



PO Box 24308  
Lansdowne  
7779

# THE GREEN CONNECTION

[www.thegreenconnection.org.za](http://www.thegreenconnection.org.za)

13 September 2024

**To: Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment**

**Attention: Assistant Director Farryn Sherman of Department of Environmental Affairs**

**By email: [fsherman@dffe.gov.za](mailto:fsherman@dffe.gov.za)**

## **The Green Connection Submission on Development Pathways By 2050**

The Green Connection is a registered non-governmental organisation that believes economic growth and development, improvement of socio-economic status and conservation of natural resources can only take place within a commonly understood framework of sustainable development. It aims to provide practical support to both the government and nongovernmental/ civil society sectors, which are an integral part of sustainable development. The Green Connection is an environmental and social justice civil society organisation that promotes sustainable livelihoods and the achievement of environmental rights.

The Green Connection submits these comments in response to an invitation by the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment on Development Pathways by 2050.

### **Introduction**

Climate change has resulted in climate extremes in every region across the globe which is characterised by human activities according to the Sixth Assessment Report of the IPCC 2023<sup>1</sup>. The dire consequences of climate change have affected vulnerable communities while they have contributed least to the climate catastrophe. While there is an urgent need to act against curbing climate change, The Green Connection notes that this can be taken through implementation of a legislation that will drive our energy roadmap such as the development of the Integrated Energy Plan<sup>2</sup> (IEP) towards sustainability. Section 6 of the National Energy Act was passed in 2008 but was only brought into operation after The Green Connection with the support of SAFCEI challenged the government in court.

1. Sixth Assessment Report: <https://www.ipcc.ch/assessment-report/ar6/>

2. Integrated Energy Plan: <https://thegreenconnection.org.za/integrated-energy-plan-2/>

3. IEA 2050: <https://www.iea.org/news/urgent-action-to-cut-methane-emissions-from-fossil-fuel-operations-essential-to-achieve-global-climate-targets>

4. The Green Connection Submission Draft IRP 2023: <https://thegreenconnection.org.za/wp-content/uploads/2024/04/The-Green-Connection-IRP-2023-Submission.pdf>

5. 100 million climate jobs: <https://aidc.org.za/download/OMCJ-booklet-AIDC-electronic-version.pdf>

6. National Development Plan: [https://www.gov.za/sites/default/files/gcis\\_document/201409/ndp-2030-our-future-make-it-workr.pdf](https://www.gov.za/sites/default/files/gcis_document/201409/ndp-2030-our-future-make-it-workr.pdf)



# THE GREEN CONNECTION

www.thegreenconnection.org.za

PO Box 24308  
Lansdowne  
7779

**Table 2: Keywords to narrate the quality of life for each development scenario.**

Keywords/attributes	Ideal Situation (best case) for a 'Good Life'	Satisfactory (acceptable) Situation for a 'Good Life'
<b>MINDSET</b>		
Goal of life (e.g. emphasis on social success or social contribution)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Community owned renewable energy sources as part of reducing our reliance on coal and to ensure the cost of climate change doesn't affect marginalised communities as per NDP 2030. <sup>6</sup></li> <li>Cooperative Ocean governance (No oil and gas exploration and co-management of marine resources).</li> <li>Protection and preservation of cultural heritage.</li> <li>Coal contributing less to our energy needs, tripling household renewable energy programmes.<sup>4</sup></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Moratorium on oil and gas exploration to protect and preserve livelihoods of coastal communities – While also reducing our greenhouse gas emissions that adversely impact marginalised communities.</li> <li>According to the International Energy Agency there is no need for countries to invest in more oil and gas exploration projects as assets could become stranded. <sup>3</sup></li> </ul>
Residence (e.g. urban or rural)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Solar and renewable rollout in residences to cut the costs of energy access.</li> <li>Transparency in pricing methods used to determine energy prices as part of protecting consumers.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Implementation of legislation and policies that will cut on fossil fuel investment such as the IEP and Climate Act.</li> <li>Minimised environmental impacts because of energy sources.</li> </ul>
Family structure (e.g. independent or cohabitation)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Improved lifestyle and upskilled independent communities that have</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Independent communities through localisation of renewable energy projects. The NDP<sup>6</sup> plan is to ensure there is accelerated</li> </ul>



# THE GREEN CONNECTION

www.thegreenconnection.org.za

PO Box 24308  
Lansdowne  
7779

	<p>developed their own local economies.</p>	<p>economic growth through providing a supportive environment for growth and development while reducing cost of living for marginalised households and investing in localised renewables would lead to independent communities.</p>
<p>Acceptance of advanced technology</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Upgrade infrastructure that will withstand the impacts of climate change.</li> <li>• Renewable energy localisation. No nuclear</li> <li>• no carbon capture and storage</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Decommissioning of coal power plants to address health impacts.</li> <li>• Updating the IRP 2023 to address energy poverty in SA once the IEP has been passed.</li> <li>• Putting more clean and affordable energy through updating the IRP 2023 to move in accordance with our climate commitment UNFCCC. <sup>4</sup></li> </ul>
<p>POPULATION</p>		
<p>Birth rate</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mitigating methane emissions would prevent nearly 1 million premature deaths due to ozone exposure. <sup>3</sup></li> <li>• upskilling women to improve socio economic status</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Factoring external costs on health in communities closer to fossil fuel projects and improving health facilities.</li> <li>• Taking into account women's needs</li> </ul>
<p>Acceptance of foreign workers</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Skills transfer opportunities.</li> </ul>	
<p>Emigration</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improved regional economic growth through establishment of green emerging industries to provide more opportunities for locals.</li> </ul>	
<p>LAND USE AND CITIES</p>		
<p>Migration</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NDP 2030<sup>6</sup> notes that migration in cities makes it difficult to plan and budget</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improved socio-economic conditions. public transport, energy efficient housing, water</li> </ul>



# THE GREEN CONNECTION

[www.thegreenconnection.org.za](http://www.thegreenconnection.org.za)

PO Box 24308

Lansdowne

7779

	<p>for provision of services thus implementing sustainable projects in rural communities that will help grow their local economies would reduce the influx of people migrating for better life.</p>	<p>wise housing design. zero waste implemented</p>
Nature of urban centres	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Building and Upgrading infrastructure to ensure resilient towns that can withstand frequent climate disasters.</li> </ul>	<p>ensuring that oceans do not become the dumping ground of towns. stop sewerage outflows into oceans and rivers</p>
Nature of rural areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Protection of oceans and supporting coastal communities through provision of responsible fishing permits.</li> <li>• Recognition of local indigenous heritage and culture.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ban exploration of oil and gas to protect livelihoods and conserve marine habitats.</li> <li>• Recognition of heritage and culture</li> </ul>
Nature of food production and distribution	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Celebrating and acknowledging local food production.</li> <li>• Alleviating poverty in coastal communities through supporting small-scale farmers and fishers.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Deepening local supply and distribution.</li> </ul>
<b>LIFE AND HOUSEHOLD</b>		
Nature of work	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Capacitated subsistence farmer emphasis on sustainable livelihoods and not extractive short-term jobs.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Supporting existing local economies to improve standard of living and to create livelihoods.</li> </ul>
Nature of housework	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Household share equitably - not only women</li> </ul>	



# THE GREEN CONNECTION

[www.thegreenconnection.org.za](http://www.thegreenconnection.org.za)

PO Box 24308  
Lansdowne  
7779

Free time (activities)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Relaxing in nature/ beach and ocean-based activities that do not disturb wildlife.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Free access to SANParks for local communities</li> </ul>
Housing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Energy access to all and at cheaper costs.</li> <li>Energy efficiency, water wise</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>70% poor households having access to cleaner energy alternatives especially those not connected to the grid. (FBAE policy)</li> <li>Implement proper monitoring tools in municipalities to ensure communities' benefit.</li> </ul>
Consumption (e.g. rapid replacement or long-life cycle of commodities)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Complete phase out of coal mining by 2050.</li> <li>Industry must implement zero waste policy.</li> <li>Circular economy must be promoted and enabled.</li> <li>Mining to be decided by local communities - managed and regulated through co-management FPIC enforceable.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Less dependence on coal mining by 2035.</li> <li>Mandatory free recycling services in all municipalities.</li> <li>Ban plastic wrapping/ single use plastics.</li> <li>Phase out oil industry based fertilizers</li> </ul>
Mobility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Public transport infrastructure must be implemented, not private sector roads. Implementing safer and cheaper transport e.g. electric vehicles and electric boats for fishing communities.</li> <li>Private transport could be bicycles and walking through building infrastructure.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The IEP should provide a roadmap of how the transport industry will transition from fossils to cleaner energy alternatives.</li> <li>Stop investing in roads for private cars.</li> <li>Improve public transport to make it safe, eco friendly and affordable.</li> <li>Pavements must be provided on all roads.</li> </ul>
Safety and Security	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Safe communities.</li> <li>End to gender- based violence.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Implementation of security programmes to support local businesses and deployed resources by the government.</li> <li>Implementation of local crime prevention programmes to protect people.</li> </ul>



# THE GREEN CONNECTION

www.thegreenconnection.org.za

PO Box 24308  
Lansdowne  
7779

## ECONOMY

<p>Growth rate</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Measurement of the economy is about increasing equity not economic growth. sustainable economic development within the bounds of ecological limits - the doughnut economics model.</li> <li>• Improved energy access for local small businesses and communities drives economic development not extractive expert led growth. NDP 2030 milestones argue that broadening asset ownership to previously disadvantaged groups would eliminate poverty in households. <sup>6</sup></li> <li>• Ban oil-based fertilizers and pesticides. organic agriculture.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Include Gini coefficient and other indicators of economic well-being rather than only focusing on GDP.</li> <li>• Provide enabling environment for small businesses</li> <li>• Ban unhealthy pesticides. make labelling mandatory, enforce regulations and ban GMOs.</li> </ul>
<p>Job creation and skills development</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Investments in the agricultural sector e.g. for small- scale farmers.</li> <li>• Invest in energy efficiency jobs, financial skills for cooperatives and local community leadership.<sup>6</sup></li> <li>• Ensure that schools teach sustainability and that rehabilitation and improving and repairing the environmental damage create jobs.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Supporting job creation locally.</li> <li>• More investments in renewable energy projects.</li> <li>• Increased emphasis on small cooperatives/businesses which can be used to clean up and rehabilitate environmental harm - e.g. mine owners must invest in local communities to enables and enforce rehabilitation as well as monitoring environmental regulations/conditions of any permit.</li> </ul>



# THE GREEN CONNECTION

[www.thegreenconnection.org.za](http://www.thegreenconnection.org.za)

PO Box 24308  
Lansdowne  
7779

Technological development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Improved public transport facilities e.g. electric vehicles, taxis and buses.</li> <li>Municipalities developing town infrastructure to withstand climate disasters with the new legislation in place that is the Climate Act.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Slow – phase out of fossil fuel vehicles to support net-zero idea.</li> <li>Ensure that technology is local.</li> <li>Appropriate environmental technology - no nuclear, no GMOs, ban plastics move to biodegradable packaging, using waste to make bricks. etc.</li> </ul>
Economic Structure (e.g. service or production based)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Economic structure must shift away from extractive export towards beneficiation.</li> <li>Community owned and locally led initiatives that then enable local production and consumption - focussed on sustainable products, locally grown food/agriculture and services to be embedded locally. e.g. solar water heater maintainers should be drawn from local community.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Economy must be structure to support small business, prevent monopolies and collusion.</li> </ul>
<b>INDUSTRY</b>		
Manufacturing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Local industries supported all industry must be zero waste and apply doughnut economics principles.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mapping of local industrial opportunities. and provide enabling environment.</li> </ul>
Primary resource extraction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mining must be responsible with stringent monitoring and enforcement of social and environmental conditions.</li> <li>Beneficiation must be local and critical minerals could be an opportunity for south</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mining rehabilitation must be strictly enforced. Funds for rehabilitation must be ringfenced.</li> <li>All environmental disasters must be insured through strict liability and the state must have a national fund into which all mining companies, energy companies etc pay!</li> </ul>



# THE GREEN CONNECTION

www.thegreenconnection.org.za

PO Box 24308  
Lansdowne  
7779

	Africa to work with other African countries to become a global leader.	
Service industry	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Services must be affordable with basic services free.</li> <li>• Banking sector must be restructured to be service orientate and not to profit off people's need for a financial transactional mechanism.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Services must be affordable and free for those vulnerable and marginalised.</li> </ul>

## Analysis

The National Development Plan vision to eliminate poverty and inequality in our society can be achieved through the acceptance of energy as a driver for socio economic development.

The Integrated Energy Plan process gives an opportunity to ensure no one is left behind in the energy sector's decision-making process. South Africa's energy policy the 1998 [White Paper](#) laid out a foundation on the advantages of renewable energy projects particularly considering least cost of energy service to disadvantaged households in as much as some contents of the paper need to reviewed but rolling out renewable energy programmes to marginalised communities would improve accessibility and reduce environmental impact. Enhanced energy access to households and small- businesses would drive localised economic development and growth.

The IEP needs to take into account climate change costs and damage to infrastructure as reports from the [Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change](#) highlighted that transitioning to low carbon economies should be a priority to mitigate adverse impacts that climate change poses to marginalised communities.

The good life can only be achieved if climate change is acknowledged, and all local governments and national government departments focus on building climate resilience through banning and phasing out any activities or development that worsens the climate crisis (all fossil-based developments) and supporting local economies that are centred on climate resilience. This applies to food security activities such as farming and fishing, as well as extractive industries such as mining.

Yours sincerely,

Lisa Makaula

Liziwe McDaid

Contact details:

[lisa@thegreenconnection.org.za](mailto:lisa@thegreenconnection.org.za)

[liziwe@mweb.co.za](mailto:liziwe@mweb.co.za)