROFILE

Govan Mbeki Local Municipality has a labour market strongly influenced by mining, manufacturing, energy production and related industrial activities. According to Statistics South Africa data, 134 387 people were economically active in 2011, meaning that they were either employed or actively seeking employment (Stats SA, 2011). Of this economically active population, 99 138 people were employed and 35 249 were unemployed, representing an unemployment rate of approximately 26.2% (Stats SA, 2011). A further 6 787 people were discouraged work-seekers, while 63 301 people were not economically active. The employment-status distribution is presented in Figure 4-5.

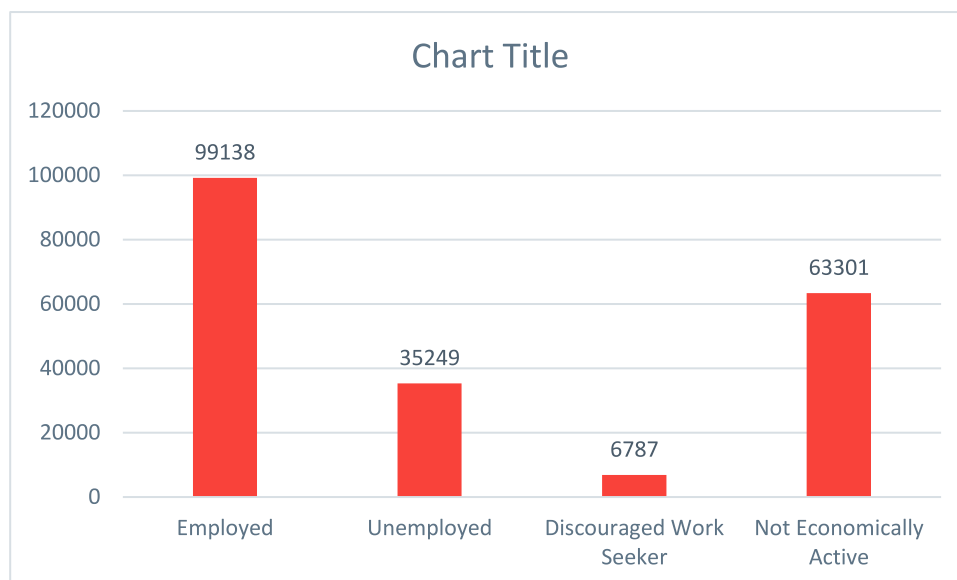


Figure 4-5 - Employment Status in Govan Mbeki Local Municipality (Stats SA, 2011)

The Govan Mbeki Municipality Integrated Development Plan indicates that labour-market conditions worsened between 2019 and 2022. The strict unemployment rate increased from 26.6% in 2019 to 30.5% in 2022, while the expanded unemployment rate increased from 32.3% to 38.5% over the same period (Govan Mbeki Municipality, 2026). Youth unemployment remained particularly high at 43.8%, while female unemployment reached 36.0% (Govan Mbeki Municipality, 2026). These figures indicate that young people and women experience greater barriers to accessing employment within the municipality.

Employment declined at an average annual rate of approximately 2% between 2019 and 2022. Mining, manufacturing and energy-related activities remain important sources of formal employment, although employment within these established sectors has been under pressure. Trade and financial services have shown modest growth, while informal economic activity continues to support household livelihoods. The municipality estimates that approximately 11 000 new jobs would need to be created annually to support labour-market stability (Govan Mbeki Municipality, 2026).

The persistence of unemployment, together with the high numbers of discouraged work-seekers and economically inactive residents, indicates continued constraints in labour absorption. These conditions may contribute to heightened community expectations regarding employment, training and procurement opportunities associated with the proposed Secunda Gas to Power Facility. Employment opportunities arising from the Project will, however, depend on the final workforce

requirements, the availability of suitable skills and the labour-sourcing arrangements adopted by Sasol and its contractors.

The Project may provide temporary and longer-term opportunities for employment, skills application and skills development across the construction, operational and maintenance phases. Transparent recruitment procedures and clear communication regarding the number, duration and eligibility requirements of available positions will be important to manage expectations and promote fair access to employment opportunities.

4.4.5 ECONOMIC STRUCTURE AND CONTRIBUTION TO GDP

Govan Mbeki Local Municipality plays a significant role in the economy of Gert Sibande District Municipality and Mpumalanga Province. The municipality has a diversified industrial economy supported by petrochemicals, mining, manufacturing, community services, finance, trade and agriculture. Secunda serves as the municipality's principal industrial and economic hub, with Sasol's petrochemical and energy operations forming a central component of the local economy.

The municipality's established industrial base is supported by coal-mining activities, transport and logistics infrastructure, a rail network and proximity to national roads. These economic assets support employment, industrial production, contractor expenditure, supply-chain activity and business development. However, the concentration of economic activity in petrochemicals, mining and related industries also increases the municipality's exposure to changes within the energy sector and the broader transition towards a lower-carbon economy.

The proposed Secunda Gas to Power Facility will form part of this established industrial and energy landscape. The Project may support economic activity through employment, skills development, procurement and demand for supporting goods and services. The extent of these benefits will depend on the final workforce requirements, procurement arrangements, supplier-development initiatives and the capacity of local workers and businesses to meet the Project's technical, commercial and safety requirements.

4.4.5.1 GDP CONTRIBUTION AND ECONOMIC GROWTH

In 2022, Govan Mbeki Local Municipality contributed approximately 10.6% to the Mpumalanga provincial economy, ranking behind the City of Mbombela at 24.8% and Emalahleni Local Municipality at 17.4% (Govan Mbeki Municipality, 2026). The municipality also contributed approximately 41.2% to the economy of Gert Sibande District Municipality, making it the largest local economic contributor within the district (Govan Mbeki Municipality, 2026).

Despite its substantial economic contribution, growth within the municipality has remained constrained. The municipal economy recorded average annual growth of approximately 0.2% between 1996 and 2022, while economic activity contracted at an average annual rate of approximately 2.8% between 2019 and 2022 (Govan Mbeki Municipality, 2026). Economic growth declined from 5.2% in 2021 to 0.6% in 2022, indicating a loss of momentum following the earlier recovery (Govan Mbeki Municipality, 2026).

The municipality also continues to experience significant socioeconomic pressures. The IDP records a strict unemployment rate of 34.9%, an expanded unemployment rate of 46.8% and a poverty rate

of 43.3% (Govan Mbeki Municipality, 2026). These conditions indicate that the municipality's comparatively large and diversified economy has not translated into sufficient employment and income opportunities for all residents.

The municipality's economic performance remains below the development objectives associated with the Medium-Term Strategic Framework and national Vision 2030 goals. Accelerated economic growth, employment creation, skills development, industrial revitalisation and greater income equality are therefore important priorities for strengthening local economic resilience.

4.4.5.2 GROSS VALUE ADDED BY SECTOR

The economy of Govan Mbeki Local Municipality is strongly influenced by manufacturing, mining, community services and finance. Petrochemical production and associated industrial activities remain central to the municipal economy, while trade, construction, agriculture and other service sectors provide additional economic activity and employment.

The structure of the municipal economy changed between 2019 and 2022. Manufacturing declined from 35.1% of economic activity in 2019 to 25.1% in 2022, indicating increasing pressure on the municipality's traditional industrial base (Govan Mbeki Municipality, 2026). As shown in Table 4-3, over the same period, trade increased from 10.1% to 16.4%, while community services increased from 21.4% to 24.1%. Construction and finance recorded modest improvements, while agriculture accounted for approximately 1.7% of the municipal economy in 2022.

Table 4-3 - Selected Changes in the Economic Structure of Govan Mbeki Local Municipality, 2019–2022 (Govan Mbeki Municipality, 2026).

Economic sector	2019	2022
Manufacturing	35.1%	25.1%
Community services	21.4%	24.1%
Trade	10.1%	16.4%
Agriculture	Not specified	1.7%

The decline in manufacturing may indicate increasing vulnerability within the municipality's industrial economy, while growth in trade and community services suggests a gradual shift towards service-related economic activity. The continued importance of manufacturing, mining, community services and finance nevertheless reflects Govan Mbeki's role as a major industrial and economic centre within Gert Sibande District Municipality.

Economic-development opportunities identified for the municipality include industrial revitalisation, petrochemical supplier networks, renewable energy, agriculture and agro-processing, tourism, logistics, waste recycling, small-business development and skills training. Strengthening these activities may support economic diversification and reduce the municipality's long-term dependence on a limited number of large industrial and energy-sector employers.

4.4.6 ELECTRICITY

Access to electricity in Govan Mbeki Local Municipality remains high, with 92.8% of households using electricity from the mains for lighting in 2022. This represents an improvement from 90.3% in 2011, although access decreased slightly from 93.7% in 2016 (Figure 4-6). A minority of households continue to depend on candles (4.5%), paraffin (1.2%), solar energy (1.0%) and gas (0.3%) for lighting, indicating that pockets of household energy vulnerability remain within the municipality (Census, 2022).

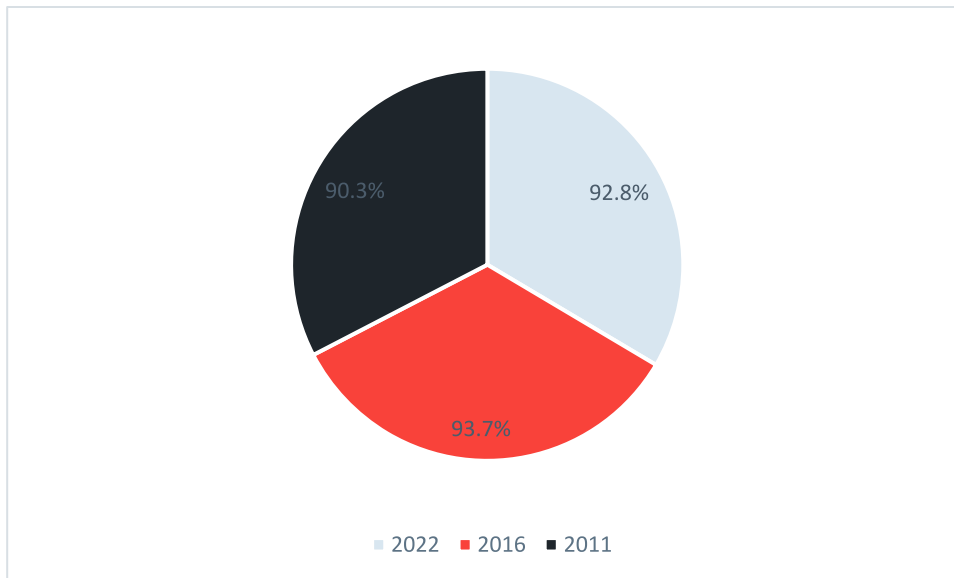


Figure 4-6 - Households Using Electricity for Lighting in Govan Mbeki Local Municipality, 2011–2022 (Census, 2022)

The IDP records that electricity access improved modestly to 92.8% (Govan Mbeki Municipality, 2026). The municipal planning framework identifies renewable-energy integration, including solar farms and microgrids, smart metering and utility-management systems, infrastructure asset-management systems and real-time utility-monitoring dashboards among the municipality's proposed infrastructure initiatives. These interventions are intended to support sustainable service delivery and strengthen the management and resilience of municipal infrastructure.

As shown in Table 4-4, electricity from the mains remains the dominant household lighting source. However, continued reliance by some households on candles, paraffin and other alternatives indicates the need for ongoing improvements in the accessibility, reliability and sustainability of electricity services.

Table 4-4 - Energy Sources Used for Lighting in Govan Mbeki Local Municipality (Census, 2022)

Energy Source	Percentage
Electricity from mains	92.8%
Gas	0.3%
Paraffin	1.2%
Candles	4.5%
Solar	1.0%
Other	0.1%
None	0.1%

4.4.7 HEALTH FACILITIES

Govan Mbeki Local Municipality is served by 22 healthcare facilities, comprising two district hospitals, two other hospitals, three community health centres, nine clinics, four other primary healthcare centres and two other health facilities. No national central, provincial tertiary, regional or specialised psychiatric and tuberculosis hospitals are recorded within the municipality. These facilities provide hospital and primary healthcare services to communities across Secunda, eMbalenhle, Bethal, Evander, Kinross, Leandra, Trichardt and the surrounding rural areas.

Access to healthcare facilities remains uneven across the municipality. The Integrated Development Plan indicates that communities located beyond approximately 5 km of a healthcare facility may experience accessibility difficulties (Govan Mbeki Municipality, 2026). Clinics serving Leandra, Kinross, Evander and eMbalenhle experience high patient demand, which has reportedly resulted in some patients being turned away. Mobile clinics serve farming areas but are not sufficient to cater for the entire rural population.

Municipal health conditions are influenced by communicable diseases, teenage pregnancy, disability and broader socioeconomic conditions. Govan Mbeki Local Municipality records approximately 644 teenage deliveries annually (Govan Mbeki Municipality, 2026). In addition, 162 disability cases were recorded in 2023/24, with eyeglasses representing the most commonly used assistive device (Govan Mbeki Municipality, 2026). These conditions indicate the importance of accessible reproductive healthcare, disability support and preventative health programmes.

HIV prevalence among young people between 15 and 24 years remains high, placing Govan Mbeki among the municipalities requiring targeted health interventions (Govan Mbeki Municipality, 2026). HIV prevalence among young people remained consistently elevated between 2020 and 2022, highlighting the need for sustained awareness, prevention, testing, treatment and healthcare-support programmes.

The municipality supports ongoing HIV/AIDS prevention, education and testing programmes and provides support for people requiring treatment and social assistance. Municipal interventions also include awareness relating to HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and sexually transmitted infections, support for people taking antiretroviral and tuberculosis medication, and the promotion of preventative measures through the Govan Mbeki Local AIDS Council and related programmes.

The health specialist assessment for the proposed Secunda Gas to Power Facility identified increased vulnerability to the health effects of air pollution among people aged 65 years and older within the receptor communities, based on available provincial mortality information. A similar pattern involving fewer causes was identified for children younger than 15 years. The specialist report notes that mortality data specific to the affected municipal wards are unavailable and that the finding therefore carries a degree of uncertainty.

Overall, Govan Mbeki Local Municipality has an established healthcare network, but the system remains affected by uneven spatial access, high patient demand, insufficient mobile-clinic coverage and continuing public-health concerns. These conditions are relevant to the SIA because older persons, children, people living with chronic illnesses, persons with disabilities and communities with limited access to healthcare may be more sensitive to project-related health and environmental changes.

4.4.8 HOUSEHOLDS

Govan Mbeki Local Municipality experienced substantial household growth between 2011 and 2022. The number of households increased from 83,869 in 2011 to 108,894 in 2016, before declining to 103,864 in 2022 (Municipalities of South Africa, 2026). Despite the decline between 2016 and 2022, the municipality had approximately 19 995 more households in 2022 than in 2011, reflecting long-term household growth and continued urbanisation.

During the same period, the average household size declined from 3,5 persons per household in 2011 to 3,1 in 2016 and 3,0 in 2022 (Municipalities of South Africa, 2026). This trend indicates a gradual shift towards smaller household units and changing household structures within the municipality. The increase in household numbers, despite relatively slow population growth, has implications for housing demand, municipal infrastructure and the provision of basic services.

As shown in Table 4-5, most households in Govan Mbeki Local Municipality live in formal dwellings, accounting for 86.4% of all households (Census, 2022). However, 12.1% of households reside in informal dwellings, while traditional and other dwelling types account for 1.1% and 0.3%, respectively (Census, 2022). Although formal housing is dominant, the proportion of informal dwellings indicates that housing vulnerability and demand for settlement upgrading remain important municipal considerations.

Table 4-5 - Dwelling Types in Govan Mbeki Local Municipality (Census, 2022)

Dwelling type	Percentage
Formal dwelling	86.4%
Traditional dwelling	1.1%
Informal dwelling	12.1%
Other	0.3%

The municipal IDP identifies housing and service-delivery pressures associated with changing settlement patterns and household growth. It also records that female-headed households accounted for approximately 44% of households, highlighting the importance of considering gender-related household vulnerability in municipal planning and social-impact assessment (Govan Mbeki Municipality, 2026).

4.4.9 ACCESS TO WASTE REMOVAL

Most households in Govan Mbeki Local Municipality have access to regular refuse-removal services. As shown in Table 4-6, 85.2% of households receive refuse collection from the local authority at least once a week. Smaller proportions rely on their own refuse dumps (5.7%), communal containers or central collection points (2.9%), less frequent municipal collection (2.3%) or communal refuse dumps (1.3%) (Census, 2022). Approximately 2.4% of households report having no rubbish-disposal service, while 0.3% use other disposal methods (Census, 2022).

The Govan Mbeki Municipality Integrated Development Plan indicates that weekly refuse collection declined from 91.7% of households in 2011 to 85.2% in 2022 and reports that approximately 12.5% of households remain without regular refuse-removal services (Govan Mbeki Municipality, 2026). This decline indicates continued service-delivery gaps, particularly in informal, peripheral and rural areas, and highlights the need to strengthen household waste collection and broader municipal waste-management capacity.

Table 4-6 - Waste Removal Access in Govan Mbeki Local Municipality (Census, 2022)

Waste-Removal Method	Percentage
Removed by local authority at least once a week	85.2%
Removed by local authority less often	2.3%
Communal refuse dump	1.3%
Communal container/central collection point	2.9%
Own refuse dump	5.7%
No rubbish disposal	2.4%

Waste-Removal Method	Percentage
Other	0.3%

4.4.10 ACCESS TO WATER AND SANITATION

Access to water services in Govan Mbeki Local Municipality is relatively high. As shown in Figure 4-7, 66.4% of households have piped water inside the dwelling, while 27.8% have access to piped water inside the yard (Census, 2022). A further 4.8% rely on community standpipes, while 1.0% of households report having no access to piped water (Census, 2022). These figures indicate that most households have access to piped water on their residential properties, although some households remain dependent on communal water infrastructure or have no piped-water access.

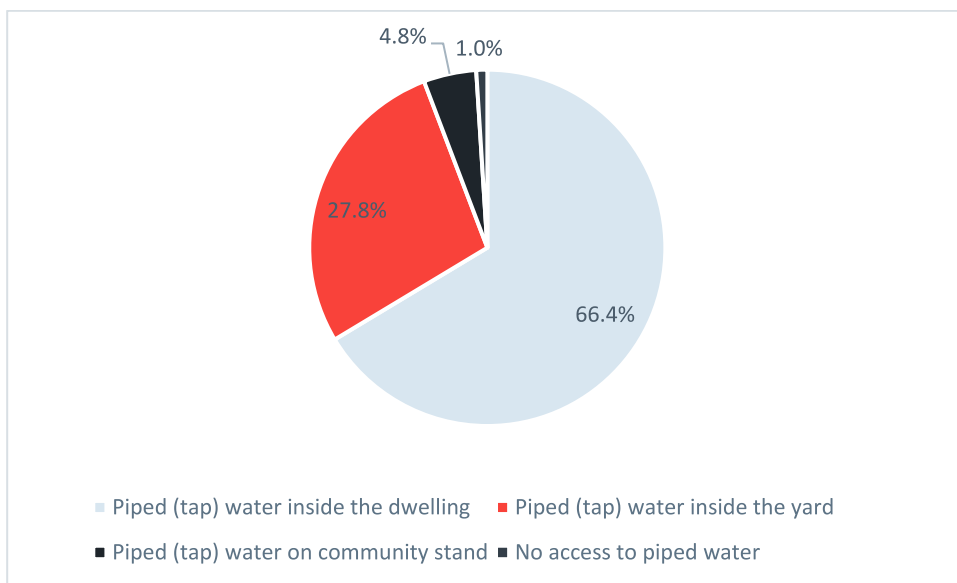


Figure 4-7 - Access to Piped Water in Govan Mbeki Local Municipality (Census, 2022)

The Govan Mbeki Municipality IDP indicates that the proportion of households with piped water inside the dwelling increased from 56.5% in 2011 to 66.4% in 2022 (Govan Mbeki Municipality, 2026). This improvement positioned Govan Mbeki as the best-performing municipality in Mpumalanga for this indicator. However, the continued reliance of some households on yard connections and community standpipes indicates the need for ongoing investment in water infrastructure and service delivery.

Sanitation access has also improved over time. The proportion of households with flush toilets connected to the sewerage system increased from 90.4% in 2011 to 92.0% in 2022, reflecting a marginal improvement in sanitation infrastructure (Govan Mbeki Municipality, 2026). The remaining households rely on alternative sanitation facilities or have no access to formal sanitation services.

Despite relatively high household access, the performance of bulk water and wastewater infrastructure remains relevant. The 2023 Blue Drop Risk Rating for Govan Mbeki's water-supply system was 40.8%, while the Green Drop Cumulative Risk Rating for wastewater-treatment

infrastructure was 60.7% (Govan Mbeki Municipality, 2026). These ratings indicate that continued attention to the operation, maintenance and performance of water and wastewater systems is required.

Overall, Govan Mbeki Local Municipality demonstrates comparatively strong household access to piped water and sanitation services. However, continued investment in bulk infrastructure, maintenance and service reliability remains important to address remaining access gaps and support existing and future demand.

4.4.11 SAFETY AND SECURITY

Safety and security services within Govan Mbeki Local Municipality are provided through police stations and related facilities serving Secunda, Bethal, eMbalenhle, Evander, Kinross, Leandra, Trichardt and surrounding settlements. The municipal IDP indicates that police facilities are generally located within an 8 km service buffer. However, this distance is not considered an ideal walking distance for residents living farther from police services and may constrain access to policing and emergency-response services in peripheral and rural areas. Two correctional facilities are also located in the Bethal area.

Crime remains a significant social concern within the municipality. The serious-crime rate decreased from 320 reported crimes per 10 000 residents in 2018/19 to 281 per 10 000 residents in 2022/23 (Govan Mbeki Municipality, 2026). Although this reflects an improvement, Govan Mbeki Local Municipality remains among the municipalities with the highest serious-crime rates in Mpumalanga, indicating a continued need for effective law enforcement and sustained crime-prevention interventions. IDP identifies violent crime, armed robbery, property-related crime and drug-related offences as prominent safety concerns and notes that drug and alcohol abuse is a growing concern, particularly in Secunda (Govan Mbeki Municipality, 2026).

Available municipal crime information records 9 512 serious and other crimes and 8 577 community-reported serious crimes (Govan Mbeki Municipality, 2026). Contact crimes accounted for 3 033 reported incidents, property-related crimes for 2 279 incidents, contact-related crimes for 470 incidents and robbery with aggravating circumstances for 420 incidents, as shown in Table 4-7.

Table 4-7 - Selected Crime Categories Reported in Govan Mbeki Local Municipality (Govan Mbeki Municipality, 2026)

Crime category	Reported incidents
Serious and other crimes	9 512
Community-reported serious crimes	8 577
Contact crimes	3 033
Property-related crimes	2 279
Contact-related crimes	470
Robbery with aggravating circumstances	420

The municipal IDP identifies increased policing and community-based crime-prevention programmes as important safety interventions. Continued attention is required because crime is influenced by wider social and economic pressures, including unemployment, poverty and substance abuse.

The safety context is relevant to the proposed Secunda Gas to Power Facility because construction activities, employment opportunities, contractor movements and procurement processes may create additional security requirements and community expectations. Appropriate access control, worker codes of conduct, coordination with existing security structures, transparent recruitment and procurement procedures, and accessible grievance mechanisms will be important during construction and operation.

4.4.12 GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE AND FEMICIDE (GBVF)

Gender-based violence and femicide (GBVF) remain significant social challenges in South Africa and are recognised as national priorities through the National Strategic Plan on Gender-Based Violence and Femicide 2020–2030 (Department of Women, Youth and Persons with Disabilities, 2020). The National Strategic Plan provides a coordinated framework for prevention, accountability, justice, survivor support, economic empowerment and research, with particular emphasis on protecting women, children and other vulnerable groups (Department of Women, Youth and Persons with Disabilities, 2020). It also promotes community-level rapid-response structures, awareness programmes and coordinated district-level service-delivery mechanisms.

GBVF is relevant to the social baseline because it disproportionately affects women, children and other vulnerable groups. Its occurrence may be influenced by wider socioeconomic conditions, including poverty, unemployment, inequality, substance abuse and limited access to appropriate support services. Within Gert Sibande District Municipality, GBVF is recognised as a significant social-development concern associated with gender inequality and broader cultural, economic, social and environmental factors. The district seeks to address GBVF through a coordinated and comprehensive multi-sectoral response.

The Govan Mbeki Municipality Integrated Development Plan identifies gender equality and GBVF prevention as important transversal social-development priorities. The municipality has a Gender Policy and plans to strengthen its response by relaunching the Govan Mbeki Women's Forum and Multiparty Women's Caucus, conducting GBVF-awareness campaigns and supporting gender parity in the workplace. The municipality's transversal programmes also provide for quarterly meetings of the Local AIDS Council and the Gender-Based Violence and Femicide Rapid Response Team.

The IDP does not provide a disaggregated GBVF prevalence rate for Govan Mbeki Local Municipality. The available information therefore supports identification of GBVF as an important municipal concern but does not provide a sufficient basis for quantifying its local prevalence. Accordingly, no prevalence figure is presented in this section.

GBVF is relevant to the proposed Secunda Gas to Power Facility because construction activities may introduce workers, contractors and additional movement around the Project area. Although a substantial labour influx is not currently anticipated due to the Project's location within an established industrial complex, worker-community interaction and unequal access to employment and procurement opportunities should still be appropriately managed.

The Project should therefore consider GBVF and related vulnerabilities in its stakeholder engagement, labour-management and community-health-and-safety measures. Relevant provisions should include worker codes of conduct, GBVF awareness and prevention, confidential and accessible grievance mechanisms, appropriate referral pathways for affected persons, and inclusive engagement with women and other vulnerable groups. These measures should align with existing municipal and district response structures where appropriate.

As shown in Figure 4-8, the prevalence of physical, emotional and sexual violence experienced by ever-partnered women in Mpumalanga Province remains a significant concern. Approximately 26% of ever-partnered women in the province reported having experienced physical violence by a partner, while 21% reported emotional violence and 7% reported sexual violence (Steve Tshwete Local Municipality, 2025). These provincial figures highlight the continued importance of GBVF prevention, awareness, survivor support and coordinated response interventions within the wider social context in which Govan Mbeki Local Municipality is located.

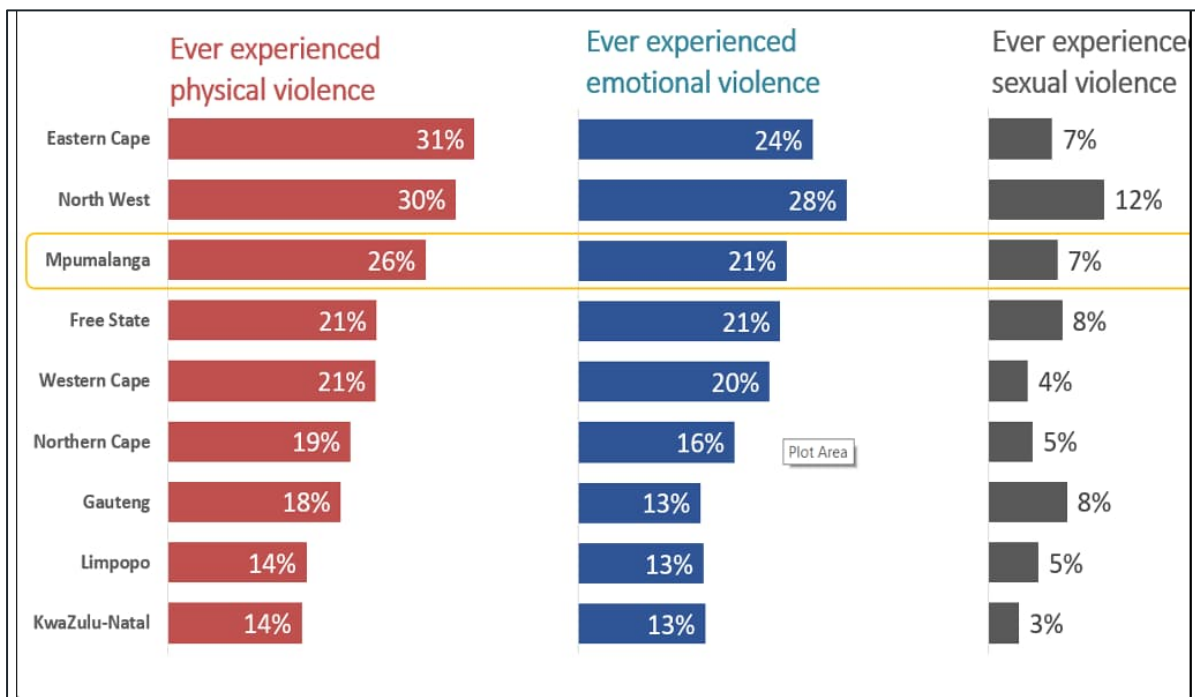


Figure 4-8 - Reported Prevalence of Physical, Emotional and Sexual Violence Experienced by Ever-Partnered Women by Province, Highlighting Mpumalanga Province (Steve Tshwete Local Municipality, 2025)

The information presented in Figure 4-8 represents provincial-level prevalence and should not be interpreted as a measure of GBVF prevalence specifically within Govan Mbeki Local Municipality. Nevertheless, it provides relevant context for understanding gender-related vulnerability within the broader provincial receiving environment. The municipal IDP identifies gender equality and GBVF prevention as transversal priorities and provides for awareness campaigns and coordination through the Gender-Based Violence and Femicide Rapid Response Team.

4.4.13 LIVELIHOODS

Livelihoods within Govan Mbeki Local Municipality are closely linked to its diversified industrial economy, which is driven primarily by petrochemical production, mining, manufacturing, trade and community services. The formal employment sector is supported by mining, manufacturing and trade, while informal economic activities remain important household-survival strategies. Agriculture and retail trade provide additional sources of employment and income, particularly outside the main urban-industrial areas. IDP identifies the petrochemical industry in Secunda and extensive coal- and gold-mining operations as central components of the municipal economy.

The Sasol Secunda Operations form an important component of the local livelihood system through direct employment, contractor expenditure, procurement opportunities and associated supply-chain linkages. Local businesses, transport operators, contractors and service providers may derive income directly or indirectly from petrochemical, mining and energy-related activities. However, the concentration of livelihoods within a limited number of large industrial sectors also increases household and business vulnerability to economic contraction, industrial restructuring and changes associated with the transition towards a lower-carbon economy.

Poverty and inequality remain important livelihood concerns. In 2022, approximately 37.1% of residents lived below the poverty line, while more than 60% of households were classified as poor (Govan Mbeki Municipality, 2026). Dependence on social grants has increased, and the municipal Human Development Index remained at 0.67 between 2019 and 2022, indicating limited progress in overall human development (Govan Mbeki Municipality, 2026). These conditions highlight the vulnerability of households that depend on unstable employment, informal economic activity and social assistance.

Informal settlements form part of the municipality's livelihood and housing context. Their growth is associated with historical spatial-planning inequalities, rapid urbanisation, housing backlogs and limited access to affordable, well-located and formally serviced land. Proximity to industrial employers in Secunda and mining operations attracts job seekers and migrant populations in search of employment and improved livelihoods. In some cases, informal occupation functions as a survival strategy where households cannot access the formal property market or secure affordable accommodation.

The growth of informal settlements places pressure on housing, water, sanitation, electricity, waste removal and other municipal services. Informal tenure may also increase household vulnerability where residents have uncertain occupation rights and limited access to formal infrastructure. IDP identifies a close spatial relationship between informal settlements and service-delivery backlogs within the district.

Economic diversification is therefore important for strengthening livelihood resilience within Govan Mbeki Local Municipality. The municipal IDP identifies opportunities in renewable energy, tourism, agricultural expansion and agro-processing, together with education, training and skills development. Supporting these sectors may broaden the municipal economic base and reduce long-term dependence on mining, petrochemicals and manufacturing.

The proposed Secunda Gas to Power Facility may contribute to local livelihoods through employment, skills development, procurement and demand for supporting goods and services during construction and operation. However, the extent and duration of these benefits will depend on the Project's final labour requirements, procurement arrangements and the ability of local workers

and businesses to meet technical, commercial and safety requirements. Transparent recruitment and procurement processes will be required to manage expectations and promote equitable access to livelihood opportunities.

4.4.14 VULNERABLE GROUPS

Vulnerability within the study area is influenced by a combination of socioeconomic conditions, demographic characteristics, health status and access to livelihood opportunities and essential services. Vulnerable groups generally include individuals and households that may be disproportionately affected by social, economic or environmental changes and that may have a reduced capacity to adapt to adverse circumstances.

Within Govan Mbeki Local Municipality, vulnerable groups include unemployed and economically inactive persons, low-income households, youth, women, children, older persons, persons with disabilities, people living with or affected by HIV/AIDS, and households with limited access to healthcare and municipal services. The municipality recognises gender equality, youth and child development, disability rights and empowerment, HIV/AIDS and the welfare of older persons as important transversal issues requiring targeted support and advocacy.

Unemployment and poverty are important sources of vulnerability within the municipality. Youth unemployment was recorded at 43.8% in 2022, while female unemployment reached 36.0%. These conditions may limit access to stable income and increase dependence on informal economic activities, household support and social grants. Young people may be particularly vulnerable to skills shortages, limited work experience and difficulty accessing sustainable employment opportunities. Women and female-headed households may experience additional vulnerability associated with unemployment, income inequality, caregiving responsibilities and Gender-Based Violence and Femicide.

Children and older persons may be particularly sensitive to public-health and environmental changes. Children accounted for 25.4% of the municipal population in 2022, while persons aged 65 years and older accounted for 4.7%. The health specialist assessment found no unusual concentration of young or older people within the receptor wards compared with the broader municipality. However, children and older persons remain inherently more vulnerable to the health effects of air pollution and should be considered during the assessment of community-health impacts.

Persons with disabilities may experience barriers to employment, education, healthcare, public facilities and participation in decision-making. Govan Mbeki Local Municipality has a functional Disability Forum, while disability matters are managed through the municipal transversal structure. Planned municipal interventions include improving access to assistive devices and employment opportunities, conducting campaigns to address discrimination, and providing life-skills and entrepreneurship programmes for persons with disabilities.

The municipality further provides for programmes aimed at promoting youth development, training, skills development, employment opportunities and participation in municipal decision-making. Its programmes for women and older persons include gender-equality awareness, empowerment initiatives, protection of the rights of older persons and assistance with access to government grants

and healthcare services. HIV/AIDS programmes focus on prevention, education, testing, treatment support and coordination through the Govan Mbeki Local AIDS Council.

The proposed Secunda Gas to Power Facility should consider the needs and concerns of vulnerable groups throughout stakeholder engagement, impact assessment and the development of mitigation and enhancement measures. Engagement processes should be inclusive and accessible, with particular attention given to groups that may experience barriers to participation or unequal access to Project information, employment, training and procurement opportunities. Potential community-health, safety and environmental effects should also be assessed with consideration of children, older persons, persons with disabilities and people with pre-existing health conditions.

5 SOCIAL SENSITIVITY ASSESSMENT

The purpose of the Social Sensitivity Assessment is to identify settlements, communities and social receptors that may be affected by the proposed Secunda Gas to Power Facility and to determine the relative social sensitivity of the receiving environment. Social sensitivity is influenced by the presence of residential areas, population concentrations, community facilities, vulnerable groups and the proximity of social receptors to the proposed development footprint.

The identification of sensitive social receptors is based on the spatial extent of the proposed Project and the distribution of surrounding settlements, community facilities and infrastructure within defined zones of influence. The distribution of receptors within 1 km, 3 km and 5 km of the proposed Project is illustrated in Figure 5-1, which shows the location of health and educational facilities in relation to the Project area. The map should be read as a spatial screening tool rather than a complete inventory of all social facilities within the wider area.

The proposed Project is located within the existing Sasol Secunda Operations and is therefore situated within an established industrial environment. The immediate receiving environment is characterised by industrial infrastructure, service corridors, storage and operational areas, artificial water bodies, disturbed land and agricultural properties. Residential areas within Secunda become more prominent towards the northern part of the 3 km and 5 km assessment zones.

The Project comprises more than the approximately 5 ha Gas to Power Facility footprint. Associated infrastructure includes alternative Liquefied Natural Gas pipeline routes, preliminary Methane Rich Gas pipeline routes, electrical infrastructure, water-treatment infrastructure, access roads and utility connections. The final area of influence may therefore extend beyond the immediate facility footprint, particularly along infrastructure routes and construction-access corridors.

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5.1 PRIMARY RECEPTORS (WITHIN 1 KM)

The area within 1 km of the proposed Project footprint is dominated by the existing Sasol Secunda industrial complex. The social receptor map does not indicate a formal residential settlement or school within this zone. One health facility is mapped within the industrial complex.

Sensitive receptors and features within this zone include:

- the existing health facility within Sasol Secunda Operations;
- Sasol employees, contractors and other persons working within the operational area;
- existing industrial and utility infrastructure;
- operational roads and access routes;
- pipeline and service corridors;
- storage, processing and material-handling areas;
- artificial water bodies and drainage infrastructure; and
- disturbed and transformed land within the industrial footprint.

Potential effects within the 1 km zone are expected to relate mainly to the interface between construction activities and existing Sasol operations. Relevant considerations include worker health and safety, internal traffic movements, access restrictions, interaction with existing infrastructure, noise, dust, emergency preparedness and possible temporary disruption of operational movement.

Given the established industrial character of the area and the absence of formal residential settlements within the 1 km zone, direct impacts on surrounding residential communities are expected to be limited. However, the presence of workers, contractors and a health facility means that the zone cannot be regarded as socially insensitive.

5.2 SECONDARY RECEPTORS (WITHIN 3 KM)

The 3 km zone remains predominantly industrial and includes the wider Sasol Secunda Operations, associated infrastructure, disturbed land, artificial water bodies, transport routes and agricultural properties. The northern part of this zone approaches the southern edge of the Secunda urban area.

The social receptor map indicates a health facility and an educational facility within or near this zone. Residential development becomes more evident towards the northern boundary, where the industrial landscape begins to interface with the southern parts of Secunda.

Sensitive receptors and features within the 3 km zone include:

- workers and contractors within the broader Sasol Secunda Operations;
- a health facility serving the industrial or surrounding area;
- an educational facility near the northern industrial-urban interface;
- residential properties along the southern edge of Secunda;
- local and internal access roads;
- existing industrial, utility and pipeline infrastructure;
- agricultural properties and open land outside the main industrial footprint; and
- environmental features and artificial water bodies within the wider industrial landscape.

Potential social impacts within this zone may include increased construction traffic, road-safety risks, noise and dust nuisance, temporary access disruption, community-health-and-safety concerns and

perceptions regarding additional industrial development. The effects experienced within this zone will depend on the final infrastructure layout, pipeline routes, access arrangements and findings of the traffic, air-quality, noise, health and visual specialist studies.

The baseline traffic information notes that public transport is available near the site and assumes that workers from nearby areas would be transported to the Project site by shuttle buses or similar contractor-organised services during construction. These arrangements will be relevant when assessing traffic, worker transport and road-safety impacts.

5.3 TERTIARY RECEPTORS (WITHIN 5 KM)

The 5 km zone contains the greatest concentration of residential and community receptors shown on the social receptor map. It includes a substantial portion of Secunda to the north and northeast of the proposed Project, together with the southern edge of Trichardt near the outer part of the assessment area.

The map identifies several educational facilities within the Secunda urban area, as well as a health facility situated north of the Project. An additional educational facility is shown towards the western part of the 5 km zone. Residential neighbourhoods, local roads and community infrastructure within Secunda therefore represent the principal community receptors within the broader social area of influence.

Sensitive receptors within the 5 km zone include:

- residential communities within Secunda;
- the southern edge of Trichardt;
- educational facilities within and around Secunda;
- health facilities serving the surrounding population;
- local roads and transport routes used by residents and school learners;
- agricultural properties and open land surrounding the industrial complex;
- businesses and economic activities within Secunda;
- artificial water bodies, drainage features and open-space areas; and
- receptors potentially affected by the final pipeline and supporting-infrastructure routes

Potential effects within this zone are expected to be less direct than those within the immediate industrial area. They may include construction traffic and road-safety risks, changes in environmental quality, community perceptions, employment and procurement expectations and cumulative effects associated with the existing industrial environment.

The baseline air-quality information identifies residential, educational, health, religious and hospitality receptors in the wider area surrounding the Project, although several of the individually listed receptors occur beyond the 5 km social assessment zone. The health specialist study applies a broader provisional 25 km receptor area for health-risk purposes, subject to refinement using the air-dispersion modelling domain. This broader technical study area should not be confused with the 1 km, 3 km and 5 km zones used to describe the immediate social interface.

5.4 SOCIAL SENSITIVITY SUMMARY

The spatial distribution of receptors indicates that the proposed Secunda Gas to Power Facility is located within an industrial receiving environment, but that residential communities and community facilities occur within the broader 3 km and 5 km assessment zones. The immediate 1 km zone contains no mapped formal residential settlement or school and is dominated by existing Sasol infrastructure and industrial activities. Social sensitivity within this zone primarily relates to workers, contractors, the mapped health facility, internal roads and the interface with existing operations.

Sensitivity increases towards the northern part of the 3 km zone, where the industrial area begins to interface with the southern edge of Secunda. The 5 km zone is the most socially sensitive because it includes residential neighbourhoods, several educational facilities, health infrastructure, businesses and local roads within Secunda, together with the southern edge of Trichardt.

Potential community exposure should therefore not be assessed solely on the basis that the Project is situated on a brownfield industrial site. The Project may generate incremental effects within an environment already influenced by industrial activities, transport movements and associated environmental pressures. The assessment must distinguish between existing conditions, temporary construction-related changes and the additional operational contribution of the proposed Project.

Based on the receptor map, the receiving environment is considered to exhibit an overall moderate level of social sensitivity. Sensitivity is comparatively low to moderate within the immediate industrial footprint but increases to moderate and locally high towards the residential and community-facility concentrations within Secunda. No social fatal flaw is evident from the receptor map at the Scoping Phase. However, this conclusion remains subject to verification of the final facility layout, pipeline routes, construction-access arrangements and specialist findings during the EIA Phase.

The detailed SIA should focus particularly on:

- workers and the health facility within the immediate industrial area;
- schools, health facilities and residential neighbourhoods towards Secunda;
- construction and operational traffic routes;
- community health and safety;
- incremental noise and air-quality effects;
- visual and sense-of-place effects;
- employment and procurement expectations;
- worker-community interaction;
- cumulative effects associated with the existing industrial complex; and
- receptors situated along the final LNG and MRG pipeline routes.

6 IDENTIFICATION AND HIGH-LEVEL SCREENING OF IMPACTS

Potential social impacts associated with the proposed Secunda Gas to Power Facility were identified based on the project description, the nature of the proposed construction, operational and decommissioning activities, and the presence of communities and social receptors within the Project's area of influence. The assessment considers potential direct, indirect and induced effects on surrounding communities, workers, road users, local businesses, municipal services and other social receptors.

The proposed Project will be developed within the existing Sasol Secunda Operations industrial complex. The social impact screening therefore considers the impacts already experienced within the receiving environment and the additional or incremental social effects that may arise from the proposed Project. Potential impacts have not been identified through the automatic application of a standard impact checklist but have been screened against the Project's specific activities, existing industrial setting and surrounding social receptors.

The Project includes a Combined Cycle Gas Turbine power-generation facility with a capacity of approximately 778.6 MW to 800.6 MW, Liquefied Natural Gas and Methane Rich Gas pipelines, raw-water treatment and storage infrastructure, demineralised-water storage, fire-water storage, emissions stacks, a short 132 kV powerline, internal access roads and utility connections. Two alternative Liquefied Natural Gas pipeline routes are also under consideration.

The approved construction activities considered in the screening include site preparation and establishment, transport of components and equipment to the site, excavation and earthworks, establishment of ancillary infrastructure and rehabilitation. These activities provide the basis for identifying the potential social-impact pathways associated with the construction phase.

The social baseline and Social Sensitivity Assessment identify workers, surrounding residential communities, educational facilities, health facilities, transport routes and other social receptors that may be affected directly or indirectly by the proposed Project. The immediate 1 km zone is dominated by existing industrial activities, while sensitivity increases towards the northern portions of the 3 km and 5 km zones, where the industrial area interfaces with residential neighbourhoods and community facilities in Secunda.

Particular consideration is given to:

- workers and contractors within Sasol Secunda Operations;
- the health facility identified within the immediate industrial area;
- residential communities within Secunda and towards Trichardt;
- educational and health facilities within the wider area of influence;
- road users and receptors along construction and operational transport routes;
- properties and activities potentially affected by the final pipeline routes;
- local businesses and potential suppliers;
- vulnerable groups identified in the socioeconomic baseline; and
- receptors already exposed to existing industrial and transport-related effects.

Potential social impacts will be considered for the construction, operational and decommissioning phases. The findings of the relevant Air Quality, Traffic, Health, Aquatic, Terrestrial, Visual and Climate Change specialist studies will be incorporated where they establish clear social-impact pathways affecting community wellbeing, safety, livelihoods, access, environmental quality or sense of place.

6.1 IMPACT ASSESSMENT METHODOLOGY

Appendix 2 of GNR 982, as amended, requires the identification of the significance of potential impacts during scoping. To this end, an impact screening tool has been used in the Scoping Phase. The screening tool is based on two criteria, namely probability and consequence Table 6-1, where the latter is based on general consideration of the intensity, extent and duration.

The scales and descriptors used for scoring probability and consequence are presented in Table 6-2 and

Table 6-3 respectively. The probability of occurrence is assessed on a scale ranging from Improbable to Definite, while consequence is assessed on a scale ranging from Negligible to Very Severe for negative impacts and from Negligible to Very Beneficial for positive impacts.

The significance of an impact is determined through application of the significance screening tool presented in

Table 6-4. The significance ratings used during the Scoping Phase are:

- Very Low
- Low
- Medium
- High
- Very High

The nature of the impact is further characterised as either positive (+ve), where the impact is considered beneficial, or negative (-ve), where the impact is considered adverse to the receiving environment or affected receptor. For ease of reference, a colour reference system (

Table 6-4) has been applied according to the nature and significance of the identified impacts.

The screening assessment presented in this report has been undertaken on a pre-mitigation basis. High-level mitigation and enhancement measures are identified for consideration during the EIA Phase; however, these measures have not been applied to reduce the Scoping Phase significance ratings. This approach is consistent with the specialist requirements for the project.

The impact screening considers the construction, operational and decommissioning phases of the proposed Secunda Gas to Power Facility. It also considers:

- existing conditions within the Sasol Secunda industrial complex;
- the incremental contribution of the proposed Project;
- direct, indirect and induced social effects;
- impacts on surrounding communities and sensitive social receptors;
- impacts affecting workers, road users, businesses and municipal services;
- cumulative social effects associated with existing and reasonably foreseeable activities;
- the implications of the Project alternatives; and
- information requiring further assessment during the EIA Phase.

Table 6-1 - Probability Scores and Descriptors

Score	Descriptor
4	Definite: The impact will occur regardless of any prevention measures
3	Highly Probable: It is most likely that the impact will occur
2	Probable: There is a good possibility that the impact will occur

1	Improbable: The possibility of the impact occurring is very low
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Table 6-2 - Consequence Score Descriptions

Score	Negative	Positive
4	Very severe: An irreversible and permanent change to the affected system(s) or party(ies) which cannot be mitigated.	Very beneficial: A permanent and very substantial benefit to the affected system(s) or party(ies), with no real alternative to achieving this benefit.
3	Severe: A long-term impact on the affected system(s) or party(ies) that could be mitigated. However, this mitigation would be difficult, expensive or time-consuming, or some combination of these.	Beneficial: A long-term impact and substantial benefit to the affected system(s) or party(ies). Alternative ways of achieving this benefit would be difficult, expensive or time-consuming, or some combination of these.
2	Moderately severe: A medium to long term impacts on the affected system(s) or party (ies) that could be mitigated.	Moderately beneficial: A medium to long term impact of real benefit to the affected system(s) or party(ies). Other ways of optimising the beneficial effects are equally difficult, expensive and time consuming (or some combination of these), as achieving them in this way.
1	Negligible: A short to medium-term impact on the affected system(s) or party(ies). Mitigation is very easy, cheap, less time-consuming, or not necessary.	Negligible: A short to medium-term impact and negligible benefit to the affected system(s) or party(ies). Other ways of optimising the beneficial effects are easier, cheaper and quicker, or some combination of these.

Table 6-3 - Significance Screening Tool

		CONSEQUENCE SCALE			
Probability Scale		1	2	3	4
	1	Very Low	Very Low	Low	Medium
	2	Very Low	Low	Medium	Medium
	3	Low	Medium	Medium	High
	4	Medium	Medium	High	Very High

Table 6-4 - Impact Significance Colour Reference System to Indicate the Nature of the Impact

NEGATIVE IMPACTS (-VE)	POSITIVE IMPACTS (+VE)
Negligible	Negligible
Very Low	Very Low
Low	Low
Medium	Medium
High	High
Very High	Very High

6.2 CONSTRUCTION PHASE

The construction process will follow industry-standard methods and techniques. Key activities associated with the construction phase include site preparation and establishment, transport of components and equipment to site, excavation and earthworks, establishment of ancillary infrastructure and rehabilitation. Site establishment will include clearing of the footprint of the GtP Facility, establishment of the temporary laydown area and construction camp, installation of temporary services, and the mobilisation of plant, equipment and personnel. Bulk materials, infrastructure components and construction equipment will be sourced and transported to site via suitable national and provincial routes and designated access roads. Ancillary infrastructure will include temporary offices, storage areas and workshop facilities for contractor equipment. Once construction activities have been completed, temporary construction areas will be rehabilitated.

Potential construction-phase impacts include both beneficial socioeconomic opportunities and adverse impacts on workers, surrounding communities, road users, local businesses, municipal services and other social receptors. The assessment considers that construction activities will occur predominantly within the existing Sasol Secunda Operations industrial complex and that many impacts will therefore occur within an established industrial environment.

6.2.1 TEMPORARY EMPLOYMENT AND HOUSEHOLD INCOME GENERATION

Construction of the proposed Secunda Gas to Power Facility will require skilled, semi-skilled and unskilled workers. The Project may therefore create temporary employment opportunities for people residing within Govan Mbeki Local Municipality and the broader Gert Sibande District Municipality, subject to the labour and skills requirements of the Project.

Employment may increase household income and support expenditure on food, transport, accommodation and other goods and services. This potential benefit is particularly relevant within a municipal context characterised by high unemployment, especially amongst youth and women.

The probability is rated 4 (Definite) because construction activities cannot proceed without a workforce. The consequence is rated 2 (Moderately Beneficial) because employment may provide temporary improvements to household income and livelihoods but is largely associated with the construction period. The resulting significance is Medium.

6.2.2 LOCAL PROCUREMENT AND BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

The construction phase may create opportunities for local contractors, suppliers and service providers. These opportunities may include transport services, equipment hire, catering, accommodation, security, maintenance, waste services and the supply of construction materials and general goods and services.

Procurement expenditure may support existing businesses and stimulate economic activity within Govan Mbeki Local Municipality. However, participation by local businesses will depend on their ability to satisfy the technical, commercial, quality and safety requirements associated with the Project.

The probability is rated 3 (Highly Probable) because construction activities will require goods and services. The consequence is rated 2 (Moderately Beneficial) because procurement expenditure may provide a meaningful economic benefit but is not expected to constitute a permanent benefit. The resulting significance is Medium.

6.2.3 SKILLS DEVELOPMENT AND WORK EXPERIENCE

Construction activities may provide workers with technical experience, practical training and exposure to industrial-scale infrastructure development. Relevant construction activities may include installation of the Gas to Power Facility, pipeline infrastructure, electrical works, water-treatment facilities and supporting utilities.

The approved project description identifies employment, skills application and skills transition opportunities across the project lifecycle, particularly within an area that already possesses a strong industrial skills base.

The probability is rated 3 (Highly Probable) because practical experience and technical exposure are likely to arise during construction. The consequence is rated 2 (Moderately Beneficial) because transferable skills may improve future employability beyond the construction phase. The resulting significance is Medium.

6.2.4 EMPLOYMENT AND PROCUREMENT EXPECTATIONS

The announcement and development of the Project may create expectations regarding employment, training, supplier participation and other economic benefits. These expectations may be heightened by local unemployment, poverty and economic pressures.

Should available opportunities be fewer than anticipated, or if recruitment and procurement procedures are perceived as unclear or unfair, dissatisfaction may arise. This could result in complaints, conflict between local and non-local job seekers, reputational risks or disruption of project activities.

The probability is rated 3 (Highly Probable) because major infrastructure projects are commonly associated with economic expectations. The consequence is rated 2 (Moderately Severe) because dissatisfaction could persist throughout the construction period and may require active communication and grievance management. The resulting significance is Medium.

6.2.5 INFLUX OF JOB SEEKERS AND NON-LOCAL WORKERS

Employment opportunities may attract job seekers from outside the immediate project area, and specialist workers may be required where particular skills are unavailable locally.

However, the Project is located within an established industrial complex and municipality with an existing industrial workforce. The Health Assessment specifically indicates that a significant influx of people settling in the area due to construction and operation of the Project is not foreseen (Van Niekerk, 2026). Furthermore, it is anticipated that workers from nearby areas will be transported to the Project site by shuttle buses or similar contractor-managed transport services.

The probability is rated 1 (Improbable) because some non-local labour may be required, but a significant influx is not anticipated. The consequence is rated 2 (Moderately Severe) because unmanaged influx could create social pressures should it occur. The resulting significance is Very Low.

6.2.6 PRESSURE ON HOUSING, MUNICIPAL SERVICES AND SOCIAL INFRASTRUCTURE

An increase in workers or job seekers could potentially increase demand for housing, transport, healthcare, water, sanitation and other municipal services.

However, the Health Assessment indicates that a significant influx of people settling in the area is not anticipated, while contractor-managed transport arrangements further reduce the likelihood of significant pressure on housing and services (Van Niekerk, 2026).

The probability is rated 1 (Improbable) because substantial pressure on services is not expected. The consequence is rated 1 (Negligible) because any increase in demand is likely to be limited and manageable. The resulting significance is Very Low.

6.2.7 INCREASED TRAFFIC AND ROAD-SAFETY RISKS

Construction will require the movement of workers, construction materials, infrastructure components, heavy machinery and abnormal loads. The Traffic Impact Assessment identifies construction as the peak traffic period and estimates that the Project may generate between 100 and 200 daily construction trips, consisting of approximately 50–100 light vehicle trips and 50–100 heavy vehicle trips per day.

Heavy vehicles, abnormal loads and worker transport may increase traffic volumes and road-safety risks along routes utilised to access Sasol Secunda Operations. Construction traffic may affect road users, surrounding communities, educational facilities, health facilities and other socially sensitive receptors identified in the social baseline and sensitivity assessment.

The probability is rated 4 (Definite) because workers, equipment and materials must be transported to and from the construction site. The consequence is rated 2 (Moderately Severe) because increased traffic may increase safety risks and temporarily affect transport conditions, although these impacts are generally manageable through traffic controls and route planning. The resulting significance is Medium.

6.2.8 DUST NUISANCE AFFECTING SURROUNDING COMMUNITIES

Construction activities such as site clearing, excavation, earthworks, stockpiling, material handling and vehicle movement on exposed surfaces may generate dust. The Project is located within a region already experiencing elevated particulate matter concentrations and existing air-quality challenges associated with the Highveld Priority Area. Ambient monitoring records indicate that PM10 and PM2.5 exceedances already occur within the broader receiving environment.

Dust may affect workers, road users and surrounding receptors and may generate complaints regarding environmental quality and amenity. The Air Quality Assessment identifies construction-phase air-quality impacts as Low significance.

The probability is rated 3 (Highly Probable) because dust will be generated by several construction activities. The consequence is rated 1 (Negligible) because impacts are expected to be temporary, localised and manageable through dust-control measures. The resulting significance is Low.

6.2.9 NOISE NUISANCE AFFECTING SURROUNDING COMMUNITIES

Construction equipment, excavation activities, heavy vehicles, material handling and general construction operations may increase noise levels. The Project is located within an existing industrial environment where industrial noise sources already occur. However, temporary increases in noise levels may affect workers and receptors situated near construction routes and areas where construction activities occur.

The probability is rated 3 (Highly Probable) because construction activities are expected to generate noise. The consequence is rated 1 (Negligible) because impacts are anticipated to be temporary and largely confined to an existing industrial setting. The resulting significance is Low.

6.2.10 COMMUNITY HEALTH AND SAFETY RISKS

Construction activities may create hazards associated with heavy vehicles, construction machinery, excavations, pipelines, electrical works, temporary storage areas and restricted-access areas. Although construction will largely occur within the controlled Sasol Secunda Operations area, community-health-and-safety risks remain relevant at access points, transport routes and interfaces between project activities and the public environment. The Health Assessment identifies children and elderly persons as particularly vulnerable population groups.

The probability is rated 3 (Highly Probable) because interactions between traffic, workers, equipment and the surrounding environment are likely during construction. The consequence is rated 2 (Moderately Severe) because incidents could affect workers or members of the public and require active management. The resulting significance is Medium.

6.2.11 WORKER-COMMUNITY INTERACTION AND POTENTIAL SOCIAL CONFLICT

Interactions between project workers, job seekers and surrounding communities may generate both positive and negative outcomes. Potential issues may include employment-related disputes, perceptions of unfair recruitment practices, inappropriate worker conduct and conflict between local and non-local job seekers. The Project's location within an established industrial complex and the expectation that workers will be transported to site reduces the likelihood of significant worker-community interaction.

The probability is rated 1 (Improbable) because significant worker-community conflict is not expected. The consequence is rated 2 (Moderately Severe) because such conflict could affect community relations if not appropriately managed. The resulting significance is Very Low.

6.2.12 TEMPORARY DISRUPTION OF ACCESS AND MOVEMENT

The resulting significance is Very Low.

Construction vehicles, temporary traffic controls, security arrangements and pipeline installation activities may affect movement within Sasol Secunda Operations and along construction-access routes.

The Project will make use of existing roads and disturbed areas where feasible, reducing the likelihood of substantial disruption. Nevertheless, temporary restrictions may be required in some locations.

The probability is rated 2 (Probable) because temporary restrictions may be required during construction. The consequence is rated 1 (Negligible) because impacts are expected to be temporary and localised. The resulting significance is Very Low.

6.2.13 SUMMARY OF CONSTRUCTION PHASE IMPACTS

The construction-phase social impacts identified during the Scoping Phase include both beneficial and adverse effects. Positive impacts are primarily associated with temporary employment, local procurement and skills development opportunities. Potential adverse impacts relate to employment

expectations, traffic and road-safety risks, dust and noise nuisance, community health and safety risks and temporary disruption of access and movement. The significance ratings assigned to these impacts are based on a pre-mitigation assessment and are summarised in Table 6-5.

Table 6-5 - Construction Phase Social Impact Screening

Impact	Nature	Probability Score	Consequence Score	Pre-mitigation Significance
Temporary employment and household income generation	Positive	4	2	Medium
Local procurement and business opportunities	Positive	3	2	Medium
Skills development and work experience	Positive	3	2	Medium
Employment and procurement expectations	Negative	3	2	Medium
Influx of job seekers and non-local workers	Negative	1	2	Very Low
Pressure on housing, municipal services and social infrastructure	Negative	1	1	Very Low
Increased traffic and road-safety risks	Negative	4	2	Medium
Dust nuisance affecting surrounding communities	Negative	3	1	Low
Noise nuisance affecting surrounding communities	Negative	3	1	Low
Community health and safety risks	Negative	3	2	Medium
Worker-community interaction and potential social conflict	Negative	1	2	Very Low
Temporary disruption of access and movement	Negative	2	1	Very Low

6.2.14 HIGH-LEVEL MITIGATION AND ENHANCEMENT MEASURES

The following high-level measures are recommended to avoid, minimise or manage potential social impacts associated with the construction phase. These measures are intended to guide the detailed assessment and development of site-specific mitigation during the EIA Phase. The significance ratings presented during the Scoping Phase remain pre-mitigation.

6.2.14.1 EMPLOYMENT AND PROCUREMENT

- Prioritise local recruitment where suitably qualified candidates are available.
- Implement transparent and fair recruitment procedures.
- Clearly communicate available job opportunities, qualification requirements and recruitment processes.
- Promote local procurement and supplier participation where feasible.
- Manage community expectations regarding employment and procurement opportunities.
- Provide accessible information regarding available opportunities.
- Encourage skills transfer and training opportunities where possible.

6.2.14.2 WORKER INFLUX AND COMMUNITY RELATIONS

- Develop and implement a worker code of conduct.
- Inform workers of expected behaviour when interacting with communities.
- Maintain communication with affected communities throughout construction.
- Establish and maintain an accessible stakeholder grievance mechanism.
- Manage worker accommodation arrangements appropriately where required.
- Monitor and address grievances relating to workforce behaviour.

6.2.14.3 TRAFFIC AND ROAD SAFETY

- Develop and implement a Traffic Management Plan.
- Utilise approved access routes where feasible.
- Implement vehicle speed controls and driver awareness programmes.
- Install appropriate warning signage along transport routes.
- Coordinate transport activities to avoid unnecessary congestion.
- Communicate major transport activities to affected communities where appropriate.

6.2.14.4 DUST AND NOISE MANAGEMENT

- Implement dust suppression measures on exposed surfaces and haul roads.
- Cover transported material where appropriate.
- Minimise unnecessary disturbance of exposed soil.
- Restrict noisy activities to reasonable working hours where feasible.
- Maintain equipment and machinery in good operating condition.
- Respond to complaints relating to dust and noise in a timely manner.

6.2.14.5 COMMUNITY HEALTH AND SAFETY

- Implement a Community Health and Safety Management Plan.
- Restrict unauthorised access to construction areas.
- Clearly demarcate hazardous work areas.
- Maintain emergency preparedness and response procedures.
- Inform surrounding communities of activities that may affect their safety.
- Maintain safe access along roads and transport routes.

6.2.14.6 ACCESS AND LAND USE

- Maintain community access wherever feasible.
- Provide advance notice of temporary access restrictions.
- Minimise disturbance outside approved construction footprints.
- Avoid physical and economic displacement wherever reasonably possible.
- Prioritise utilisation of existing Sasol-owned disturbed areas and existing industrial infrastructure corridors where feasible.

6.3 OPERATIONAL PHASE

During operation, the proposed Secunda Gas to Power Facility may generate socioeconomic benefits through employment, skills development, procurement expenditure, energy security and continued economic activity. Potential adverse impacts relate mainly to operational traffic, air quality, community health and safety, environmental quality perceptions, climate-related considerations and the distribution of project benefits.

The proposed facility will generate electricity using Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG), with Methane-Rich Gas (MRG) considered as a back-up feed. The facility will operate within the existing Sasol Secunda Operations and will form part of the broader energy-transition initiatives aimed at improving energy security, operational efficiency and supporting a lower-carbon energy future.

6.3.1 RETENTION OR CREATION OF OPERATIONAL EMPLOYMENT

Operation of the Secunda Gas to Power Facility will require personnel with appropriate technical, operational, maintenance, safety and administrative skills. The Project may create specialised employment opportunities associated with gas-to-power generation, plant operation, maintenance activities and supporting functions.

The approved Project Description identifies long-term employment opportunities associated with the operation and maintenance of the facility and notes that large-scale energy infrastructure projects provide opportunities for employment, skills application and skills transition within an established industrial skills base.

The probability is rated 4, Definite, because workers will be required to operate and maintain the facility. The consequence is rated 2, Moderately Beneficial, because the employment opportunities may provide a genuine medium- to long-term benefit, although operational workforce numbers have not yet been confirmed. The resulting significance is Medium.

6.3.2 SKILLS DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER AND CAPACITY BUILDING

The Project may provide opportunities for workers to develop specialised skills associated with gas-to-power technology, power-generation operations, maintenance systems, engineering, process control and operational safety.

The approved Project Description identifies the importance of skills transfer and the development of skills relevant to power generation, process engineering, mechanical maintenance and industrial operations within the broader Just Energy Transition context.

The probability is rated 4, Definite, because operational training and technical expertise will be required to operate the facility safely and effectively. The consequence is rated 2, Moderately Beneficial, because transferable skills may provide medium- to long-term benefits beyond the life of the Project. The resulting significance is Medium.

6.3.3 LOCAL PROCUREMENT AND ECONOMIC STIMULATION

Operation of the facility will generate ongoing demand for maintenance services, security, transport, equipment, consumables and other support services. This may create opportunities for local contractors, suppliers and service providers and contribute to economic activity within Govan Mbeki Local Municipality and the broader district. Operational procurement is expected to be smaller in scale than construction procurement but may continue throughout the operational life of the facility.

The probability is rated 3, Highly Probable, because operation of the facility will require ongoing goods and services. The consequence is rated 2, Moderately Beneficial, because procurement expenditure may provide sustained economic benefits, although benefits are unlikely to be distributed equally across all communities and businesses. The resulting significance is Medium.

6.3.4 CONTRIBUTION TO ENERGY SECURITY AND THE JUST ENERGY TRANSITION

The Project is intended to generate electricity for supply to the national grid while supporting South Africa's growing energy demand. The approved Project Description identifies Gas-to-Power as a strategic transition technology that supports energy security, provides dispatchable generation capacity and contributes to a lower-carbon energy mix relative to coal-fired generation. The Project may therefore contribute to broader national and regional objectives associated with the Just Energy Transition through the retention of technical skills, continued industrial activity and support for a more diversified energy system.

The probability is rated 4, Definite, because electricity generation forms the primary purpose of the Project. The consequence is rated 3, Beneficial, because the contribution to energy security, grid stability and transition planning may provide a substantial longer-term benefit. The resulting significance is High.

6.3.5 OPERATIONAL TRAFFIC AND ROAD-SAFETY RISKS

Traffic associated with the operational phase is expected to be substantially lower than during construction. The Traffic Impact Assessment notes that a Combined Cycle Gas Turbine facility is highly automated and relies on underground pipelines for its primary fuel supply. Approximately 40 to 60 vehicles per day are anticipated during operation, resulting in approximately 20 to 30 directional peak-hour trips. The traffic specialist concludes that operational traffic volumes fall below the relevant threshold and that impacts on the surrounding road network are negligible from a traffic engineering perspective.

The probability is rated 2, Probable, because operational traffic will occur throughout the life of the Project. The consequence is rated 1, Negligible, because traffic volumes are expected to be low and largely manageable within the existing road network. The resulting significance is Very Low.

6.3.6 OPERATIONAL AIR QUALITY AND PERCEPTIONS OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

Operation of the facility will result in atmospheric emissions associated with gas combustion. The Air Quality Baseline Assessment identifies ambient particulate matter concentrations as the dominant existing air quality concern within the Highveld Priority Area, where PM10 and PM2.5 exceedances already occur at several monitoring stations (Khan, 2026).

The air quality specialist identifies the operational-phase air quality impact as Medium significance prior to and after mitigation and notes that emissions may affect surrounding sensitive receptors including residential areas, health facilities and schools (Khan, 2026). However, the Health Assessment indicates that, during normal operational conditions, particulate and gaseous emissions are expected to be negligible to minimal due to the properties of the fuel and the use of advanced emissions-abatement technology (Van Niekerk, 2026). Associated health impacts are therefore expected to be minimal. From a social perspective, community perceptions regarding environmental quality remain relevant irrespective of whether measurable air-quality effects occur.

The probability is rated 3, Highly Probable, because operational emissions and community interest in environmental quality are likely. The consequence is rated 2, Moderately Severe, because concerns regarding air quality may influence community wellbeing, trust and stakeholder relationships over the operational life of the Project. The resulting significance is Medium.

6.3.7 OPERATIONAL NOISE AFFECTING SURROUNDING RECEPTORS

Operational noise may be generated by turbines, associated mechanical equipment, electrical infrastructure, pipeline systems, maintenance activities and operational vehicle movements.

The facility is located within an existing industrial environment where industrial noise is already present. Furthermore, the visual and terrestrial specialist assessments confirm that the Project will be situated within a highly transformed industrial setting associated with the existing Sasol Secunda Operations (Bothma, 2026).

The probability is rated 3, Highly Probable, because operational equipment is expected to generate noise. The consequence is rated 1, Negligible, because the Project is located within an established

industrial environment and operational noise would generally be managed through engineering and operational controls. The resulting significance is Low.

6.3.8 COMMUNITY HEALTH AND SAFETY RISKS

Operational activities may expose surrounding communities, workers and road users to risks associated with industrial operations, hazardous materials, gas infrastructure, vehicle movements and potential emergency incidents.

The Health Assessment identifies children and elderly persons as vulnerable receptors with increased vulnerability to air-pollution-related health risks (Van Niekerk, 2026). However, it also concludes that operational health impacts are expected to be minimal during normal operating conditions.

The probability is rated 2, Probable, because communities may be exposed to some operational hazards over the life of the Project. The consequence is rated 2, Moderately Severe, because an operational incident could affect individuals, require emergency intervention and generate community concern. The resulting significance is Low.

6.3.9 UNEQUAL DISTRIBUTION OF EMPLOYMENT AND PROCUREMENT BENEFITS

Operational employment and procurement opportunities may not be distributed equally among surrounding communities. Differences in skills availability, information access, supplier capacity and commercial requirements may affect participation. Perceptions that benefits favour particular groups, businesses or areas may contribute to dissatisfaction and conflict.

The probability is rated 3, Highly Probable, because employment and procurement opportunities are likely to be more limited than demand. The consequence is rated 2, Moderately Severe, because dissatisfaction could affect stakeholder relationships throughout operations. The resulting significance is Medium.

6.3.10 CLIMATE CHANGE AND INFRASTRUCTURE RESILIENCE

Climate projections for Mpumalanga indicate increasing temperatures, increasing heat extremes, intensification of extreme rainfall events, flooding risk, wildfire risk and drought-related pressures. These projected changes may affect operations, workforce health and safety, stormwater infrastructure and supply-chain resilience over time.

The Climate Change Assessment notes that increasing temperatures may affect cooling requirements, heat-related safety risks and equipment performance, while more intense rainfall may affect stormwater systems, drainage infrastructure and site access (Feldman, 2026).

The probability is rated 3, Highly Probable, because climate-change-related hazards are projected to increase over the operational life of the Project. The consequence is rated 2, Moderately Severe, because climate stressors may affect operational continuity and workforce wellbeing. The resulting significance is Medium.

6.3.11 CONTINUED ECONOMIC DEPENDENCE AND TRANSITION RISK

The Project may assist in maintaining industrial activity, employment and local economic linkages. However, continued dependence on energy-sector activities may also prolong vulnerability to future technological change, economic restructuring or sector-specific decline. This issue is particularly relevant within the broader Just Energy Transition context. The Climate Change Assessment and Project Description both emphasise the need for skills transition, workforce resilience and economic diversification alongside lower-carbon energy development.

The probability is rated 3, Highly Probable, because existing economic linkages associated with energy generation are likely to continue. The consequence is rated 2, Moderately Severe, because long-term dependence may create future vulnerability if economic diversification does not occur. The resulting significance is Medium.

6.3.12 SUMMARY OF OPERATIONAL PHASE IMPACTS

The operational-phase social impacts identified during the Scoping Phase include both positive and negative effects associated with employment, skills development, local procurement, energy security, community health and safety, environmental quality, climate resilience and broader Just Energy Transition objectives. Positive impacts are primarily associated with operational employment opportunities, technology transfer, local economic benefits and contributions to energy security. Potential adverse impacts relate to traffic, environmental quality perceptions, operational noise, community health and safety, climate-related risks and the unequal distribution of project benefits. The significance ratings assigned to these impacts are based on a pre-mitigation assessment and are summarised in Table 6-6.

Table 6-6 - Operational Phase Social Impact Screening

Impact	Nature	Probability Score	Consequence Score	Pre-Mitigation Significance
Retention or creation of operational employment	Positive	4	2	Medium
Skills development, technology transfer and capacity building	Positive	4	2	Medium
Local procurement and economic stimulation	Positive	3	2	Medium
Contribution to energy security and the Just Energy Transition	Positive	4	3	High
Operational traffic and road-safety risks	Negative	2	1	Very Low
Operational air quality and perceptions of environmental quality	Negative	3	2	Medium
Operational noise affecting surrounding receptors	Negative	3	1	Low
Community health and safety risks	Negative	2	2	Low
Unequal distribution of employment and procurement benefits	Negative	3	2	Medium
Climate change and infrastructure resilience	Negative	3	2	Medium
Continued economic dependence on power station activities	Negative	3	2	Medium

6.3.13 HIGH-LEVEL MITIGATION AND ENHANCEMENT MEASURES

The following high-level measures are recommended to enhance positive social benefits and minimise adverse social impacts during the operational phase. Site-specific mitigation measures will be developed during the EIA Phase.

6.3.13.1 EMPLOYMENT AND SKILLS DEVELOPMENT

- Promote local employment opportunities where feasible.
- Support ongoing training and skills-development initiatives.
- Encourage knowledge transfer and capacity building.
- Develop skills that remain useful beyond the life of the project.
- Promote fair and transparent recruitment processes.

6.3.13.2 LOCAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

- Promote participation of local businesses in procurement opportunities.
- Support supplier development initiatives where feasible.
- Communicate procurement requirements clearly.
- Encourage opportunities that contribute to long-term local economic resilience.

6.3.13.3 TRAFFIC AND TRANSPORTATION

- Maintain traffic-management procedures throughout operations.
- Continue vehicle safety and driver-awareness programmes.
- Monitor project-related transport activities.
- Address stakeholder concerns relating to operational traffic.

6.3.13.4 ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY AND COMMUNITY WELLBEING

- Maintain operational dust-control measures.
- Implement noise-management measures where required.
- Communicate environmental monitoring results to stakeholders.
- Address community concerns relating to environmental quality.
- Maintain transparent stakeholder engagement throughout operations.
- Communicate air-quality monitoring and environmental-performance information to stakeholders where appropriate.
- Implement operational air-quality management measures in accordance with specialist recommendations.

6.3.13.5 COMMUNITY HEALTH AND SAFETY

- Maintain emergency preparedness and response procedures.
- Continue implementation of operational health and safety management systems.
- Restrict unauthorised access to operational areas.
- Maintain communication with surrounding communities regarding safety-related matters.

6.3.13.6 JUST ENERGY TRANSITION AND ECONOMIC SUSTAINABILITY

- Promote transferable skills development.
- Support initiatives that improve long-term workforce resilience.
- Encourage local economic diversification where feasible.
- Support skills transition opportunities associated with lower-carbon energy technologies where feasible.
- Align operational activities with broader Just Energy Transition objectives.

6.4 DECOMMISSIONING PHASE

The decommissioning phase refers to the closure, dismantling and removal of the Secunda Gas to Power Facility and associated infrastructure at the end of its operational life. Depending on the final decommissioning strategy adopted, activities may include the shutdown of generation equipment, dismantling of infrastructure, removal of above-ground structures, rehabilitation of disturbed areas, management of residual materials and waste streams, and rehabilitation or repurposing of the site.

At this stage, detailed decommissioning activities have not been defined and the eventual decommissioning approach, timing and land-use objectives remain unknown. The impacts identified below are therefore based on a reasonable worst-case assessment and are broadly similar to construction-phase impacts, although occurring in reverse. Most decommissioning impacts are expected to be temporary and limited in duration.

6.4.1 TEMPORARY EMPLOYMENT AND CONTRACTING OPPORTUNITIES

Decommissioning activities may generate temporary employment opportunities for contractors, construction personnel, specialist dismantling teams, transport operators, maintenance personnel and waste-management service providers. Although these employment opportunities are expected to be temporary, they may provide short-term economic benefits and income-generation opportunities for workers and service providers.

The probability is rated 3, Highly Probable, because decommissioning activities are likely to require labour and specialist services. The consequence is rated 2, Moderately Beneficial, because employment and contracting opportunities may provide short-term economic benefits. The resulting significance is Medium.

6.4.2 LOCAL PROCUREMENT AND ECONOMIC PARTICIPATION

The decommissioning process may create opportunities for local businesses involved in transport, equipment hire, waste management, recycling, demolition services, security, accommodation and catering. The scale of procurement opportunities is likely to depend on the final decommissioning approach and the degree to which materials can be recycled, reused or disposed of through local suppliers.

The probability is rated 3, Highly Probable, because decommissioning activities will require goods and services. The consequence is rated 2, Moderately Beneficial, because procurement expenditure may support local economic activity for a limited period. The resulting significance is Medium.

6.4.3 LOSS OF OPERATIONAL EMPLOYMENT AND INCOME

Closure of the facility may result in the loss of operational employment opportunities associated with the Project. Employees, contractors and businesses benefiting from operational procurement expenditure may experience reductions in income. The significance of this impact will depend on workforce size, future employment alternatives, the timing of closure and the availability of transferable skills. The Climate Change Assessment and Project Description place considerable emphasis on workforce transition, skills resilience and the broader Just Energy Transition. Appropriate transition planning may therefore reduce the severity of this impact (Feldman, 2026).

The probability is rated 4, Definite, because the closure of the facility will ultimately lead to the cessation of operational employment linked directly to the Project. The consequence is rated 2, Moderately Severe, because affected workers and businesses may experience economic hardship. The resulting significance is Medium.

6.4.4 INCREASED TRAFFIC AND ROAD-SAFETY RISKS

Decommissioning activities may require the removal and transportation of equipment, materials, wastes, scrap metal and other infrastructure components. These activities may generate increased traffic volumes and road-safety risks similar to those experienced during construction. Heavy vehicles, abnormal loads and waste-transport activities may affect road users and receptors situated along approved transport routes.

The probability is rated 3, Highly Probable, because infrastructure and materials will need to be removed from the site. The consequence is rated 2, Moderately Severe, because increased traffic may create temporary safety risks and transport-related disturbances. The resulting significance is Medium.

6.4.5 DUST AND ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY IMPACTS

Demolition, dismantling, earthworks, material handling and vehicle movement may generate dust during decommissioning. The Air Quality Baseline Assessment confirms that the broader region already experiences elevated particulate matter concentrations and existing air-quality pressures associated with the Highveld Priority Area. Dust generated during decommissioning may affect workers, road users and surrounding receptors and may contribute to concerns regarding environmental quality and amenity.

The probability is rated 3, Highly Probable, because some dust generation is expected during decommissioning activities. The consequence is rated 1, Negligible, because impacts are expected to be temporary and manageable through standard dust-control measures. The resulting significance is Low.

6.4.6 NOISE NUISANCE AFFECTING SURROUNDING RECEPTORS

Noise may be generated by demolition activities, dismantling of infrastructure, cutting equipment, cranes, transport vehicles and other activities associated with decommissioning. As with construction, these activities will occur within an existing industrial environment, although temporary noise increases may occur during specific dismantling activities.

The probability is rated 3, Highly Probable, because decommissioning activities are likely to generate noise. The consequence is rated 1, Negligible, because impacts are expected to be temporary and localised. The resulting significance is Low.

6.4.7 COMMUNITY HEALTH AND SAFETY RISKS

Decommissioning activities may expose workers and nearby receptors to health and safety risks associated with demolition, heavy equipment, waste materials, transport activities and potential emergency situations. Operational site controls, emergency procedures and safe-work practices will be important in reducing these risks.

The probability is rated 2, Probable, because decommissioning activities involve potentially hazardous work. The consequence is rated 2, Moderately Severe, because incidents could affect workers or members of the public if not adequately managed. The resulting significance is Low.

6.4.8 TEMPORARY DISRUPTION OF ACCESS AND MOVEMENT

Temporary road controls, dismantling activities, heavy vehicle movements and waste-removal operations may affect movement within Sasol Secunda Operations and along access routes. These disruptions are expected to be temporary and manageable through traffic and access management procedures.

The probability is rated 2, Probable, because temporary disruptions may be required during decommissioning. The consequence is rated 1, Negligible, because impacts are expected to be localised and short-term. The resulting significance is Very Low.

6.4.9 LAND REHABILITATION AND FUTURE LAND-USE OPPORTUNITIES

Decommissioning may create opportunities for rehabilitation of disturbed areas and future alternative land-use opportunities. The final benefits associated with rehabilitation will depend on closure objectives, future site planning and the intended end land use. The Terrestrial Biodiversity Assessment confirms that the facility footprint occurs within a highly transformed industrial setting and recommends rehabilitation of temporary disturbances and use of existing disturbed areas where possible (Moalosi, 2026).

The probability is rated 3, Highly Probable, because rehabilitation will form part of the closure process. The consequence is rated 2, Moderately Beneficial, because rehabilitation may improve local environmental conditions and create future development opportunities. The resulting significance is Medium.

6.4.10 SUMMARY OF DECOMMISSIONING PHASE IMPACTS

The decommissioning-phase social impacts identified during the Scoping Phase include both beneficial and adverse effects. Positive impacts are primarily associated with temporary employment, contracting opportunities, local procurement expenditure and potential future land-use opportunities arising from rehabilitation and repurposing activities. Potential adverse impacts relate to the loss of operational employment and income, increased traffic and road-safety risks, dust and noise nuisance, community health and safety risks and temporary disruption of access and movement. The significance ratings assigned to these impacts are based on a pre-mitigation assessment and are summarised in Table 6-7.

Table 6-7 - Decommissioning Phase Social Impact Screening

Impact	Nature	Probability Score	Consequence Score	Pre-Mitigation Significance
Temporary employment and contracting opportunities	Positive	3	2	Medium
Local procurement and economic participation	Positive	3	2	Medium
Loss of operational employment and income	Negative	4	2	Medium
Increased traffic and road-safety risks	Negative	3	2	Medium
Dust and environmental quality impacts	Negative	3	1	Low
Noise nuisance affecting surrounding receptors	Negative	3	1	Low
Community health and safety risks	Negative	2	2	Low
Land rehabilitation and future land-use opportunities	Positive	3	2	Medium
Temporary disruption of access and movement	Negative	2	1	Very Low

6.4.11 HIGH-LEVEL MITIGATION AND ENHANCEMENT MEASURES

The following high-level measures are recommended to minimise adverse social impacts associated with future decommissioning activities and maximise potential opportunities associated with rehabilitation and repurposing.

6.4.11.1 WORKFORCE TRANSITION

- Develop workforce-transition plans well in advance of decommissioning.
- Provide information regarding closure timelines and future employment implications.
- Identify retraining and reskilling opportunities.
- Investigate redeployment opportunities where feasible.
- Maintain ongoing communication with employees and contractors.

6.4.11.2 ECONOMIC TRANSITION

- Provide advance notice regarding reductions in procurement and operational activities.
- Support supplier diversification initiatives.
- Explore alternative economic opportunities associated with site repurposing.
- Promote initiatives that reduce dependence on power-station-related activities.

6.4.11.3 COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND FUTURE LAND USE

- Maintain transparent communication regarding closure activities.
- Engage stakeholders on future land-use opportunities.
- Provide regular updates regarding rehabilitation and repurposing planning.
- Continue implementation of grievance-management procedures.

6.4.11.4 DUST, NOISE AND TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT

- Apply dust suppression measures during demolition and rehabilitation.
- Restrict noisy demolition activities where feasible.
- Implement traffic-management measures for demolition-related transport.
- Monitor nuisance impacts affecting nearby communities.

6.4.11.5 COMMUNITY HEALTH AND SAFETY

- Secure demolition and rehabilitation areas.
- Restrict unauthorised access.
- Maintain emergency preparedness arrangements.
- Safely manage demolition materials and waste.
- Clearly communicate safety requirements to affected communities.

6.4.11.6 REHABILITATION AND REPURPOSING OPPORTUNITIES

- Investigate opportunities for beneficial future land uses.
- Promote rehabilitation activities that contribute positively to local communities.
- Explore opportunities linked to future energy, industrial or training-related developments.
- Align future land-use planning with broader Just Energy Transition objectives.

6.5 CUMULATIVE SOCIAL IMPACTS

Cumulative impacts are those impacts that arise from the interaction of the proposed Secunda Gas to Power Facility with existing activities, developments and socioeconomic conditions within the receiving environment. In accordance with the specialist requirements, cumulative impacts consider the combined effect of current activities, the proposed Project and reasonably foreseeable future developments.

The proposed Project is located within the existing Sasol Secunda Operations, an extensive industrial, mining and petrochemical landscape that already experiences ongoing industrial activity, transport movements, employment generation, atmospheric emissions, operational noise and environmental management pressures. The cumulative social assessment therefore considers both the existing industrial baseline and the additional contribution of the proposed Project.

6.5.1 CONSTRUCTION PHASE CUMULATIVE IMPACTS

During construction, cumulative social impacts may arise from the interaction between the proposed Secunda Gas to Power Facility and existing industrial, mining, transport and economic activities within Govan Mbeki Local Municipality. Construction-related traffic, noise, dust, employment expectations and workforce activity may combine with existing development pressures associated with Sasol Secunda Operations and surrounding industrial activities.

Potential positive cumulative impacts include temporary employment, local procurement opportunities, skills development and increased expenditure within the local economy. Potential adverse cumulative impacts include increased traffic volumes, road-safety risks, nuisance impacts, pressure on local suppliers and heightened community expectations regarding employment and procurement opportunities.

The Traffic Impact Assessment notes that the Project may generate between 100 and 200 daily construction trips and that construction represents the peak traffic impact period. These impacts are expected to be temporary; however, they may occur concurrently with existing industrial and operational traffic associated with Sasol Secunda Operations and other industrial activities within the area, thereby contributing to cumulative traffic and road-safety effects.

The probability is rated 3, Highly Probable, because the Project will be implemented within an area already characterised by significant industrial and economic activity. The consequence is rated 2, Moderately Severe, because cumulative effects may influence surrounding communities during the construction period but are expected to remain manageable. The resulting cumulative significance is Medium.

6.5.2 OPERATIONAL PHASE CUMULATIVE IMPACTS

During operation, cumulative social impacts may arise through the continued interaction of the proposed Gas to Power Facility with existing petrochemical, mining, energy-generation and industrial activities within the Secunda region. Potential positive cumulative impacts include employment retention, skills development, energy security benefits, local procurement expenditure and support for economic continuity within the broader industrial economy. Potential adverse cumulative impacts include cumulative community concerns regarding environmental quality,

continued dependence on industrial and energy-sector employment, cumulative perceptions regarding industrial development, and the combined effects of existing and future industrial activities on neighbouring communities.

The Air Quality Assessment confirms that the study area falls within the Highveld Priority Area and that particulate matter concentrations already exceed ambient air-quality standards at several monitoring stations (Khan, 2026). The proposed Project will therefore operate within an environment where cumulative industrial emissions are already a recognised management concern.

The Health Assessment concludes that operational emissions from the proposed Project are expected to result in negligible to minimal health impacts under normal operating conditions because of the properties of the fuel and proposed emissions-abatement technologies (Van Niekerk, 2026). Nevertheless, cumulative community perceptions regarding industrial air quality may remain an important social consideration. From a positive perspective, the Project contributes to South Africa's broader Just Energy Transition objectives by supporting a lower-carbon energy mix, energy security and continued industrial activity within an existing energy-producing region.

The probability is rated 3, Highly Probable, because the proposed Project will operate within an existing industrial and energy-generation landscape. The consequence is rated 2, Moderately Severe, because cumulative effects may reinforce both positive and negative socioeconomic trends over the operational period. The resulting cumulative significance is Medium.

6.5.3 DECOMMISSIONING PHASE CUMULATIVE IMPACTS

During decommissioning, cumulative social impacts may arise from the combined effects of workforce reductions, reduced procurement expenditure, declining operational activity and broader economic-transition processes affecting the regional industrial economy. These cumulative impacts may be particularly important if surrounding communities and businesses remain dependent on energy-generation, petrochemical and mining activities for employment and income.

Potential cumulative adverse impacts include reductions in local economic activity, uncertainty regarding future employment opportunities, changing land-use patterns and broader transition-related pressures associated with shifts within the energy sector. Conversely, positive cumulative benefits may arise through rehabilitation, repurposing of industrial infrastructure, economic diversification initiatives and future lower-carbon development opportunities. The Climate Change Assessment highlights the importance of workforce resilience, skills transition and adaptation to changing energy-sector conditions as part of a broader transition towards a lower-carbon economy (Feldman, 2026).

The probability is rated 3, Highly Probable, because decommissioning-related economic changes are likely to occur within a broader context of industrial and energy-sector transition. The consequence is rated 3, Severe, because cumulative socioeconomic effects may extend beyond the immediate Project area and persist over longer periods. The resulting cumulative significance is Medium.

6.5.4 SUMMARY OF CUMULATIVE SOCIAL IMPACTS

The cumulative social impacts identified during the Scoping Phase reflect the combined influence of the proposed Secunda Gas to Power Facility together with existing petrochemical, mining, industrial and transportation activities within the receiving environment. The cumulative assessment recognises that the Project will be implemented within an established industrial landscape where existing economic activity, transport movements, environmental pressures and energy-related development already occur. Both positive and negative cumulative effects have been identified. Positive cumulative effects include employment creation, skills development, local procurement expenditure, energy security benefits and support for the Just Energy Transition. Potential adverse cumulative impacts relate to traffic, environmental quality, community perceptions, economic dependence on industrial activities and broader socioeconomic transition pressures. The cumulative social impact ratings identified during the Scoping Phase are summarised in Table 6-8.

Table 6-8 - Cumulative Social Impact Screening

Cumulative Impact	Nature	Probability Score	Consequence Score	Pre-Mitigation Significance
Construction phase cumulative impacts	Negative	3	2	Medium
Operational phase cumulative impacts	Negative	3	2	Medium
Decommissioning phase cumulative impacts	Negative	3	3	Medium

Although both positive and negative cumulative effects have been identified, the cumulative impact ratings presented in Table 6-8 reflect the dominant adverse social risks requiring management and mitigation. Positive cumulative effects such as employment creation, skills development, energy security, local procurement expenditure and support for the Just Energy Transition are recognised within the assessment but are not reflected within the significance ratings presented above.

7 PLAN OF STUDY FOR EIA

The Scoping Phase Social Impact Assessment identified a range of potential social opportunities and risks associated with the proposed Secunda Gas to Power Facility. The purpose of the EIA Phase Social Impact Assessment will be to verify the findings of the Scoping Phase, update the social baseline where necessary, incorporate specialist study findings and undertake a detailed assessment of the identified social impacts.

The EIA Phase will focus on confirming the significance of impacts associated with the construction, operation and decommissioning phases of the proposed Project. The assessment will also consider stakeholder concerns, project alternatives, cumulative impacts, sensitive social receptors and potential mitigation and enhancement measures. The detailed Social Impact Assessment will form

part of the broader Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) process and will inform environmental decision-making, project planning and the development of management measures.

7.1 OBJECTIVES OF THE EIA PHASE SOCIAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT

The objectives of the EIA Phase Social Impact Assessment will be to:

- Verify and update the social baseline and social sensitivity assessment.
- Confirm the social area of influence of the proposed Project.
- Confirm the location of sensitive social receptors and vulnerable groups that may be affected by the proposed Project.
- Integrate and evaluate the findings of specialist studies relevant to social impacts, including traffic, health, noise, air quality, climate change, aquatic biodiversity, terrestrial biodiversity and visual impacts.
- Identify and assess impacts associated with construction, operation and decommissioning activities.
- Assess the significance of impacts before and after mitigation measures.
- Assess cumulative social impacts.
- Assess project alternatives from a social perspective.
- Identify site-specific mitigation and enhancement measures.
- Provide recommendations for inclusion within the Environmental Management Programme (EMPr).
- Provide a reasoned opinion on the social acceptability of the proposed development.

7.2 SOCIAL BASELINE VERIFICATION

The EIA Phase will include verification and refinement of the social baseline through consultation, review of relevant information sources and site verification activities.

This will include:

- Verification of settlements located within the project area of influence.
- Identification of sensitive social receptors.
- Identification of vulnerable and disadvantaged groups.
- Review of demographic and socioeconomic conditions.
- Review of local economic conditions and livelihood activities.
- Identification of community facilities and social infrastructure.
- Verification of traffic and access conditions.
- Verification of livelihoods and livelihood dependencies associated with industrial, petrochemical and energy-sector activities.
- Verification of Gender-Based Violence and Femicide (GBVF) considerations and vulnerable groups where relevant.
- Verification of potential receptors identified through the Air Quality Assessment, including residential areas, schools, health facilities and other community receptors.
- Verification of community vulnerability associated with climate-related hazards, including extreme heat, flooding and drought.

Site verification will ensure that the social baseline accurately reflects current social conditions and supports the detailed assessment of impacts.

7.3 STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

The Social Impact Assessment will consider information generated through the broader Environmental Impact Assessment public participation process, where relevant and available. Information received during the public participation process may assist in refining the social baseline, verifying social sensitivities, identifying additional social receptors and informing the detailed assessment of social impacts during the EIA Phase.

Where stakeholder comments and concerns are available, these may relate to:

- Employment opportunities.
- Procurement opportunities.
- Skills development.
- Traffic.
- Dust and noise.
- Community health and safety.
- Environmental quality.
- Air quality concerns.
- Just Energy Transition considerations.
- Economic transition and future livelihood concerns.
- Future Project operations.
- Climate change and resilience concerns.

Information arising from the public participation process will be reviewed and incorporated into the EIA Phase Social Impact Assessment where relevant. Stakeholder feedback may provide additional insight into community concerns, expectations and perceived Project risks and benefits.

7.4 DETAILED SOCIAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT

The EIA Phase assessment will include a detailed assessment of impacts identified during the Scoping Phase. Particular attention will be given to:

7.4.1 CONSTRUCTION PHASE

- Employment and income generation.
- Local procurement opportunities.
- Skills development opportunities.
- Workforce requirements and labour sourcing.
- Community expectations.
- Dust impacts.
- Noise impacts.
- Traffic and road safety.
- Community health and safety.

- Social conflict and grievances.
- Worker-community interaction and community cohesion.
- Temporary impacts on environmental quality and community wellbeing.

7.4.2 OPERATIONAL PHASE

- Operational employment opportunities.
- Skills development and technology transfer.
- Local economic benefits.
- Contribution to energy security.
- Contribution to Just Energy Transition objectives.
- Traffic impacts.
- Community health and safety.
- Air quality and environmental quality perceptions.
- Distribution of project benefits.
- Economic dependence on project activities.
- Climate change resilience and adaptation considerations.
- Community perceptions of industrial development.
- Long-term socioeconomic implications associated with operation of the facility.

7.4.3 DECOMMISSIONING PHASE

- Employment losses.
- Reduced procurement opportunities.
- Reduced economic activity.
- Community vulnerability.
- Changes in community identity and sense of place.
- Future land-use uncertainty.
- Dust impacts.
- Noise impacts.
- Traffic impacts.
- Community health and safety impacts.
- Rehabilitation opportunities.
- Repurposing and future development opportunities.

The significance of each impact will be assessed and mitigation measures developed where required.

7.5 IMPACT ASSESSMENT METHODOLOGY

The EIA Phase Social Impact Assessment will apply the detailed impact assessment methodology prescribed in the specialist requirements. Unlike the Scoping Phase screening assessment, which uses probability and consequence only, the EIA Phase assessment will evaluate impacts according to:

- Magnitude.

- Extent.
- Duration.
- Reversibility.
- Probability.

The significance of impacts will be assessed before mitigation and reassessed following implementation of mitigation measures to determine residual significance. Direct, indirect, induced and cumulative impacts will also be assessed.

The EIA Phase will further incorporate the findings of relevant specialist studies where these establish social-impact pathways affecting:

- Community health and wellbeing.
- Livelihoods.
- Community safety.
- Environmental quality.
- Climate resilience.
- Access and mobility.
- Sense of place.
- Community perceptions.

7.6 ASSESSMENT OF ALTERNATIVES

The Social Impact Assessment will assess the social implications of project alternatives identified during the ESIA process, including:

- The preferred facility layout.
- LNG pipeline route alternatives.
- MRG pipeline routing alternatives where relevant.
- Infrastructure-routing alternatives.
- The No-Go Alternative.

The alternatives assessment will consider:

- Potential social impacts.
- Proximity to sensitive receptors.
- Employment and economic opportunities.
- Community health and safety considerations.
- Traffic implications.
- Compatibility with surrounding communities and land uses.
- Potential implications for environmental quality and community perceptions.

7.7 CUMULATIVE IMPACT ASSESSMENT

A cumulative social impact assessment will be undertaken to evaluate the interaction between the proposed Project and existing or reasonably foreseeable developments within the region.

The cumulative assessment will consider:

- Existing Sasol Secunda Operations.
- Mining and industrial activities.
- Existing transportation activities.
- Existing petrochemical operations.
- Regional employment conditions.
- Existing environmental pressures within the Highveld Priority Area.
- Future energy-transition initiatives.
- Regional climate-related risks and adaptation requirements.
- Socioeconomic dependence on the energy and industrial sectors.

7.8 MITIGATION AND ENHANCEMENT MEASURES

The EIA Phase assessment will develop site-specific mitigation and enhancement measures to address identified social impacts. Measures will be developed in accordance with the mitigation hierarchy and will aim to:

- Maximise employment and procurement benefits.
- Support skills development and skills transition.
- Minimise community health and safety risks.
- Reduce dust, noise and traffic impacts.
- Promote effective stakeholder engagement.
- Support vulnerable groups.
- Manage community expectations.
- Promote transparent communication.
- Support climate resilience and adaptation.
- Support Just Energy Transition objectives.

Recommendations will be provided for inclusion within the EMP and, where appropriate, Environmental Authorisation conditions.

The EIA Phase Social Impact Assessment will provide a detailed assessment of the social opportunities and risks associated with the proposed Secunda Gas to Power Facility. The assessment will verify the findings of the Scoping Phase, incorporate relevant specialist findings, assess the significance of identified impacts, evaluate alternatives and cumulative effects, and develop practical mitigation and enhancement measures. The outcomes of the assessment will contribute to informed decision-making regarding the proposed development and support the integration of social considerations into project planning, implementation, operation, decommissioning and broader Just Energy Transition objectives.

8 CONCLUSION

This Social Impact Assessment Scoping Report has identified the key social characteristics, sensitivities, opportunities and constraints associated with the proposed Secunda Gas to Power Facility. The assessment considered the receiving social environment, legislative and policy framework, social sensitivity assessment, specialist study findings and high-level screening of potential social impacts associated with the construction, operation and decommissioning phases of the Project.

The social baseline indicates that the Project is located within Govan Mbeki Local Municipality, an area whose economy is strongly influenced by petrochemical production, mining, manufacturing, energy generation and associated industrial activities. This context is particularly relevant within the broader Just Energy Transition framework, which seeks to balance decarbonisation objectives with socioeconomic sustainability, energy security and local economic resilience. Employment creation, local procurement, skills development, technology transfer and support for livelihoods therefore represent important social opportunities associated with the proposed Project. At the same time, a number of socioeconomic challenges are present within the receiving environment, including unemployment, poverty, inequality and dependence on industrial and energy-sector activities.

The social baseline and social sensitivity assessment indicate that the proposed Gas to Power Facility is located within an established industrial environment associated with the existing Sasol Secunda Operations. The immediate Project area is characterised by existing industrial infrastructure and disturbed land, while residential communities, educational facilities, health facilities and other community receptors are primarily located within the broader area of influence, particularly within Secunda, eMbalenhle and surrounding areas. These receptors will require particular consideration during the EIA Phase and detailed impact assessment.

The high-level screening assessment identified several positive and negative social impacts. Positive impacts are primarily associated with employment opportunities, local procurement expenditure, skills development, technology transfer, support for local economic activity, contribution to energy security and alignment with broader Just Energy Transition objectives. Potential adverse impacts include community expectations regarding Project benefits, traffic and road-safety risks, air quality concerns, dust and noise nuisance, community health and safety risks, unequal distribution of Project benefits and longer-term socioeconomic vulnerability associated with eventual decommissioning. The loss of operational employment and income during decommissioning was identified as one of the more significant potential negative social impacts requiring further assessment during the EIA Phase.

The specialist studies completed for the Scoping Phase provide important context for the social assessment. The Traffic Impact Assessment indicates that construction represents the period of greatest traffic-related impact, while operational traffic impacts are expected to be minimal due to the highly automated nature of the facility and reliance on pipeline infrastructure. The Health Assessment indicates that a significant influx of people settling in the area is not anticipated and concludes that no health-based reason exists to prevent the Project from proceeding to the next phase of assessment (Van Niekerk, 2026). The Air Quality Assessment confirms that the site is located within the Highveld Priority Area, where existing air quality pressures already occur, while the Climate Change Assessment highlights the Project's relevance within the broader energy transition context and the increasing importance of climate resilience and adaptation planning.

No social fatal flaws were identified during the Scoping Phase. However, several issues require further investigation during the EIA Phase, including final infrastructure layouts, LNG and MRG pipeline routing alternatives, workforce requirements, transport arrangements, sensitive social receptors, vulnerable groups, community perceptions, climate resilience considerations and cumulative social impacts. Specialist findings relating to air quality, health, traffic, climate change, visual impacts and aquatic biodiversity will be incorporated into the detailed assessment to confirm impact significance and develop site-specific mitigation measures.

Based on the findings of the Scoping Phase, no social fatal flaws were identified that would prevent the proposed Secunda Gas to Power Facility from proceeding to the Environmental Impact Assessment Phase, subject to further investigations, stakeholder engagement and the development of site-specific mitigation and enhancement measures. The EIA Phase will provide the detailed assessment necessary to determine the overall social acceptability of the proposed development and its contribution to local socioeconomic development, energy security and broader Just Energy Transition objectives.

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