



forestry, fisheries & the environment

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Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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Reference: Hydra Powerline

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PER E-MAIL

Dear Mr. Pretorius

COMMENTS ON THE DRAFT BASIC ASSESSMENT REPORT FOR THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF THE CASTLE TO HYDRA TRANSMISSION LINE NEAR DE AAR, IN THE NORTHERN CAPE PROVINCE

The Directorate: Biodiversity Conservation reviewed and evaluated the draft report.

Based on the information provided in the report, the proposed development overlaps within Critical Biodiversity Area (CBA1). Development within CBA's are not favorable. However, this CBA will consist of pylons and the development footprint will be small. Moreover, it will run on the existing Eskom servitude; thus, it will be regarded as an upgrade of an existing OverHeadLine.

Therefore, it must be noted that developments within CBAs with high or very high impacts will not be permitted, provided that all the relevant recommendations highlighted on the generic EMPr by the specialists are adhered and implemented.

In conclusion, please note that all Public Participation Process documents related to Biodiversity EIA review and any other Biodiversity EIA queries must be submitted to the Directorate: Biodiversity Conservation at Email: BCAdmin@environment.gov.za for attention of **Mr Seoka Lekota**.

Yours faithfully

Mr. Seoka Lekota
Control Biodiversity Grade B Officer: Biodiversity Conservation
Department of Forestry, Fisheries & the Environment
Date: 04/07/2022



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