

**Questions received from Stakeholders at the Carnarvon Public Meeting  
on 17 November 2015 in Carnarvon (submitted by Susan BOEHM)  
and response from the CSIR SKA Phase 1 SEA team**

1. Could questions be sent via email to an official WNNR website to be answered by the WNNR directly? Could all questions and answers be uploaded on the official WNNR website, allowing interested parties to access and follow the questions and the replies?

Response from the CSIR SKA Phase 1 SEA team to Question 1:

Questions and comments about the SEA process, SEA reports and specialist studies included in the SEA process can be sent to [Skaphase1@csir.co.za](mailto:Skaphase1@csir.co.za) (this email address has been created for the SKA Phase 1 SEA and is managed by the CSIR SEA team), or submitted directly on the SEA website ([www.skaphase1.csir.co.za](http://www.skaphase1.csir.co.za)) on the “[Contact us/Kontak ons](#)” page.

Questions from stakeholders and responses from the CSIR SEA team will be made publicly available on the SEA website ([www.skaphase1.csir.co.za](http://www.skaphase1.csir.co.za)) on the “[Comments and Responses/Kommentaar en antwoorde](#)” page.

Questions and comments about any aspects (technical, administrative, legal and financial) of the SKA SA project as well as any capacity development plan and educational programmes should be addressed to:

**Science Communication SKA SA, attention to Mr. Lorenzo Raynard,**  
Street Address: The Park, Park Road, Pinelands, 7450, Cape Town, South Africa  
Email: [lraynard@ska.ac.za](mailto:lraynard@ska.ac.za)  
Tel: +27 21 506 7319 (direct) / Tel: +27 21 506 7300 (switchboard)

Questions and comments about the regulatory aspects of the SKA project including the Astronomy Geographic Advantage (AGA) Act, SKA declarations and regulations should be addressed to:

**DST Communications Directorate, attention to Mrs. Johanetta Clark**  
Street Address: DST Building, Building no. 53,, CSIR South Gate Entrance, Meiring Naude Road ,  
Brummeria, PRETORIA  
E-mail: [johanetta.clark@dst.gov.za](mailto:johanetta.clark@dst.gov.za)  
Tel: (012) 843-6784 / Fax: +27 12 349 1037

Questions on the legal and administrative aspects of the SEA, the approval process and implementation of the Integrated Management Plan can be sent to [Skaphase1@csir.co.za](mailto:Skaphase1@csir.co.za), and the CSIR SEA team will forward the request to the relevant officials at the Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA).

Questions on long-term research and collection of data, scientific awareness programme and biosphere plan can be sent to [Skaphase1@csir.co.za](mailto:Skaphase1@csir.co.za), and the CSIR SEA team will forward the request to the relevant experts at the South African Environmental Observation Network (SAEON).

The CSIR SEA team will assist with forwarding the query to DEA and SAEON but should not be held accountable for any delay in response from these institutions.

Please copy the CSIR SEA team ([Skaphase1@csir.co.za](mailto:Skaphase1@csir.co.za)) when sending questions and comments to SKA and DST in order to ensure that all queries and stakeholders inputs are recorded in the SEA process.

2. If so, please confirm which website is applicable, and how long the posted information will be accessible?

Response from the CSIR SKA Phase 1 SEA team to Question 2:

The SEA website [www.skaphase1.csir.co.za](http://www.skaphase1.csir.co.za) is applicable and the information posted on this website will be available until the Final Integrated Management Plan is officially gazetted by DEA (expected date of publication: 2017).

3. Will questions be answered in both English and Afrikaans?

Response from the CSIR SKA Phase 1 SEA team to Question 3:

When the questions from stakeholders are submitted and addressed to the CSIR SEA team in English, the response provided by the CSIR SEA team will then be provided in English. When the questions from stakeholders are submitted and addressed to the CSIR SEA team in Afrikaans the response provided by the CSIR SEA team will be provided in Afrikaans.

Responses from DEA, DST, SKA and SAEON will be provided in the language chosen by DEA, DST, SKA and SAEON (English or Afrikaans).

4. Could each person's question/s be replied to directly on their personal email as well as posted on the official website?

Response from the CSIR SKA Phase 1 SEA team to Question 4:

Questions and comments sent to [Skaphase1@csir.co.za](mailto:Skaphase1@csir.co.za) or submitted directly on the SEA website ([www.skaphase1.csir.co.za](http://www.skaphase1.csir.co.za)) on the "Contact us/Kontak ons" page will be made available to the public:

- in the form of a comment and response report which will be uploaded on the SEA website on the "Comments and Responses/Kommentaar en antwoorde" page early in 2016. The comment and response report will be a compilation of key issues/comments/inputs from stakeholders and the CSIR SEA team's responses to those issues;

or

- in the form of stand-alone pdf documents which will be uploaded on the SEA website in the "Comments and Responses/Kommentaar en antwoorde" page to share the comments/inputs from stakeholders with the larger public.

When possible and if feasible, the CSIR SEA team's responses to specific stakeholders comments will be sent to the stakeholders email address directly (in addition to posting it on the SEA website) however this will depend on the number of questions and comments received from stakeholders during the SEA process. In the case that a large number of issues/comments/inputs are received from stakeholders on daily/weekly basis, the responses from the CSIR SEA team will be provided to the stakeholders in the form of a comment and response report which will be uploaded on the SEA website on the "Comments and Responses/Kommentaar en antwoorde" page early in 2016.

The CSIR SEA team should not be held accountable for the manner in which responses from DEA, DST, SKA and SAEON are provided to stakeholders.

5. Should answers require the WNNR to do any research, incorporate experts, supply scientific and / or technical information could the WNNR please state all the relevant references, documentation and authors.

Response from the CSIR SKA Phase 1 SEA team to Question 5:

When the questions from stakeholders are submitted and addressed to the CSIR SEA team, the response from the CSIR SEA team will include relevant references, documents and authors.

The CSIR SEA team should not be held accountable for ensuring the inclusion of relevant references, documents and authors in the responses from DEA, DST, SKA and SAEON.

6. Will the WNNR research locally, nationally, and internationally across all relevant institutions, governmental departments and governments in order to answer in full and appropriately?

Response from the CSIR SKA Phase 1 SEA team to Question 6:

The CSIR SEA team will aim to provide informative responses to stakeholders' questions and comments about the SEA process, SEA reports and specialist studies included in the SEA process, within the limits of available time and budget. The CSIR SEA team should not be held accountable for the nature of responses from DEA, DST, SKA and SAEON.

7. Will all questions be answered in full, and with a genuine commitment to satisfy those inquiring and all interested parties?

Response from the CSIR SKA Phase 1 SEA team to Question 7:

The CSIR SEA team will aim to provide informative responses to stakeholders' questions and comments about the SEA process, SEA reports and specialist studies included in the SEA process, within the limits of available time and budget. The CSIR SEA team should not be held accountable for the nature of responses from DEA, DST, SKA and SAEON.

8. Can the WNNR commit to complete transparency?

Response from the CSIR SKA Phase 1 SEA team to Question 8:

All information generated during the SEA process as well as the questions received in writing from the stakeholders and the responses provided by the CSIR SEA team and/or other relevant parties will be made publicly available (see answer to Question 4).

The SEA undertaken to assess the SKA Phase 1 in SA will follow an open and transparent process and facilitate the inclusion of stakeholder inputs in the assessment and decision-making processes. The CSIR SEA team will ensure that local stakeholders, identified during the SEA process and registered on the SEA database, are informed about the SEA process, meetings and release of reports/documents.

Inputs from authorities, local stakeholders, and technical specialists received during the SEA process will be made publicly available to ensure information sharing during the SEA process (see answer to Question 4). It is however important to understand that there are practical and financial limitations to the involvement of all potentially relevant authorities, local stakeholders, technical specialists within the SEA process. The stakeholder engagement aims to capture issues that are representative of societal sectors rather than each individual. The SEA does not intend, nor is designed to force consensus amongst all stakeholders. The SEA process aims to create a platform on which a diversity of information and data are made public and used for the assessment and decision-making process.

The CSIR is one of the leading scientific and technology research, development and implementation organisations in Africa. Constituted by an Act of Parliament in 1945 as a science council, the CSIR undertakes directed and multidisciplinary research, technological innovation as well as industrial and scientific development to improve the quality of life of the country's people. The CSIR's shareholder is the South African Parliament, held in proxy by the Minister of Science and Technology.

The CSIR was appointed by DEA as an independent scientific body to undertake a Strategic Environmental Assessment for SKA Phase 1 South Africa in support of the Strategic Integrated Project (SIP) 16: "MeerKAT and SKA". The DEA has committed to facilitate the implementation of the SIPs; developed to promote fast-tracked development and growth of social and economic infrastructure in South Africa, by undertaking Strategic Environment Assessments (SEAs) to identify adaptive assessment processes and inform the planning and design of the SIPs to safeguard the environment.

The SEA for SIP 16 aims to provide strategic guidance and ensure that the development of the SKA Phase 1 South Africa in terms of SIP 16 is undertaken in a manner that limits the potential for significant negative impact on the natural environment as well as on the social and economic environment. The key objectives of the SKA Phase 1 Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) are to:

- provide a platform to coordinate research and data collection within the SKA study area;
- identify adaptive assessment processes as part of the environmental authorisation process;
- ensure that environmental factors are adequately considered; and
- ensure that environmental principles are implemented at the strategic planning stage.

**9. Are there any areas or topics regarding SKA, and the various expansion phases, which are not open for discussion, or out of bounds?**

Response from the CSIR SKA Phase 1 SEA team to Question 9:

Questions and comments about any aspects (technical, administrative, legal and financial) of the SKA SA project as well as any capacity development plan and educational programmes should be addressed to:

Science Communication SKA SA, attention to Lorenzo Raynard,  
Street Address: The Park, Park Road, Pinelands, 7450, Cape Town, South Africa  
Email: [lraynard@ska.ac.za](mailto:lraynard@ska.ac.za)  
Tel: +27 21 506 7319 (direct) / Tel: +27 21 506 7300 (switchboard)

Please copy the CSIR SEA team ([Skaphase1@csir.co.za](mailto:Skaphase1@csir.co.za)) when sending questions and comments to SKA and DST in order to ensure that all queries and stakeholders' inputs are recorded in the SEA process.

10. If questions and answers via the Internet are not satisfactorily managed, could several more public meetings be arranged?

Response from the CSIR SKA Phase 1 SEA team 10:

The CSIR SEA team is planning on organising public meetings in February 2016. A request for additional public meetings can be addressed to the SKA SA team and DST:

Science Communication SKA SA,  
attention to Lorenzo Raynard,  
Street Address: The Park, Park Road,  
Pinelands, 7450, Cape Town, South Africa  
Email: [lraynard@ska.ac.za](mailto:lraynard@ska.ac.za)  
Tel: +27 21 506 7319 (direct) / Tel: +27 21 506  
7300 (switchboard)

DST Communications Directorate,  
attention to Johanetta Clark  
Street Address: DST Building, Building no. 53,  
Meiring Naude Road , Brummeria, PRETORIA  
E-mail: [johanetta.clark@dst.gov.za](mailto:johanetta.clark@dst.gov.za)  
Tel: (012) 843-6784 / Fax: +27 12 349 1037

11. Could future public meetings, especially those in Carnarvon, Williston, Brandvlei and Van Wyksvlei planned for February 2016, be better advertised for by the WNNR?

Response from the CSIR SKA Phase 1 SEA team 11:

The public meetings were announced via the SEA website; emails were sent to the stakeholders registered on the preliminary database; posters were placed in the towns of Carnarvon, Loxton, Van Wyksvlei, Williston and Brandvlei; announcements were made on the DEA and SAEON websites.

During the public meetings held between the 16<sup>th</sup> November and the 19<sup>th</sup> November, stakeholders recommended that the posters announcing the public meetings should be placed at the BKB in Carnarvon; at the WVK in Williston and at the KLK in Brandvlei in addition to the libraries and municipal buildings. It was also recommended to send notifications to local Farmers Associations and NGOs and so that the information can be shared amongst their members. Furthermore it was recommended to have radio announcements on RSG (<http://www.rsg.co.za/>). Those recommendations have been noted and will be implemented in 2016 for announcing public meetings.

Additional inputs and recommendations on more appropriate ways of communicating the future public meetings dates and venues are welcomed.

12. Could you kindly start the interactive website with the above questions and your answers.

Response from the CSIR SKA Phase 1 SEA team 12:

Please visit the SEA website at [www.skaphase1.csir.co.za](http://www.skaphase1.csir.co.za)