

## CSIR findings of internal investigation into EIA project of Cape Town Port

The CSIR was contracted by the National Ports Authority (NPA) in 1999 to conduct an environmental impact assessment (EIA). This was in preparation of an application by the NPA to expand the container terminal stacking area at the Port of Cape Town. In terms of legislation, EIAs are required to be conducted prior to development projects.

In a public statement on 10 May 2006, the Minister of Environmental Affairs and Tourism, Marthinus van Schalkwyk, partially upheld an appeal against the application for the expansion. In his decision, the Minister made the statement that "the non-disclosure by the CSIR of the concerns and recommendations highlighted by their expert, renders the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process flawed and reflects a serious breach of responsibility." This prompted the CSIR to launch an internal investigation into the matter as this reflected negatively on the integrity of its work and science.

After reviewing all relevant processes, procedures and documentation, the CSIR can confirm that the EIA study conducted on the Cape Town Port met all legal requirements and that it has been diligent in its approach to this project. The specialist shoreline erosion modelling approach was sufficiently robust to inform the EIA and, in this regard, the CSIR is confident that it applied the model appropriately. The CSIR is also confident that the alternative sites for fill material were investigated and this is reported on and disclosed in the final EIA report submitted.

The CSIR acknowledges that Transnet has moved forward since the appeal decision and appointed internationally-recognised specialists to revisit the sediment modelling. The CSIR supports this move fully and welcomes international review of its technical work.

View the [full report](#) containing the findings of the internal CSIR investigation.

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