### APPENDIX G

DRAFT BAR REVIEW PHASE PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROOF

November 2022 Appendices

### **APPENDIX G1: Notification Proof**

November 2022 Appendices

To

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#### NOTICE OF DRAFT BASIC ASSESSMENT REPORT REVIEW

#### PROPOSED ALTINA 120MW SOLAR PHOTOVOLTAIC (PV) PROJECT & 40MW BATTERY ENERGY STORAGE SYSTEM (BESS) PROJECT NEAR ORKNEY, FREE STATE PROVINCE

Notice is hereby given in terms of the following:

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The proposed Project Area includes the following properties:

- Portion 0 of the Farm Rietylei 539:
- . Portion 0 of the Farm Batsfontein 290: and
- · Portion 0 of the Farm Altona 50.

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#### PUBLIC MEETING

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#### **CONTACT DETAILS OF EAP:**

Contact Person: Donavan Henning Tel: (011) 781 1730 Fax: (011) 781 1731

Email: donavanh@nemai.co.za Postal Address: PO Box 1673, Sunninghill, 2157

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12 • KLERKSDORP RECORD **16 SEPTEMBER 2022** 





# Sewesspan almal uit

Hoërskool Wesvalia se o/17sewesrugbyspan kook. Hulle het Hoërskool Rustenburg weer geklop dié keer by hul eie sewestoernooi in Klerksdorp en die beker gewen. Jacques Albert en Dirk Opperman (regs) is by Deon Viljoen, spankaptein.



Christo Ferreira, a teacher at Curro Klerksdorp, will be representing ACNW at the SA cross-country champs on September 17 in Rustenburg.



Curro Klerksdorp Primary School's cross-country athletes have been running extremely well. Zoe Risi achieved third place in the recent cross-country event. Zoe, Zach and Zaylee (all Risi) as well as Joshua van Rooyen have been selected to represent NW at the upcoming SA cross-country champs, which will be hosted in Rustenburg this Saturday.

# Vertel vir ons jou storie

Ons soek altyd stories. Regte stories oor regte mense. En aangesien mense so kla oor al die slegte nuus, wil ons graag goed-voel stories hoor.

Dalk skryf ons daaroor in ons volgende koerant. Dalk het jy 'n interessante stokperdjie of versameling. Ons wil graag van jou hoor.

Huweliksherdenkings, spesiale gedenkdae, personeel wat langer as 25 jaar by 'n onderneming werk - ons stel belang om van jou te hoor.

Stuur 'n e-pos na salome@klerksdorprecord.co.za en vertel ons van jou. Ons wag om van jou te hoor.



Regardt Wilkens, Gerrit Koen, Hayward Maree, Janré Greyling, (voor) De Wyk Pretorius, Brandt Muller, TD Greyvensteyn, Jordan Jerling en Tefo Katali van Laerskool Saamtrek is in die o/13-Koshkrieketspan



Nege krieketspelers van Laerskool Saamtrek is in die o/12 Koshkrieketspan opgeneem. Agter is Jayden Pretorius, Barry Jacobs, Riekert Kruger, Johanco Nel, Henrico Prinsloo, (voor) Wian Boshoff, Ulrich Ollewagen, Jason Greyling en Gunter Steenkamp



Die o/11-krieketspelers van Laerskool Saamtrek wat in die Koshspan opgeneem is, is (agter) Edwin Venter, Ruben van der Merwe, Dihan van der Merwe, Casey Lues, Pierre Lötter, (voor) Chris-Heinz Wiegenhagen, Zander du Preez, Jason Tarr en Shane van Heerden.

### NOTICE OF DRAFT BASIC ASSESSMENT REPOR

PROPOSED ALTINA 120MW SOLAR PHOTOVOLTAIC (PV) PROJECT & 40MW BATTERY ENERGY STORAGE SYSTEM (BESS) PROJECT NEAR ORKNEY, FREE STATE PROVINCE

Notice is hereby given in terms of the following:

The Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations of 2014 (as amended), in terms of the National Environmental Management Act (Act No. 107 of 1998) (NEMA); and
The National Water Act (Act No. 36 of 1998) (NWA).

#### PROJECT OVERVIEW:

Genesis Eco-Energy Developments (Pty) Ltd (the Applicant) has proposed the development of the Altina 120MW Solar PV & 40MW BESS Project near the town of Orkney, within the Moqhaka Local Municipality and Fezile Dabi District Municipality in the Free State Province. The associated infrastructure includes access roads, overhead power line, on-site substation and on-site buildings and structures (amongst others). The electricity generated by the proposed Project will be injected into the existing Eskom 132 kV distribution system. The Applicant intends to bid for Renewable Energy Independent Power Producer Procurement Programme (REIPPPP) bid windows and /or other renewable energy markets within South Africa.

The site is located within the Klerksdorp Renewable Energy Development Zone (REDZ), as published in Government Notice No. 142 of 26 February 202

The proposed ProjectArea includes the following properties
• Portion 0 of the Farm Rietvlei 539;

- Portion 0 of the Farm Batsfontein 290; and
- Portion 0 of the Farm Altona 50.

#### **ENVIRONMENTALASSESSMENTS:**

Nemai Green was appointed by the Applicant as the Environmental Assessment Practitioner

- (EAP) to undertake the following environmental processes for the proposed Project:

  1. A Basic Assessment process in terms of the EIA Regulations of 2014 (as a mended) to seek Environmental Authorisation for the Project in terms of the NEMA, where the mandated authority is the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE); and A Water Use Licence Application (WULA) in terms of the NWA for water uses associated
- with the Project, where the mandated authority is the Department of Water and Sanitation

#### REVIEW OF DRAFT BASIC ASSESSMENT REPORT (BAR):

The draft BAR will be lodged for public review at the Orkney Public Library (99 Patmore Street) from 16 September until 17 October 2022. The report can also be downloaded from the following website: <a href="https://nemai.co.za/downloads/">https://nemai.co.za/downloads/</a>.

Written comments on the draft BAR need to be forwarded to the contact person below by 17 October 2022

#### PUBLIC MEETING:

Anyone that has an interest in attending a virtual public meeting will need to inform Nema Consulting in writing by 28 September 2022 and will need to provide an email address. Only pre-registered parties that confirmed interest will receive an invitation to the public meeting.

You are welcome to contact the Environmental Assessment Practitioner below if you have any queries.

#### CONTACT DETAILS OF EAP:

Email: donavanh@nemai.co.za

Contact Person: Donavan Henning Tel: (011) 781 1730 Fax: (011) 781 1731

Postal Address PO Box 1673, Sunninghill, 2157

### COMMERCIAL PROPERTY **50 ANDERSON ST, KLERKSDORP**

Property: Erf 644, Klerksdorp, City of Matlosana Local Municipality, IP, North West Province MEASURING: 495.0000m<sup>2</sup>

**Improvements:** Three story building including liquor license and consist of: GROUND LEVEL (495m²): 4 X Street view retail shops, 2 x Shops/Open plan offices with foyer entrance, Communal toilets/bathroom. Total rent R15000/month. FIRST FLOOR (495m2): Open plan Bar/lounge area, Ladies & Gents restroom, fully equipped kitchen

SECOND FLOOR (495m<sup>2</sup> + Veranda 60m<sup>2</sup>): Open bar/lounge area, 2 x Music stages, Kitchen, Open deck balcony, Ladies and Gents restrooms. Total rent first & second floor R25 000/Month.

Notes: Viewing by appointment only prior to commencement of the auction.

CONDITIONS: 5% of the purchase price and 7,5% commission plus VAT thereon is payable by the Purchaser at the fall of the hammer. Balance on registration, guarantees to be furnished within 30 days after acceptance. The property will be sold without reserve subject to confirmation by the Seller. **7 DAY confirmation period. Buyers must register and bid online**. (FICA). R 5000 refundable registration fee is payable to register.

#### For further information:

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ANTON ENGELBRECHT: 082 789 2772 **RUDI MŰLLER: 082 490 7686** Office: 018 294 7391



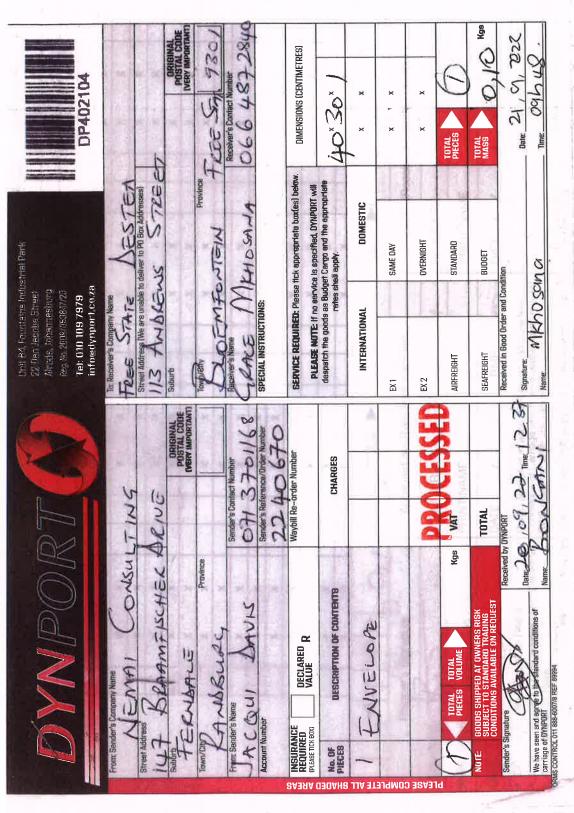
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9301

## Proof of Delivery

Nemai Project No.	10741
Project Description	Proposed Albra IzoMw Solar PV and 40mw BESS near the boun of Orkney, Free State Province
Document Submitted	1x hardcopy Braft BAR
Name of Recipient	Mr Mooki
Organisation	Orkney Library
Address	99 Partmore Street Orkney 2620
Contact Details	018 473 0310
From	Jacqui Davis
Nouve of Recipient	Masidi Ramorancice
Signature	AB:
Date Received	19 Sep 3000

CITY OF MATLOSANA ORKNEY LIBRARY 018 487 8210

### NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING DRAFT BASIC ASSESSMENT REPORT REVIEW PHASE

# PROPOSED ALTINA 120MW SOLAR PHOTOVOLTAIC (PV) PROJECT & 40MW BATTERY ENERGY STORAGE SYSTEM (BESS) PROJECT NEAR ORKNEY, FREE STATE PROVINCE

The notification below has reference.

#### **PUBLIC MEETING:**

A public meeting will be held to present the Draft Basic Assessment Report and provide a platform for project-related discussion for the abovementioned Project.

Details of the public meeting are outlined below for anyone who would like to attend:

Date:

Monday 10 October 2022

Time:

10:00 am - 12:00pm

Venue:

Orkney Library Hall Corner Shakespeare Ave and Hood/Patmore Road, Orkney

Should you have any queries related to the public meeting, please contact the undersigned.

Kind regards, Jacqui

**Environmental Consultant** 

**Nemai Green** 

Tel: +27 11 781 1730 Email: JacquiD@nemai.co.za



Environmental Solutions for a Sustainable Future

#### NOTICE OF DRAFT BASIC ASSESSMENT REPORT REVIEW

# PROPOSED ALTINA 120MW SOLAR PHOTOVOLTAIC (PV) PROJECT & 40MW BATTERY ENERGY STORAGE SYSTEM (BESS) PROJECT NEAR ORKNEY, FREE STATE PROVINCE

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- The National Water Act (Act No. 36 of 1998) (NWA).

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- Portion 0 of the Farm Batsfontein 290; and
- Portion 0 of the Farm Altona 50.

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Nemai Green was appointed by the Applicant as the Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP) to undertake the following environmental processes for the proposed Project:

- 1. A Basic Assessment process in terms of the EIA Regulations of 2014 (as amended) to seek Environmental Authorisation for the Project in terms of the NEMA, where the mandated authority is the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE); and
- 2. A Water Use Licence Application (WULA) in terms of the NWA for water uses associated with the Project, where the mandated authority is the Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS).

#### **REVIEW OF DRAFT BASIC ASSESSMENT REPORT (BAR):**

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Written comments on the draft BAR need to be forwarded to the contact person below by 17 October 2022.

#### **PUBLIC MEETING:**

Anyone that has an interest in attending a virtual public meeting will need to inform Nemai Consulting in writing by **28 September 2022** and will need to provide an email address. Only pre-registered parties that confirmed interest will receive an invitation to the public meeting.

You are welcome to contact the Environmental Assessment Practitioner below if you have any gueries.

#### CONTACT DETAILS OF EAP:

Contact Person: Donavan Henning

Tel: (011) 781 1730 Fax: (011) 781 1731

Email: donavanh@nemai.co.za



### APPENDIX G2: Public Meeting Record

November 2022 Appendices

NEMAI CONSULTING	Minutes of Meeting Altina Solar Project	Queries:	Donavan Henning
Olianat	Genesis- Eco Energy	Project Name:	Altina Solar Project
Client	Developers	Project Number:	10741
Date:	10/10/2022	Time:	10:00HR- 12:00HR
Chairman:	Donavan Henning	Venue:	Oakney Library Hall

Attendees	Organisation & Designation	Contact Number	Email
Donavan Henning (DH)	Nemai Consulting	011 781 1730	donavanh@nemai.co.za
Caroline Tanhuke (CT)	Nemai Consulting	011 781 1731	carolinet@nemai.co.za
Danielle Ramosa (DR)	Nemai Consulting	011 781 1731	carolinet@nemai.co.za
Tiaan Jonker(TJ)	Private	-	-
David Britz(DB)	Private	-	-
Maipato Modibedi (MM)	Private	-	-
Cllr Roderick Jackson (Cllr)	Ward Councillor	-	-
Deon van Biljon	Private	-	-

Apologies	Organisation & Designation	Contact Number	Email
Noted			

Item	Details	Action	Target Date
1.	Welcome and Introduction		
1.1.	DH welcomed everyone and observed protocol, He expressed his gratitude towards everyone present and mentioned that the meeting will proceed from item number 4 of the agenda.  An attendance register was circulated, and the agenda was adopted	Nemai	
2.	Project Team		
	DH noted that Nemai Consulting are independent environmental consultants who has been appointed by Genesis Eco Developers (applicant) to conduct an Environmental Impact assessment process.	Noted	

Item	Details	Action	Target Date
2.1	DH went on to introduce the Project team.  He noted that there is also specialists that were appointed to conduct studies namely  - Ecological specialat - Terrestial and Equatic specialists - Agriculture specialist - Heritage Specialist - Visual specialist - Social Impact assessment - Ornithology specialist - Paleontologist  Refer to Annexure A	Noted	
2.2	<b>DH</b> noted the purpose of the meeting is to present the Draft Basic Assessment Report and the project to the community. He also encouraged participants to ask questions.	Noted	
2.3	DB requested for Nemai to include representatives from Free State Agriculture and SAAI in their database.  TJ went on to explain the difference between the two departments.  DH mentioned that representatives from Free State Agriculture are already included in the database of Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs). He asked that the details of these representatives be provided by David Britz to confirm if they are not already reflected in the database.	Nemai	
2.4	TJ asked if the inputs and comments be noted and captured.  DH noted that they will be captured and incorporated into the final Basic Assessment Report as part of the comments and response report.	Noted	
3.	Project Background		

Item	Details	Action	Target Date
3.1	DH noted there are energy problems in South Africa. The country is committed to the climate change perspective and the government has implemented Integrated Resource Plan to incorporate renewable energy to curb energy challenges, resource depletion and climate change challenges. Solar energy is part of the renewable energy plan.  Why this site?  The project was conceptualized because of its proximity to the substation and above that because of the solar PV yield per land.  The site is part of the government's delignated Renewable Energy Development Zones (REDZ)as it fast tracks the implementation of the renewable energy.  The project also falls strategically in the distribution corridor. Donavan went to confirm the participants farms which are located near the project site.  DH noted that the topography of the area is large enough to accommodate the PV.  DB noted that they are also representing the landowners of the southwest farm as the farmer passed away recently.  DH went on to explain how the PV solar project works.  He indicated other details that are going to be incorporated	Noted	
	in the project.  Donavan xxplained the specialist studies that were taken		
3.2	into consideration by the developer to adopt the site.	Noted	
·			
4.	Draft Basic Assessment Report Overview		
4.1.	DH explained the Draft Basic assessment report. He indicated that the study was a basic assessment because the project falls under the corridor and the REIPPP.  He indicated that specialists were appointed to conduct studies that also contribute to the document.  He noted that the draft Basic Assessment Report is out for review and the 17th of October 2022 is the end date of comments.  The comments and response report will be incorporated in the final document and will contribute to the significance impact of the project.  The department can either deny or accept however there is also an opportunity to appeal. He noted that participants are welcome to get copy at the Oakney Library or electronically.	Nemai	

Item	Details	Action	Target Date
4.2.	DH went on to explain the layout of the document and details therein. He also summarised all the specialist studies report.	Noted	
4.3.	DH highlighted that the panels are not built to radiant, they are built to absorb the radiation not to glare.	Noted	
4.4.	He mentioned the labour influx, the expectations from the community. He indicated that the project is highly specialised, and it cannot create more jobs as expected.	Noted	
4.5.	He noted that a detailed Impact assessment was conducted and quantified by preventative measures.  He indicated other special areas of studies that were taken into consideration to come up with an Empr.	Noted	
4.6.	He noted the notifications were placed around as according to the legislation.	Noted	
4.7.	DH also mentioned the anticipated timeframes. He noted that the authorisation might come by December 2022 and the project inception by November 2023. And by December 2024 will be a commissioned solar plant.	Noted	
5.	Discussions		
5.1.	DB contested the findings from the Agricultural Specialist that the land does not have high agricultural potential. He stated that the land has high value from a wetland pastures perspective.  DH indicated that the Agricultural Specialist will be requested to provide feedback.	Nemai	
5.2.	DB stated that he is not opposed to the project, but he objects to its location. He indicated that more suitable land is available on the mining property to the north of the site, which will not have such a significant impact of the farming community. This land will be more beneficial for various reasons, including suitable access, more space, current illegal hunting on the land, etc	Noted	
5.3.	DB queried the findings from Ecologists that no protected species are present. He mentioned that previous studies done in the area found a protected frog species ("rooibekpadda").  DH indicated that the Ecologists will be requested to provide feedback.	Noted	
5.4.	TJ provided clarity on how the Renewable Energy Development Zones and Strategic Transmission Corridors were developed.	Noted	
5.5.	TJ asked how the development can take place on high potential agricultural land in the south-eastern part of the site.  DB indicated that the agricultural potential was ground-truthed by the Agricultural Specialist.	Noted	

Item	Details	Action	Target Date
5.6.	David Britz asked how the PV development will influence local weather conditions and impact on the adjacent cultivated land. He mentioned, as examples, that the PV panels may create extra heat and change rainfall patterns.	Noted	
5.7.	Tiaan Jonker asked how water will be obtained for the operation of the PV development, including the cleaning of the panels. He indicated that groundwater is limited in the area and noted the poor yields from local boreholes. He asked whether groundwater resources have been confirmed by a geohydrologist.  Donavan Henning indicated that water will either be obtained from groundwater resources or from the municipality.  David Britz noted that a Rand Water pipeline traverses his	Noted	
	land, which is located adjacent to the proposed site.		
5.8.	Tiaan Jonker asked whether the Ecologist founds shrews during the specialist study.  Donavan Henning indicated that the Ecologists will be	Noted	
	requested to provide feedback.		
5.9	David Britz indicated that cumulative impacts will be caused by the various solar PV developments in the region.	Noted	
5.10	Tiaan Jonker asked about the area required to still render the project financially viable, considering that the area with high agricultural potential in the south-eastern part of the site may need to be excluded. He explained the factors that are considered by the Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development (DALRRD) for viable agricultural practices.	Noted	
	Donavan Henning indicated that all regulatory processes will need to be followed by the Project Proponent to seek the environmental approvals related to the proposed development.		
5.12	Tiaan Jonker noted that the Applicant previously mentioned that the panels will be lifted to allow grazing to take place underneath. He asked whether the increased height of the panels was taken into consideration by the Visual Specialist.	Noted	
	Donavan Henning mentioned that literature exists supporting grazing underneath PV panels.  David Britz stated that this will not be viable due to the heat that the livestock will be exposed to.		
5.13	David Britz noted that the project seems like a case of a willing buyer and a willing seller.	Noted	
5.14	Tiaan Jonker requested a consolidated sensitivity map, in order to identify areas where the site is not sensitive.	Noted	

Item	Details	Action	Target Date
5.15	Deon van Biljon asked how the mining licence for the sand mining, which is takings place on the north-western part of the site, influences the project.  Donavan Henning indicated that the Applicant would need to consider Section 53 of the Minerals and Petroleum Resources Development Act (Act No. 28 of 2002). He noted that this area will need to be rehabilitated to allow for the solar PV development to take place.  Tiaan Jonker explained that consent is required from the holder of the mining licence for the project to proceed.	Noted	
5.16	Councillor enquired about the Labour influx and how many people are going to be required for the project.  Donavan indicated that because of the nature of the project and depending on which country the solar technology will become from. The project will most likely come with skilled workers. He noted that the bottom line is there are very limited opportunities for unskilled laborers and even SMMEs in the project. It's a privatized development and the contractor will come with their own skilled labour. If they do need people, they will follow the process of employing through the councillor.	Noted	
u .			
6.	Way Forward		
	<b>DH</b> noted that presentation will be shared together with minutes to the stakeholder.	Nemai	
7.	Close		
7.1	The meeting was adjourned at 11H45		

Item	Annexure Items
1.	Attendance Register
2.	Presentation Report

Minutes Co	molied	ΙBν
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Caroline Tanhuke	13/10/2022
	Date

Orkney Library Hall	Place:	Donavan Henning	Facilitator:
10:00am - 12:00pm	Time:	10 October 2022	Date:
10741	Project No.:	DEVELOPMENTS V	:
Proposed Altina 120MW Solar PV & 40MW BESS Project near the Town of Orkney, Free State Province	Project Name:	genesis	Applicant:
☑ donavanh@nemai.co.za			
□ 011 781 1731		Public Meeting	Environmental Solutions for a Sustainable Future
<b>2</b> 011 781 1730	Oueries:	ATTENDANCE REGISTER	NEMAI GREEN
Donavan Henning			

Name and Surname	Contact Details	Sign	Apologies
Donavan Henring	# 027 291 0604 # 017 291 1736		
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Madeli Napato	"Maipatamodutedi@amoid. Con	Moren (	
JAMIA ROBERTET	× 07/3348/85		
David Stz	© 087 0554866	E. T.	
Dean van Bilion	# 0825527426 # 0825527426		
Duniel Damoso	B 067997 38/0	A derocal	
TIAAN Jonlan	# 0795237532	MIN	
and the subcase.	10 OII 181 1731		

# PROPOSED ALTINA 120MW SOLAR PHOTOVOLTAIC & 40MW BATTERY ENERGY STORAGE SYSTEMS PROJECT NEAR THE TOWN OF ORKNEY, FREE STATE PROVINCE







# **AGENDA**

	AGENDA ITEMS
1	Opening & Welcome
2	Attendance Register
3	Purpose of and Rules for the Meeting
4	Project Overview
5	Overview of Draft Basic Assessment Report
6	Discussion
7	Way Forward
8	Close

# PROJECT & ENVIRONMENTAL TEAMS

Project Role	Affiliation	Representatives
Applicant	Genesis Eco-Energy Developments (Pty) Ltd	K. Chetty
Environmental Assessment Practitioner	Nemai Green	<ul><li>D. Henning</li><li>J. Davis</li><li>D. Ramosa</li></ul>
<u>Specialists</u>		
Terrestrial Ecologist Aquatic Ecologist Avifaunal Specialist	The Biodiversity Company	<ul><li>A. Husted</li><li>T. Clark</li><li>J. Jacobs</li><li>C. Burger</li></ul>
Agricultural Specialist	Index	Dr A. Gouws
Heritage Specialist		➤ J.A. van Schalkwyk
Visual Specialist	Eco Elementum (Pty) Ltd	N. Breitenbach
Social Impact Specialist	Nemai Consulting	<ul><li>C. Chidley</li><li>C. Tanhuke</li></ul>
Palaeontologist	Banzai Environmental (Pty) Ltd	> E. Butler

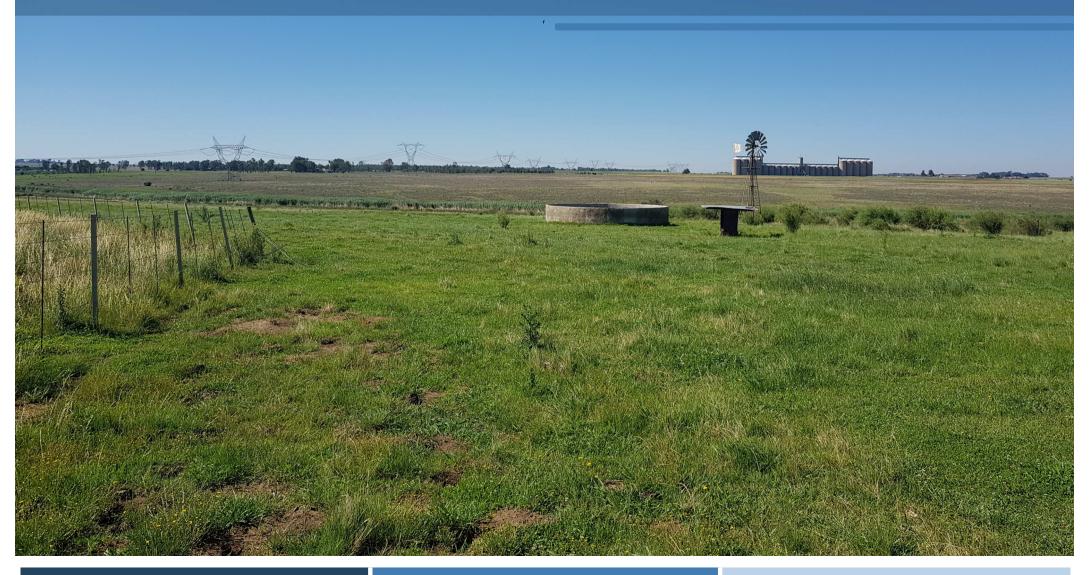
# PURPOSE OF THE MEETING

- To provide an overview of the proposed Project.
- ☐ To present the status of the Basic Assessment Process.
- To provide an overview of the Draft Basic Assessment Report.
- To provide a platform for project-related discussions.



# RULES FOR THE MEETING

- Opportunities for seeking clarification at end of presentation.
- Raise questions through the meeting facilitator.
- Identify yourself before asking a question.
- Meeting closing time.
- ☐ Cell phones off, please.

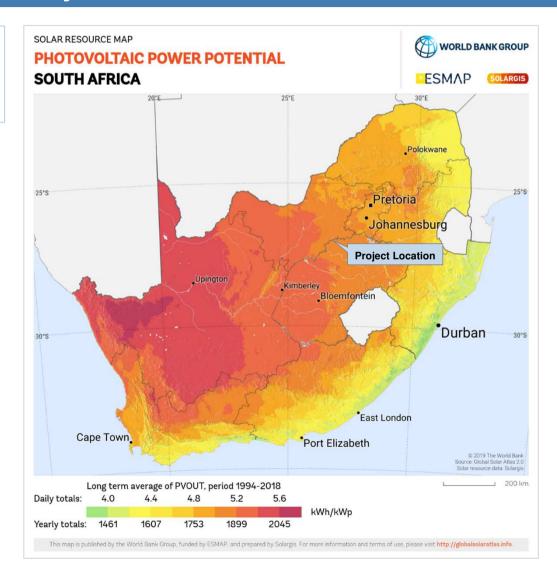


### **Project Background & Motivation**

- □ SA Government ratified the Paris Agreement in 2016, thereby showed the country's commitment to contribute to the global effort to address the challenge of climate change.
- In order to match the electricity demand in SA there is a need to supply a diversified power generation that includes renewable energy technologies (Integrated Resource Plan, 2019).
- ☐ The Applicant intends to bid for the current and future REIPPPP bid windows and/or other renewable energy markets within SA.

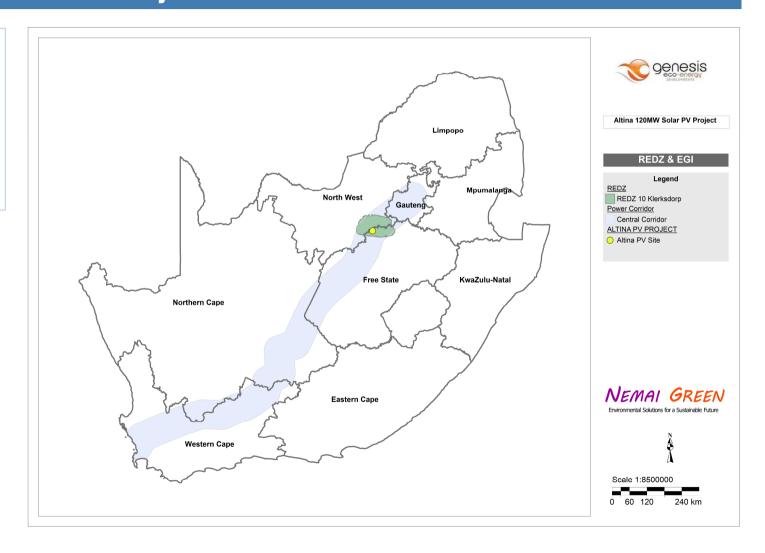
### **Project Location**

Location of the Project in relation to SA's PV power potential

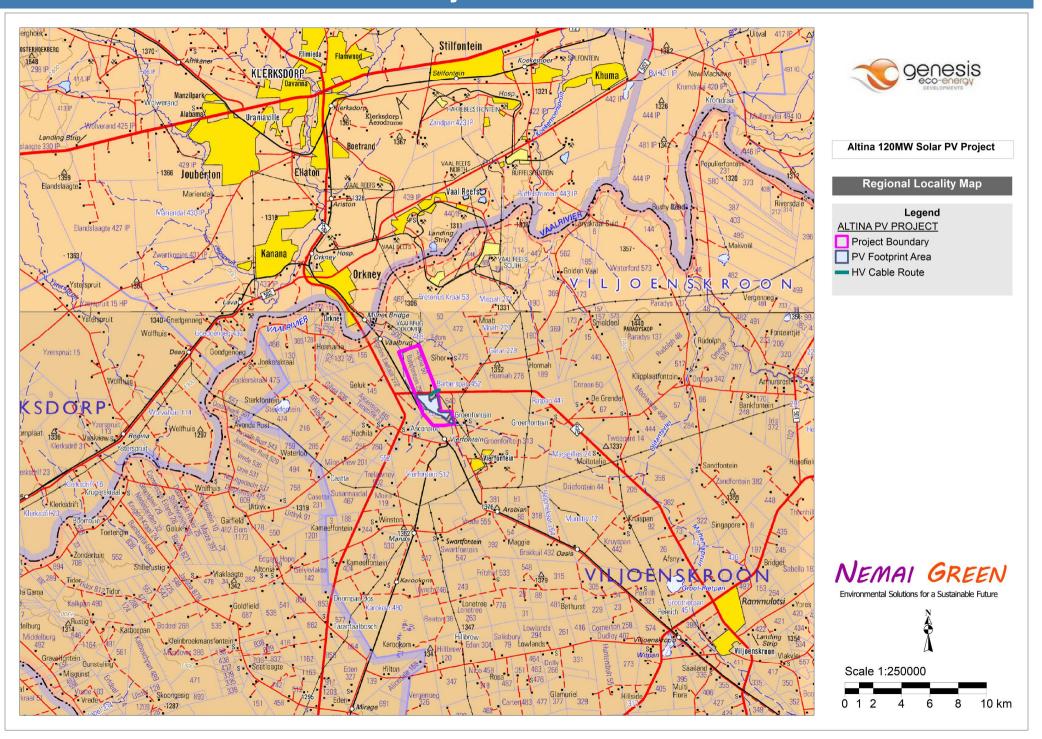


### **Project Location**

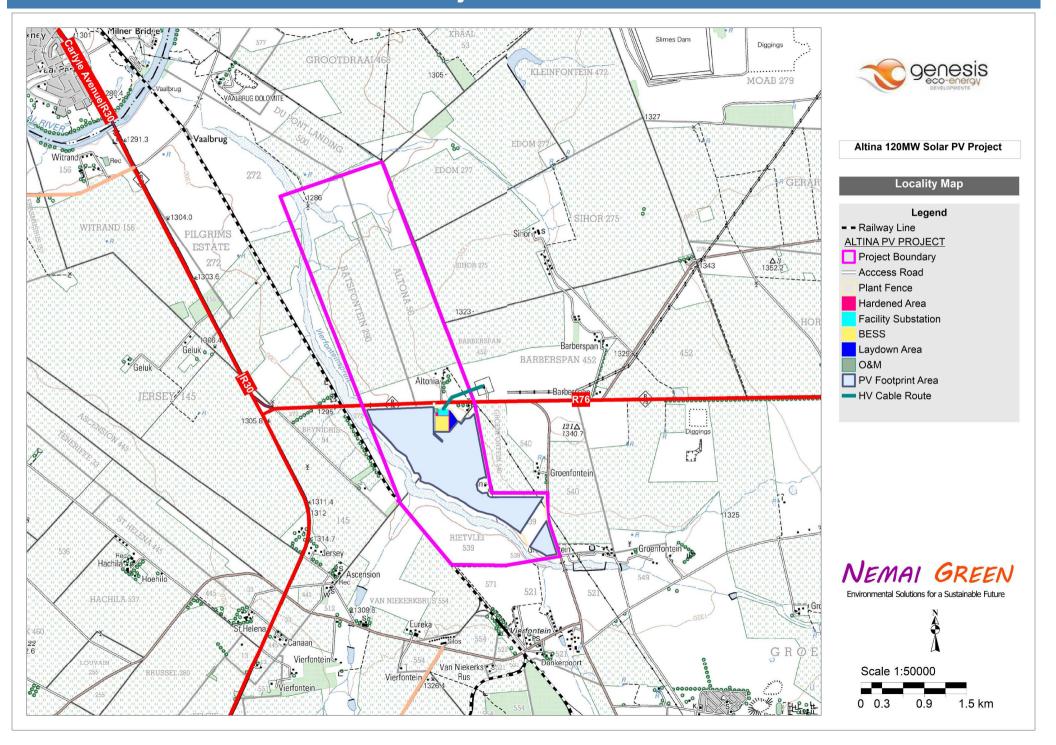
Location of the Project in relation to Renewable Energy Development Zones & Strategic Transmission Corridors



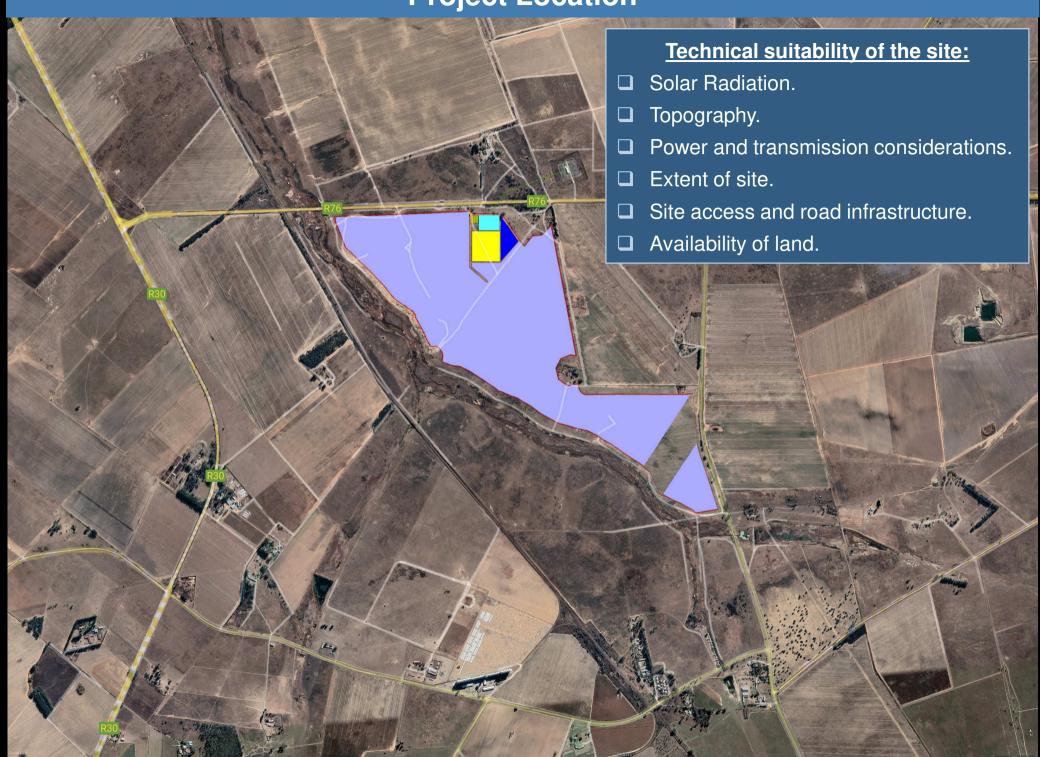
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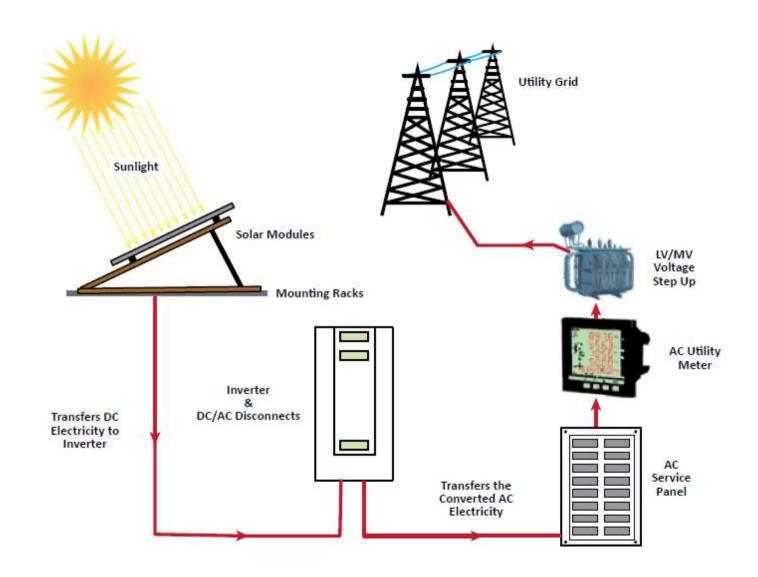


### **Project Location**



### **Project Location**



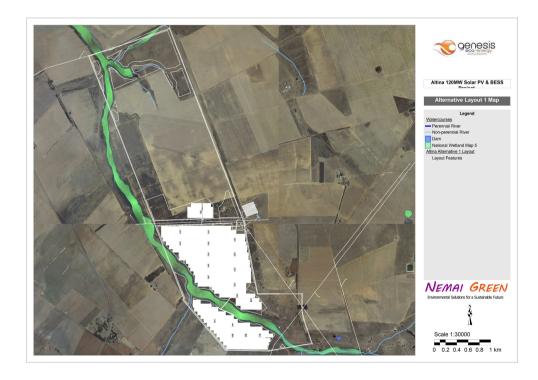


Overview of Solar PV Power Plant (IFC, 2015)

Component	Description / Dimensions
Height of PV panels	± 2m
Area of PV Array	162.43 ha
Number of inverters required	25
Area occupied by inverter / transformer stations / substations	Area occupied by inverters = 2.5 ha Area occupied by on-site substation = 1.49 ha
Capacity of on-site substation	160MW, 132 kV/22kV
Area occupied by both permanent and construction laydown areas	Construction laydown area = 1,84 ha Overall hardstanding area (inclusive of laydown area, OSS, O&M area, BESS) = 9.18 ha.
Area occupied by buildings	Area occupied by Operation & Maintenance Building = 0,25 ha
Length of internal roads	~10 km
Width of internal roads	12m reserve and 4m road
Proximity to grid connection	~0,66km
Height of fencing	2.4m
Type of fencing	Type will vary around the site, welded mesh, palisade and electric fencing

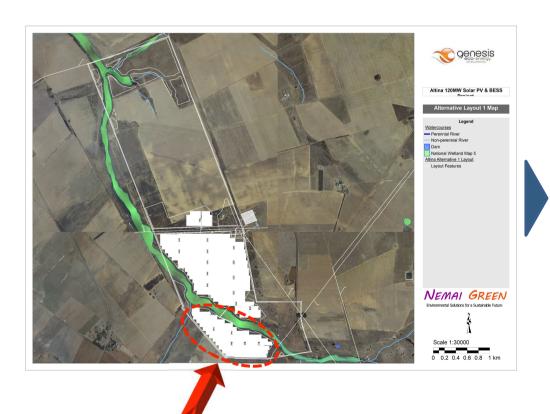
#### **Alternatives**

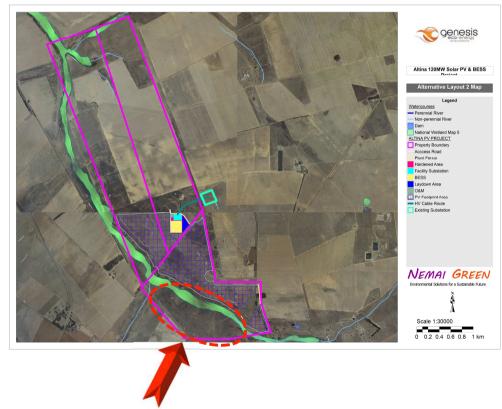
#### **Layout Alternatives:**



#### **Alternatives**

#### **Layout Alternatives:**





#### **Alternatives**

#### **Technology Alternatives:**

Monofacial or bifacial solar panels used on either fixed mounting system or tracking mounting system.

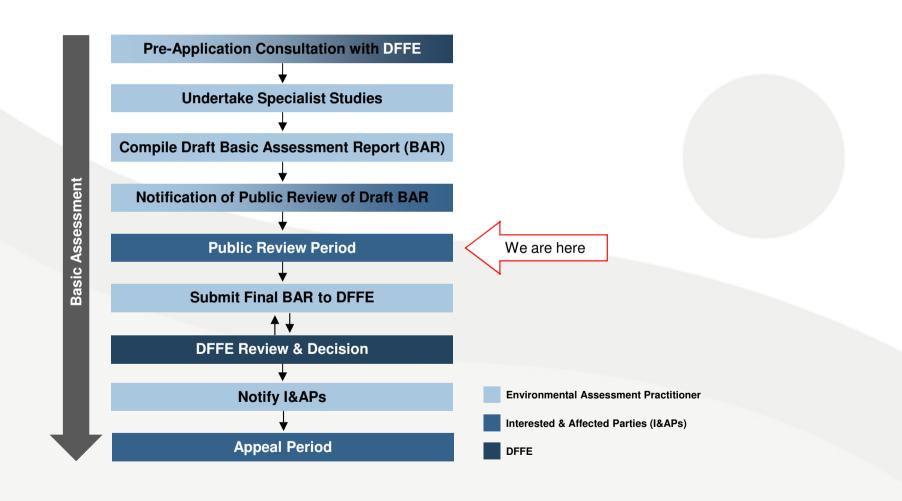




### OVERVIEW OF DRAFT BASIC ASSESSMENT REPORT

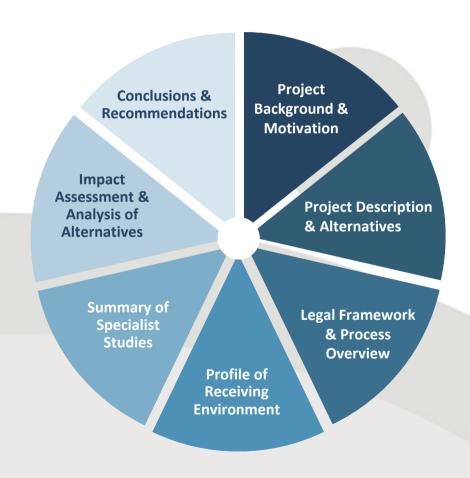


#### **Status of Basic Assessment Process**



### **Content of the Basic Assessment Report**





#### **Environmental Legal Framework**

#### **Constitution of the Republic of South Africa**

National Environmental Management Act (Act No. 107 of 1998)

#### **☑** EIA Regulations (as amended):

- ✓ GN No. 982 of 4 December 2014 (as amended)
- ✓ GN No. 983 of 4 December 2014 (as amended)
- ✓ GN No. 984 of 4 December 2014 (as amended)
- GN No. 985 of 4 December 2014 (as amended)

National Water Act (Act No. 36 of 1998)

National Environmental Management Air Quality Act (Act No. 39 of 2004)

National Environmental Management: Biodiversity Act, 2004 (Act No. 10 of 2004)

National Environmental Management: Waste Act (Act No. 59 of 2008)

National Forests Act (No. 84 of 1998)

National Heritage Resources Act (Act No. 25 of 1999)

Mineral and Petroleum Resources Development Act (Act No. 28 of 2002)

Free State Province Nature Conservation Ordinance 8 of 1969

Other...

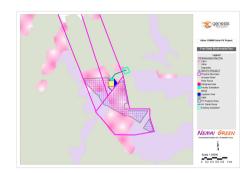
### **Profile of the Receiving Environment**

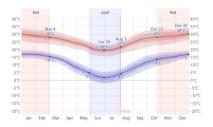






- □ Land Use
- □ Climate
- Geology
- Soils
- Topography
- Surface Water
- □ Flora
- □ Fauna
- Socio-Economic Environment
- Agriculture
- Air quality
- Noise
- ☐ Heritage & Palaeontological Features
- Planning
- Existing Structures & Infrastructure
- Transportation
- □ Health









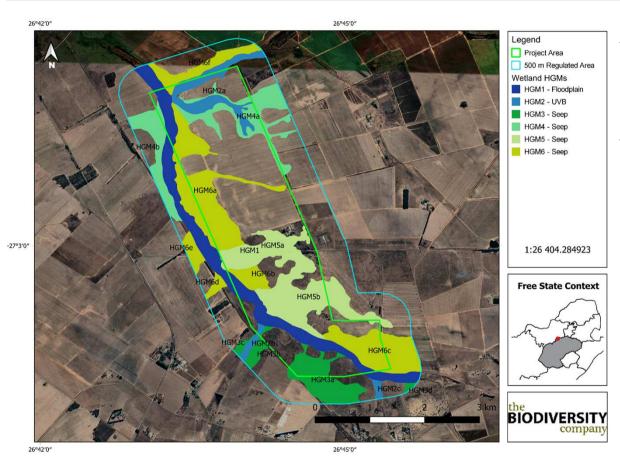


#### **Specialist Studies**

- Wetland Delineation and Risk Assessment
- 2. Terrestrial Ecological Assessment
- 3. Avifaunal Assessment
- 4. Agricultural Potential Impact Assessment
- 5. Heritage Impact Assessment
- 6. Desktop Palaeontological Impact Assessment
- 7. Visual Impact Assessment
- 8. Social Impact Assessment

**Key findings** 

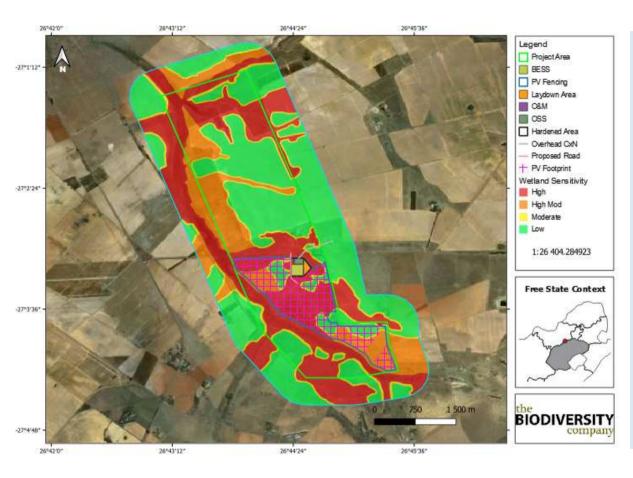
### **Specialist Studies: Wetland Delineation & Risk Assessment**



Wetland	Hydrology	Geomorphology	Vegetation	Overall
HGM 1	C: Moderately Modified (3.5)	C: Moderately Modified (2.5)	B: Largely Natural (1.9)	C: Moderately Modified
HGM 2	D: Largely Modified (4)	C: Moderately Modified (2.8)	C: Moderately Modified (2)	C: Moderately Modified
HGM 3	B: Largely Natural (1.5)	B: Largely Natural (1.1)	B: Largely Natural (1.8)	B: Largely Natural (1.5)
HGM 4	D: Largely Modified (4.5)	C: Moderately Modified (3)	C: Moderately Modified (2.1)	C: Moderately Modified
HGM 5	C: Moderately Modified (3.5)	D: Largely Modified (4)	D: Largely Modified (4.2)	C: Moderately Modified
HGM 6	E: Seriously Modified (6.5)	E: Seriously Modified (6.2)	E: Seriously Modified (7.5)	E: Seriously Modified (6

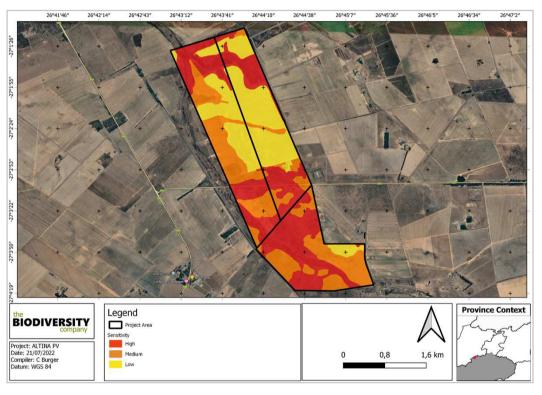
Aspect	HGM 1	HGM 2	HGM 3	HGM 4	HGM5	HGM 6
Ecological Importance & Sensitivity	VH (3.5)	VH (3.1)	H (2.8)	VH (3.4)	H (2.5))	L (0.5)

#### **Specialist Studies: Wetland Delineation & Risk Assessment**



- ☐ The project is conceivably viable from a wetland perspective.
- Minimise placement of solar PVs and associated infrastructure within wetlands, as far as possible. Complete wetland avoidance will not be feasible.
- ☐ Allow subsurface flow of water beneath the solar panels.
- Development within the wetlands will require a WULA.
- Wetland Offset Strategy required.

#### **Specialist Studies:** Terrestrial Ecology Assessment



Habitat	Conservation	F	Biodiversity	Receptor	Site
(Area)	Importance	Functional Integrity	Importance	Resilience	Ecological Importance
Wetlands	Medium > 50% of receptor contains natural habitat with potential to support SCC	High Large (> 20 ha but < 100 ha) intact area for any conservation status of ecosystem type or > 10 ha for EN ecosystem types. Good habitat connectivity with potentially functional ecological corridors and a regularly used road network between intact habitat patches	Medium	Low	High
Wetlands	Low < 50% of receptor contains natural habitat with limited potential to support SCC.	Low Several minor and major current negative ecological impacts.	Low	Low	Medium
Degraded Grassland	Medium > 50% of receptor contains natural habitat with potential to support SCC	Medium Only narrow corridors of good habitat connectivity or larger areas of poor habitat connectivity and a busy used road network between intact habitat patches. Mostly minor current negative ecological impacts, with some major impacts and a few signs of minor past disturbance.	Medium	Medium	Medium
Transformed	Low < 50% of receptor contains natural habitat with limited potential to support SCC.	Low Several minor and major current negative ecological impacts.	Low	Medium	Low

- □ No fatal flaws are evident for the proposed project.
- ☐ It is the opinion of the specialists that the project location, may be favourably considered on condition that all prescribed mitigation measures and supporting recommendations are implemented.

### **Specialist Studies:** Avifaunal Assessment



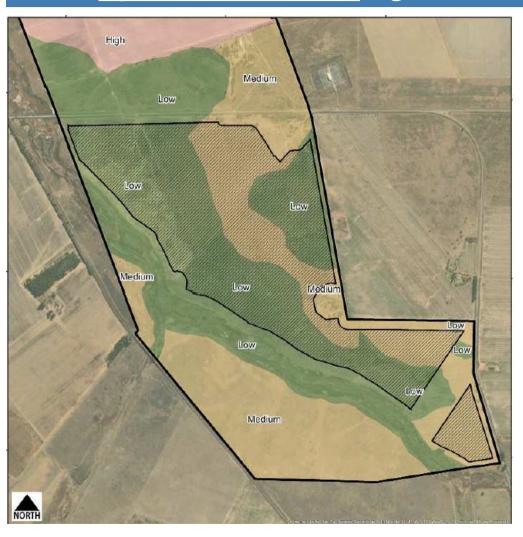


#### **Specialist Studies:** Avifaunal Assessment



- □ Although no SCC were observed during the site visit, ideal breeding habitat was identified along the floodplain wetland particularly in the far north of the project area for two threatened species namely the Endangered African Marsh Harrier and African Grass Owl.
- In terms of avifaunal sensitivity, the floodplains and valley-bottom wetlands were designated High sensitivity.
- ☐ It is the opinion of the specialist that the project should be considered favourably from an avifaunal perspective, provided infrastructure Alternative 2 is taken and the suggested mitigation effectively applied

#### **Specialist Studies: Agricultural Potential Impact Assessment**



- ☐ High capability land for crop production (Class ii and iii) occurs in the central portion of the land, north of the tarred road.
- ☐ The buildable area was confined to the uncultivated portion of the farm. It consists mainly of shallower uneven and mined land that has medium sensitivity.
- □ All highly sensitive land was retained for cropping and will not be impacted on by the development.

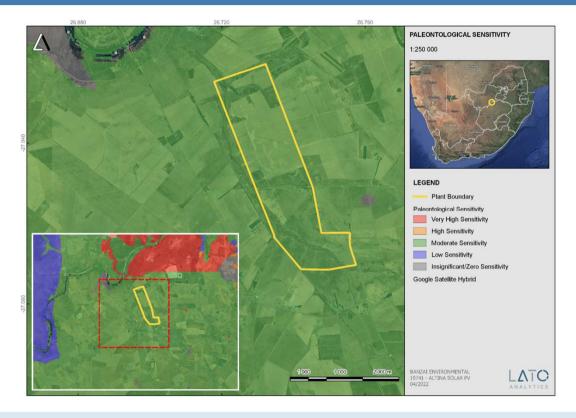
#### **Specialist Studies:** Heritage Impact Assessment





- ☐ The cultural landscape qualities of the region are made up of a pre-colonial element consisting of very limited Stone Age and Iron Age occupation, as well as a much later colonial (farmer) component, which also gave rise to an urban component.
- ☐ During the survey no sites, features or objects of cultural significance were identified.

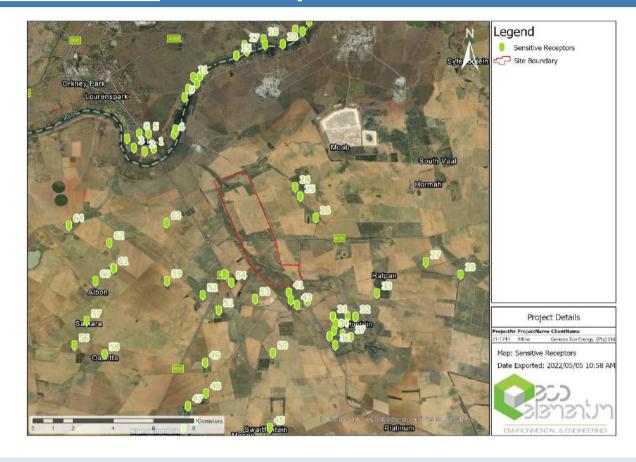
### **Specialist Studies:** Desktop Palaeontological Impact Assessment



- □ PalaeoMap (SAHRIS) indicates that the Palaeontological Sensitivity is moderate. The underlaying sediments will not be impacted by the development as the structures will not penetrate that deep.
- ☐ It is therefore considered that the proposed development will not lead to detrimental impacts on the palaeontological resources of the area.

### **Specialist Studies: Visual Impact Assessment**

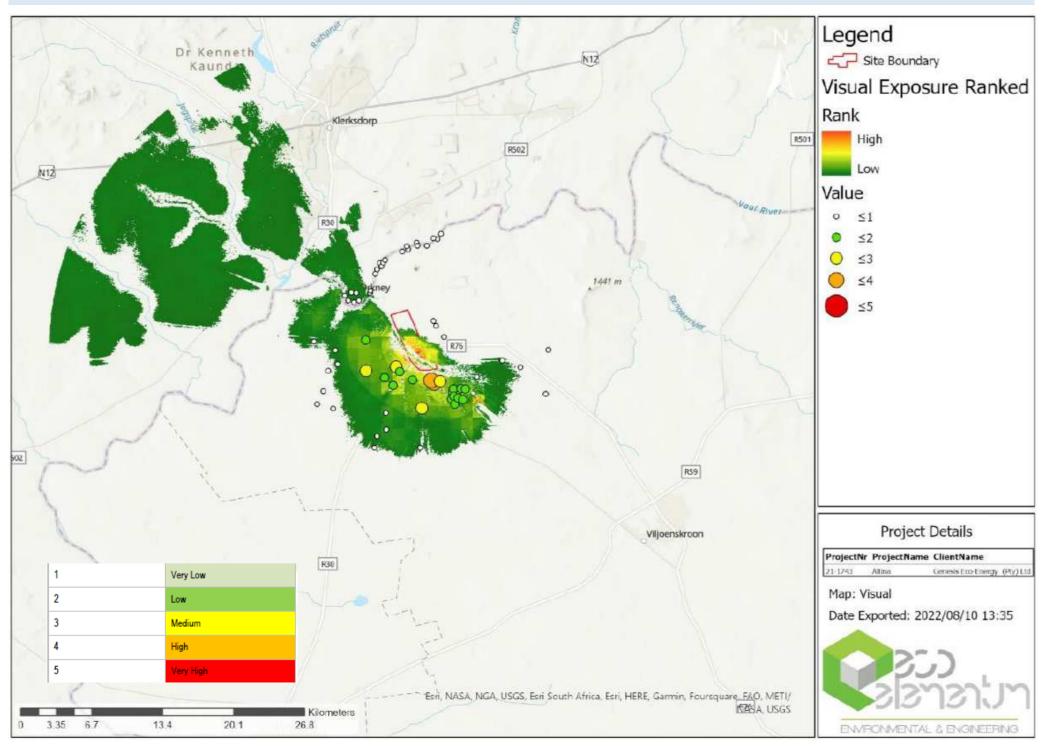
Sensitive Receptors



#### **Viewshed Analysis:**

Visual Exposure Ranking of all areas where it may be possible to see the proposed development (land cover, slope, aspect, ruggedness, relative elevation, landforms and slope position).

#### Viewpoint sensitive receptors overlaid on the Visual Exposure Ranking for Alternative 2



### **Specialist Studies: Social Impact Assessment**



- ☐ The project site has very few social receptors surrounding the site, and the project has a low footprint on the social environment.
- The social and economic impacts of the project are expected to be mainly positive in the sense that the local economy will be stimulated and broadened. The negative impacts are limited in nature and scope and can be successfully mitigated by management rules and practices.
- ☐ It is therefore found that the project, once the recommended mitigation measures have been implemented, has a net positive impact on the social environment of the regional study area.

#### **Impact Assessment**

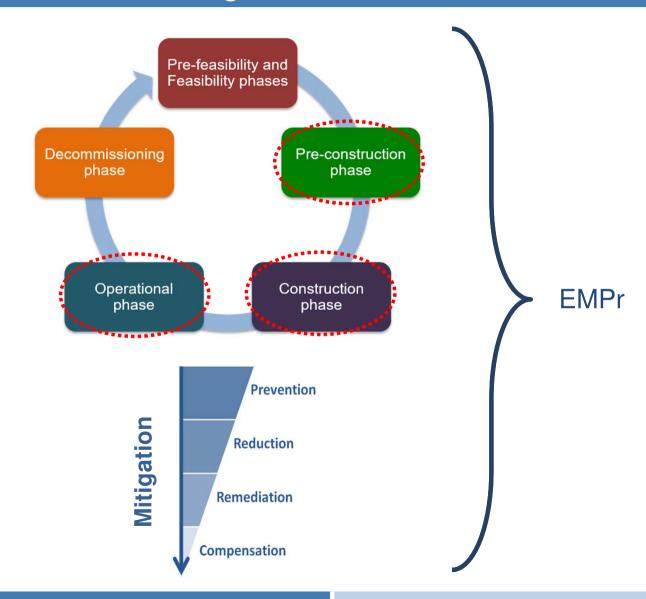
#### **Identification of Impacts:**

- □ An appraisal of the project activities and components.
- ☐ Impacts associated with **listed activities** contained in EIA Regulations.
- An assessment of the receiving biophysical, social, economic and built environment.
- ☐ Findings from **specialist studies**.
- ☐ Issues highlighted by environmental authorities.
- ☐ Comments received during **public participation** from I&APs.

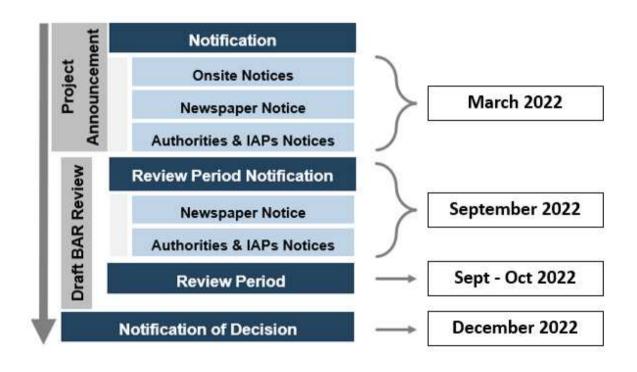
#### **Impact Assessment & Mitigation Measures**

#### **Impact Categories**

- 1. Land Use
- 2. Soils
- 3. Geohydrology
- 4. Surface Water
- 5. Terrestrial Ecology
- 6. Avifauna
- 7. Agriculture
- 8. Air quality
- 9. Noise
- 10. Heritage
- 11. Palaeontology
- 12. Visual
- 13. Air Quality
- 14. Noise
- 15. Hazardous Substances & Waste
- 16. Traffic
- 17. Existing Structures & Infrastructure
- 18. Health and Safety
- 19. Socio-Economic Environment



#### **Public Participation**



Draft BAR review period: 16 Sept until 17 Oct 2022

#### **Conclusions and Recommendations**

### **Environmental Impact Statement:**

- The rationale for the siting of the overall Project is based on its suitable geographic location, including the area's high solar yield area, relatively flat topography, sparsely populated land, and proximity to an existing grid connection
- The PV site alternatives that were assessed as part of the Basic Assessment were based on the layouts that were compiled through incorporation of specialist input to avoid the environmentally sensitive features, including visual, palaeontology, heritage, biophysical and social, as far as possible.
- Based on the recommendations of the specialists, technical considerations, and the comparison of the impacts, Alternative 2 was identified as the BPEO.
- □ Conditions recommended for inclusion into the Environmental Authorisation (if granted).

# DISCUSSION





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