

Environmental and Social Safeguards Monitoring Report

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Independent State of Samoa: Central Cross Island Road Upgrading Project

Semiannual Safeguards Monitoring Report

1 January - 30 June 2026

Prepared by the Project Management Division (PMD) of the Ministry of Works, Transport and Infrastructure and the Land Transport Authority for the Ministry of Finance, and the Asian Development Bank.
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List of Abbreviations

ADB	Asian Development Bank
AP	Affected Person (s)
BMP	Biodiversity Management Plan
CAR	Corrective Action Request
CCECC	China Civil Engineering Construction Corporation
CCIRUP	Central Cross-Island Road Upgrading Project
CCR	Compensation Completion Report
CEMP	Construction Environmental Management Plan
CSC	Construction Supervision Consultant
CSS	Country Safeguards System
DCA	Development Consent Application
DMS	Detail Measurement Survey
EFT	Electronic Funds Transfer
EMP	Environmental Management Plan
ESS	Environmental and Social Standards
GBV	Gender-based Violence
GRM	Grievance Redress Mechanism
IEE	Initial Environmental Examination
IOL	Inventory of Loss
LTA	Land Transport Authority
MLS	Ministry of Lands and Survey
MNRE	Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment
MOF	Ministry of Finance
MWCSD	Ministry of Women, Community and Social Development
MWTI	Ministry of Works, Transport, and Infrastructure
NOI	Notice of Intention
OAG	Office of the Attorney General
OHS	Occupational, Health, and Safety
PEAR	Preliminary Environmental Assessment Report
PUMA	Planning and Urban Management Agency (within MWTI)
RP	Resettlement Plan
SMEC	Snowy Mountains Engineering Corporation
SMR	Semiannual Safeguards Monitoring Report
SMP	Safety Management Plan
SPS	Safeguard Policy Statement 2009 (of ADB)
PMD	Project Management Division

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1. INTRODUCTION

This is the 11th semi-annual safeguards monitoring report (SMR) for the Central Cross Island Road Upgrading Project (CCIRUP), covering the period from 1 January to 30 June 2026. Presented in the report are the undertakings to date for both environmental and social safeguards.

1.1 Project Background

The Government of Samoa (“the Government”) had requested support from the Asian Development Bank (ADB) for the CCIRUP which is considered a priority investment in the transport sector. The project will finance (i) the upgrade of about 20 kilometers (km) of the national road (along the Central Cross Island Road) featuring climate-proofing considerations, innovative technologies, road safety, and gender-inclusive elements, (ii) 3-year routine maintenance commencing immediately after the physical completion of the road upgrade with gender-inclusive elements; and (iii) a gender-sensitive capacity strengthening for the road subsector.

1.1.2 Impact and Outcome

The project supports the objectives of the Government’s Transport and Infrastructure Sector Plan 2023–2028, particularly Goal 5: Improve connectivity, mobility, and accessibility through safe and climate-resilient road infrastructures. It also contributes to the Sector’s vision of strengthening connectivity and accessibility through safe, resilient, and sustainable transport infrastructure that improves the quality of life for all. The intended outcome is a safer, more resilient, and sustainable road network that enhances connectivity, accessibility, and mobility for all road users.

1.2 Project Description

1.2.1 Purpose:

The semi-annual environmental and social safeguards monitoring report, as required by the ADB Safeguard Policy Statement 2009 (SPS), covers the period from January to June 2026. The project remains classified as Category B for environmental and involuntary resettlement safeguards, and Category C for Indigenous peoples. As there are no new activities or updates in this reporting period, the focus is on previously reported findings and ongoing mitigation measures outlined in the Preliminary Environmental Assessment Report (PEAR), which was issued development consent on September 9, 2020.

1.2.2 Output 1: Central Cross Island Road upgraded and made safer

This output involves the upgrading of approximately 20 km of the Central Cross Island Road to improve climate resilience, road safety, and transport efficiency. The works include road rehabilitation, drainage improvements, footpaths, street lighting, bus stops, and pedestrian crossings to enhance accessibility and

safety for all road users, particularly women and vulnerable groups. Environmental and social safeguards are integrated throughout implementation to minimize project impacts and ensure compliance with the project's safeguard requirements.

1.2.3 Output 2: Maintenance of Central Cross Island Road improved

This output supports the implementation of a three-year routine maintenance programme following completion of the road upgrade. The maintenance programme adopts a performance-based approach to promote sustainable road asset management while encouraging participation by national contractors and local communities, including increased opportunities for women in the maintenance workforce.

1.2.4 Output 3: Institutional capacity to manage the road network strengthened

This output strengthens the capacity of the Ministry of Works, Transport and Infrastructure (MWTI) and Land Transport Authority (LTA). It includes institutional strengthening in project management, environmental and social safeguards, procurement, financial management, road safety, gender mainstreaming, and public communications through technical assistance, training, and knowledge sharing.

Confirmed trainings approved for the next six months include Environmental and Social Management, Resettlement Action Planning, and other trainings related to advancing gender equality. Any additional training obtained and undertaken during the upcoming six-month period will be recorded accordingly.

1.3 Project Implementation

1.3.1 Institutional arrangements

The Ministry of Finance (MoF) acts as the executing agency, while the Land Transport Authority (LTA) serves as the implementing agency. The Project Management Division of MWTI oversees project coordination and reporting. The Planning and Urban Management Agency (PUMA) implements elements of the Country Safeguards System (CSS). As of early November-mid December, three out of the four funded positions—Senior Monitoring and Evaluation Officer, Senior Procurement Officer, and Senior Safeguards Officer—have been filled, with only the Senior Financial Management Officer position yet to be recruited.

1.3.2 Project support

SMEC International (SMEC) has been contracted as the construction supervision consultant (CSC) for the project, assisting the LTA with implementation and monitoring of environmental and social safeguards, including health and safety. A gender action plan is also being implemented, with updates provided in Quarterly Progress Reports. For construction work package Civil Works Package (CW2), the CSC supports the PMU and contractors, particularly in developing the Construction Environmental and Social Management Plan (CESMP), while Civil Works Package (CW1) is yet to be implemented.

1.4 Status of Approvals, Clearances and Due Diligence

There were no activities or updates during this semi-annual reporting period, and it remains unchanged from the previous period. Discussions are ongoing regarding the proposed remedial works for CW2. The need for any additional due diligence will be carried out accordingly following the outcome of these discussions and confirmation of the proposed remedial approach.

2. MONITORING ACTIVITIES

2.1 Summary of monitoring activities for Civil Works 1

Monitoring activities for CW1 will be carried out in accordance with the measures outlined in the project's Environmental Management Plan (EMP). The development, implementation, and monitoring of these measures will commence upon contract(s) award.

2.2 Summary of monitoring activities for Civil Works

No safeguard audit was conducted for this reporting period. However, the following were areas of interest.

2.2.1 Waste management

During the reporting period, a used motor oil was observed within the Contractor's laydown area. LTA and MNRE with SMEC instructed the Contractor to remove the waste immediately and reinforced the need for routine waste management practices across all CW 2 work areas. The Contractor was also reminded to regularly maintain drainage systems to minimise potential environmental impacts (Refer to Annex 1)

2.2.2 Defects Notification Period (DNP)

The Defects Notification Period remains in effect and is scheduled to expire on 26 September 2026. Environmental and social safeguard monitoring will continue throughout the remaining DNP to verify that any outstanding defects and associated corrective actions are completed in compliance with the Contract and the project's safeguard requirements.

2.2.3 Chip Seal flushing defect remediation

The remediation of the chip seal flushing defect affecting the 4.2 km section of the two-coat chip seal remained outstanding during the reporting period. SMEC continued to require CCECC to remove and replace the affected pavement section in accordance with the Contract requirements. While the Contractor's Notice of Claim, Employer's Claim, and related technical assessments remain under review, SMEC reaffirmed through NTC113.3 (8 June 2026) that the proposed technical solution was non-

compliant and that remediation works must proceed independently of the contractual claims process. Safeguards monitoring will continue to verify that all remediation activities are undertaken in accordance with the project's environmental and social management requirements (Refer to Annex 2:).

2.2.4 Delay damages – Notice of Dissatisfaction

The contractual dispute concerning Delay Damages remains under resolution following CCECC's Notice of Dissatisfaction issued on 17 April 2026. During the reporting period, LTA and SMEC explored a commercial settlement linked to the remediation of the defective chip seal pavement; however, no agreement was reached. Although the amicable settlement period has expired, arbitration has not been initiated, and discussions between the parties remain ongoing. At this stage, the dispute has not resulted in any identified environmental or social safeguard non-compliance but will continue to be monitored for any potential implications to project implementation (Annex 3).

3. WORKS IN PROGRESS

3.1 Environmental Safeguards

3.1.1 Summary of Environmental Management Plan and Construction Environmental Management Plan Implementation for Civil Works 1

The development and monitoring of these plans will commence once the contract(s) is/are signed.

3.1.2 Summary of Environmental Management Plan and Construction Environmental Management Plan Implementation for Civil Works 2

There were no major updates or developments during this reporting period, and the information is consistent with the previous semi-annual report.

3.2 Resettlement Compliance and Social Safeguards

3.2.1 Resettlement Plan (RP) implementation for Civil Works 1

Table 1 summarizes the compliance with RP requirements for CW1. Refer to Appendix 1.

Table 1: Resettlement Plan Requirements Summary for Civil Works 1

Date Raised	Issue	Status

January 2025	The AP requested confirmation of the new road boundary and appropriate safety measures before constructing a grave at the front of their property, resulting in design revisions and a delayed agreement.	LTA and SMEC revised the property access and road safety design to incorporate the AP's requested changes, including a shared vehicle crossing, guardrail, and speed humps, after which the AP agreed to the proposal and signed the agreement on 16 February 2026.
February 2024	The AP withheld signing the land acquisition agreement for the property until drainage issues affecting the adjacent property were addressed and the land valuation process was completed.	As of 6 March 2026, LTA confirmed that, based on an update from MLS, the independent land valuation report is currently under review by MLS, who will notify LTA should any further assistance be required prior to finalizing the land acquisition agreement. Target date for close-out by September 2026.
October 2023	Easement at EPC	LTA conducted several meetings with EPC representatives regarding the proposed easement to be installed at the area. Due to high voltage nature of the underground cables through the vicinity EPC has opted to consider another route for the proposed easement. This matter has now been referred to the CEO/Ministerial level for further assessment and discussion. A meeting will be conducted soon for another alternative as LTA have identified 3 options for the proposed easement. Consultations have already been undertaken with families in and around the affected area as an alternative option. Target close out date in Quarter 4.
August 2023	Obtaining the necessary agreements and approvals for the proposed easement and design works affecting the NZHC property, with the NZHC structures agreement and Government of Samoa easement approval still pending.	LTA received a response from NZHC's legal representative on 8 June 2026 advising that the matter is being followed up with their headquarters, with further updates pending, while the NZHC structures agreement and MoF easement approval remain outstanding (Refer to Annex 4 PM&RC CCIRUP-Resettlement Coordination Meeting Minutes (15-June-26)).

Note: AP- Affected Person(s), LTA- Land Transport Authority, SMEC- Snowy Mountains Engineering Corporation, MLS: Ministry of Lands and Survey, NZHC- New Zealand High Commission, PM&RC CCIRUP- Project Management & Resettlement Coordination. Central Cross Island Road Upgrading Project.

3.2.2 Land-taking

During the reporting period (January–June 2026), land acquisition and resettlement activities continued in accordance with the project's approved land acquisition framework. Consultations were completed with 69 of the 70 project-affected landowners, with one (1) landowner remaining uncontactable. MLS and LTA will continue to coordinate an appropriate engagement strategy to establish contact with the

remaining family during the project mobilization stage. An agreement with remaining landowners is being finalized by MLS to allow the works to commence while consultations and landownership discussions with the remaining landowners are undertaken in parallel. This separate agreement aims to formalize this arrangement and facilitate commencement of the works pending completion of the outstanding land consultations.

As of 30 June 2026, a total of 58 land agreements had been executed, comprising 55 agreements with the Ministry of Finance (MoF) and three (3) agreements with the LTA. The remaining agreements will be progressed through continued consultations, negotiations, and valuation discussions with the affected landowners (Refer to Annex 5)

To facilitate timely project implementation, MLS commenced engagement with the Office of the Attorney General (OAG) to prepare legal agreements for the remaining 13 affected persons/families whose land acquisition consultations have not yet been concluded. These agreements are intended to provide formal consent for the project to proceed with the proposed works while consultation, valuation, and compensation negotiations continue in parallel. MLS has been tasked with preparing and issuing the legal agreements for execution, with completion targeted for Q42026. Engagement with the remaining affected persons/families will continue until all outstanding land acquisition matters have been resolved in accordance with the project's land acquisition and resettlement procedures (Refer to Annex 2)

Significant progress was also achieved in the preparation of resettlement documentation during the reporting period. The draft Resettlement Plan (RP) was submitted to ADB on 4 May 2026, subsequently reviewed, cleared, and approved on 27 May 2026. The approved RP was disclosed on the LTA website on 11 June 2026, with disclosure on the ADB website confirmed on 15 June 2026, thereby fulfilling the project's disclosure requirements. The Compensation Completion Report (CCR) was also submitted to ADB for review; however, it was returned with review comments and is currently being revised by LTA-PMD prior to resubmission.

Overall, land acquisition and resettlement implementation continued to progress during the reporting period, with consultation activities substantially completed, the majority of land agreements executed, and the approved Resettlement Plan publicly disclosed. Efforts will continue during the next reporting period to finalize the remaining consultations, execute outstanding legal agreements, and complete the CCR (Appendix 4).

Table 2: Land-taking update as of June 2026

Land-taking activities	Status	Action Taken/Progress
Total affected landowners	70	
Families already consulted	69	

Families that have not responded	0	
Families without contact details	1	MLS to provide advice on the appropriate approach and way forward for the taking of land in such cases.
Total signed agreements with MoF	55	Processed and paid out to date
Families undergoing re-valuation	0	
Families pending land agreement with MLS	11	MLS is finalizing a separate agreement with the remaining landowners to allow works to commence while land consultations and ownership discussions continue in parallel. The agreement will formalize this arrangement pending completion of the outstanding consultations. Prioritization of lot 1 being advertised. Any other families willing to sign the land agreement will undergo usual compensation process

Note: MoF- Ministry of Finance, MLS- Ministry of Lands and Survey.

3.2.3 Stakeholder Engagement and Consultations

Stakeholder engagement and consultations continued throughout the reporting period to support land acquisition, resettlement implementation, and project coordination. Engagement activities included consultations with affected persons, coordination with government agencies and utility providers, and discussions to address land acquisition matters, potential project impacts, and implementation requirements.

A series of informal consultations were conducted with project-affected landowners to discuss outstanding matters relating to land acquisition, compensation, and potential impacts on affected crops, structures, and easements. These consultations also provided an opportunity to address queries, clarify land boundaries where required, and respond to concerns raised by affected families regarding the proposed civil works.

LTA also continued to engage with relevant stakeholders, including the Samoa Water Authority (SWA), SMEC, and affected persons, to coordinate utility relocation, confirm affected structures, verify the Inventory of Losses (IOL), and resolve project-related matters (refer to Appendix 4). A summary of the stakeholder engagement and consultation activities undertaken during the reporting period is provided in Table 3.

Table 3: Summary of Stakeholder Engagement for Civil Works 1

Date	Stakeholder Group	Purpose	Summary of Inputs	Follow-up Actions
29 April 2026	SMEC, LTA	Preparatory discussion on SWA's request regarding their assets between Afiamalu and Malololelei ahead of the scheduled 11:00 a.m. meeting with SWA.	LTA & SWA held discussions around the utilities between Afiamalu and Malololelei.	LTA will monitor and provide any developments and update SWA accordingly.
8 May 2026	SMEC, LTA, SWA	Meeting with SWA regarding the potential impacts of the proposed civil works on SWA assets.	It was confirmed by SMEC that the SWA chain-link fence at Papauta will be affected during construction. However, SWA fences at both Afiamalu and Malololelei can be avoided and are not expected to be impacted by the proposed civil works.	LTA and SMEC will provide SWA with the CAD files for the road sections between Afiamalu and Malololelei. These drawings will enable SWA to incorporate the road design into the planning and design of their upcoming project.
30 April 2026	SMEC, LTA and AP	The meeting discussed the potential impact on the chain-link fence and AP's request for LTA to consider constructing a retaining wall to enhance safety due to the bend in the road.	It was confirmed that the road alignment at this location will not be affected by the proposed civil works. However, AP requested that LTA consider the construction of a retaining wall as a safety measure. It was also noted that the utilities within the area will be upgraded.	LTA will proceed as discussed and agreed.
18 May 2026	SMEC, LTA	The IOL was handed over to SMEC to facilitate the completion of the remaining assessment activities.	SMEC will undertake further field verification and update the IOL as necessary.	Progress will be monitored on an ongoing basis in coordination with SMEC.

19 June 2026	SMEC, LTA, AP	The meeting discussed the affected electric fence belonging to the AP at Afiamalu.	The AP will sign the Affected Structure Agreement and submit the executed copy to LTA for record-keeping and the necessary follow-up actions.	LTA will monitor and provide updates as necessary.
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Note: SMEC- Snowy Mountains Engineering Corporation, LTA- Land Transport Authority, SWA- Samoa Water Authority, CAD- Computer-Aided Designs, IOL- Inventory of Losses, AP- Affected Person(s)

Consultations will continue throughout the next six months as an ongoing activity, particularly with families and landowners who have ongoing issues or queries, as well as with the remaining landowners requiring further consultation and land agreements to be signed. Any additional consultations undertaken during this period will be recorded accordingly.

Community engagement and awareness activities will also be undertaken as required, particularly as the project approaches contract award, to ensure communities are informed of the upcoming works and any relevant project activities.

3.2.4 Grievance Redress Mechanism

For CW1, the Grievance Redress Mechanism (GRM) continued to be monitored throughout the reporting period where no grievances or complaints were lodged; only queries were received and addressed through the established GRM process and is summarized in Table 4. Refer to Appendix 3.

Table 4: Complaints and Grievances reported for Civil Works 1

Type	Total	Description	Status
Query	1	A query regarding land compensation was raised in person during an on-site consultation on 22 February 2026. The affected person stated that compensation had not been received and expressed concerns about the removal of a boundary fence until the matter was resolved. A review confirmed that compensation had previously been completed, and a follow-up site visit was arranged to verify the land boundaries and address the concerns raised. Verification and supporting documentation were provided to the AP confirming that compensation had been paid. The AP acknowledged and agreed for the affected structure to be reinstated by the contractor once works commence. The grievance was resolved and closed within the same month it was received.	Ongoing
	2	A query regarding land matters was raised via phone call on 11 June 2026 at MLS office. The affected person requested that all communications relating to the family's land be directed to designated family representatives rather than an elderly	Resolved

		family member. The request was acknowledged, and future communications were noted to follow this preference.	
	3	A query regarding land boundary confirmation was raised in person at LTA office on 13 June 2026. The affected person questioned the accuracy of the right-of-way (ROW) boundary and indicated that survey plans supported the location of the existing boundary. A review of the survey information was initiated, and a follow-up meeting was arranged to verify the boundary and discuss the matter further. Target close out date in August also depending on AP availability	Ongoing

Note: MLS- Ministry of Lands and Survey, LTA- Land Transport Authority.

LIST OF APPENDICES

Appendix 1: Resettlement Implementation Plan.

Appendix 2: Compensation Noting 87% landowners paid-out for Civil Works 1 as of 17 June 2025 (No updates to date)

Appendix 3: Grievances and Complaints Register

Appendix 4: Pictorial of the meetings, consultations & trainings

Appendix 1: Resettlement Implementation Plan

[illegible]

Appendix 2: Compensation Noting 87% landowners paid-out for Civil Works as of 17 June 2025 (No updates to date)

Owner	Agreed Price	Submitted to Mof for Payme	Payment Method	Payment Status	Status Update
	WS\$ 185,920.00	EFT with MOF	EFT	paid out	
	WS\$ 34,480.00	EFT with MOF	EFT	paid out	
	WS\$ 98,960.00	EFT with MOF	EFT	paid out	
	WS\$ 17,520.00	EFT with MOF	EFT	paid out	
	WS\$ 211,760.00	EFT with MOF	EFT	paid out	
	WS\$ 117,360.00	EFT with MOF	EFT	paid out	
	WS\$ 134,000.00	EFT with MOF	EFT	paid out	
	WS\$ 71,920.00	EFT with MOF	EFT	paid out	
	WS\$ 83,520.00	EFT with MOF	EFT	paid out	
	WS\$ 184,320.00	EFT with MOF	EFT	paid out	
	WS\$ 181,280.00	EFT with MOF	EFT	paid out	
	WS\$ 62,800.00	EFT with MOF	EFT	paid out	
Government of Samoa		Land Agreements with MNRE			Agreement signed by MNRE Board
Government of Samoa		Land Agreements with MNRE			Agreement signed by MNRE Board
	WS\$ 92,160.00	EFT with MOF	EFT	paid out	
	WS\$ 104,400.00	EFT with MOF	EFT	paid out	
	WS\$ 127,200.00	EFT with MOF	EFT	paid out	
	WS\$ 184,480.00	EFT with MOF	EFT	paid out	
	WS\$ 179,440.00	EFT with MOF	EFT	paid out	
	WS\$ 153,760.00	EFT with MOF	EFT	paid out	
	WS\$ 169,440.00	EFT with MOF	EFT	paid out	
Government of Samoa		Land Agreements with MNRE			Agreement signed by MNRE Board
	WS\$ 20,160.00	Land Agreements with MNRE			Pending signing due to ongoing Legal action at Court (Final lot to be paid out)
	WS\$ 10,080.00	EFT with MOF	EFT	paid out	
	WS\$ 60,240.00	EFT with MOF	EFT	paid out	
	WS\$ 102,800.00	EFT with MOF		paid out	
Government of Samoa		Land Agreements with MNRE			Agreement signed by MNRE Board
	WS\$ 8,640.00	EFT with MOF		paid out	
	WS\$ 6,160.00	EFT with MOF			
	WS\$ 4,640.00	EFT with MOF			In processing
	WS\$ 34,400.00	EFT with MOF			
	WS\$ 24,320.00	EFT with MOF	EFT	paid out	
	WS\$ 29,520.00	EFT with MOF	EFT	paid out	
Government of Samoa					Agreement signed by MNRE Board
	WS\$ 11,920.00	EFT with MOF	EFT	paid out	
	WS\$ 135,200.00	Land Agreements with MNRE			Ongoing consultation- MNRE following up with agreement
	WS\$ 52,080.00	EFT with MOF			In processing
	WS\$ 84,400.00	EFT with MOF			
Government of Samoa		Land Agreements with MNRE			Agreement signed by MNRE Board
	WS\$ 8,640.00	EFT with MOF		paid out	
Government of Samoa		Land Agreements with MNRE			Agreement signed by MNRE Board
Government of Samoa		Land Agreements with MNRE			
	WS\$ 10,400.00	EFT with MOF			In processing
	WS\$ 16,880.00	EFT with MOF			
	WS\$ 240.00	EFT with MOF	EFT	paid out	
	WS\$ 800.00	EFT with MOF	EFT	paid out	
	WS\$ 12,240.00	EFT with MOF			In processing
	WS\$ 79,360.00	EFT with MOF			In processing
	WS\$ 5,040.00	EFT with MOF	EFT	paid out	
	WS\$ 12,160.00	EFT with MOF	EFT	paid out	

Appendix 3: Grievances and Complaints Register

Type of Submission	Date Received	Gender	Category	Description	Action Taken	Status (Resolved or Open)
Query	22 February 2026	Male	Land Compensation	The AP expressed concerns regarding the status of compensation for the affected land and advised that the boundary fence would remain in place pending resolution of the compensation matter.	A review confirmed that compensation for the affected land had previously been completed, and the relevant agreements and supporting documentation were presented to the affected person. As concerns remained, a follow-up site visit was arranged to verify the newly established boundary markers and further clarify the matter.	Open
Query	11 June 2026	Male	Land Matters	The AP requested that future correspondence and discussions regarding the family's land be addressed to the appropriate family representatives instead of the elderly family member.	The matter was acknowledged, and the requested communication arrangement was noted for future implementation.	Resolved
Query	13 June 2026	Male	Land Boundary	The AP questioned the accuracy of the right-of-way (ROW) boundary and advised that survey plans were available to support the location of the existing boundary fence.	The survey information and boundary alignment were referred for technical verification prior to a follow-up meeting with the affected person. A site meeting was subsequently scheduled to confirm the right-of-way (ROW) boundary and discuss the matter further.	Open

Appendix 4: Pictorial of the meetings, consultations and training

		
<i>Preparatory discussion on SWA's request</i>	<i>Meeting with SWA 8th April</i>	<i>Meeting with AP on the 30th April</i>





Meeting with AP on the 30th April