



ISSUES AND RESPONSES REPORT

UMSINDE EMOYENI WIND ENERGY
FACILITIES ASSOCIATED GRID CONNECTION
INFRASTRUCTURE - ENVIRONMENTAL
IMPACT ASSESSMENT AND ENVIRONMENTAL
MANAGEMENT PROGRAMME

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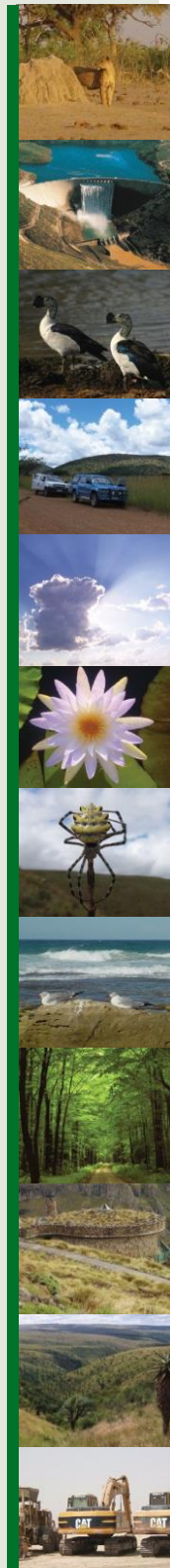
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UMSINDE EMOYENI WIND ENERGY FACILITY AND ASSOCIATED GRID CONNECTION INFRASTRUCTURE - ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT AND ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT PROGRAMME

ISSUES AND RESPONSES REPORT

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REVISION AND AMENDMENTS

Date	No.	Description Of Revision Or Amendment
2014/06/27	0	Issues and Responses Report – Draft Scoping Report
2014/12/15	1	Issues and Responses Report – Final Scoping Report
2015/12/15	2	Issues and Responses Report – Draft EIA Reports
2016/04/15	3	Issues and Responses Report – Final EIA Reports
2018/02/05	4	Issues and Response Report – Revised Final EIA Reports

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1. INTRODUCTION

Environmental Impact Management Services (Pty) Ltd has been appointed by Arcus Consulting, the Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP), to assist in conducting and facilitating the Public Participation Process (PPP) as part of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process in support of the applications for Environmental Authorisation (EA) for the Umsinde Emoyeni Wind Energy Facilities (Phases 1 and 2) and its associated Grid Connection Infrastructure (Phases 1 and 2), (cumulatively referred to as the Proposed Development). In accordance with the provisions of the National Environmental Management Act (NEMA) (Act 107 of 1998, as amended), applications for EA have been submitted to the National Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA), as the Competent Authority for this Proposed Development.

This Issues and Responses Report (IRR) has been compiled as an appendix to the Final Environmental Impact Assessment Report (FEIAR) that has been prepared in support of the EA applications, and outlines the PPP undertaken to date in accordance with the provisions of the NEMA.

The public's right to be involved in decisions that may affect them is enshrined in the South African Constitution. Section 57(1) of the new Constitution provides that: "*The National Assembly may (b) make rules and orders concerning its business, with due regard to representative and participatory democracy, accountability, transparency and public involvement.*" This provision, along with several others gave rise to many new trends in South African legislation. In environmental legislation, the idea of public participation (or stakeholder engagement) features strongly and especially the National Environmental Management Act (NEMA) (Act 107 of 1998) and the associated Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations (GNR543) promulgated under the auspices of this Act makes very strict provisions for public participation in environmental decision-making. The process and key stages for public involvement are presented in the Final EIAR.

Public participation can be defined as...*"a process leading to a joint effort by stakeholders (including the public), technical specialists, the authorities and the proponent who work together to produce better decisions than if they had acted independently"* (Greyling, 1999, p. 20) ¹.

The PPP is designed to provide sufficient and accessible information to Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) in an objective manner to assist them to:

✎ During the Scoping Phase:

- Raise issues of concern and suggestions for enhanced benefits;
- Verify that their issues have been recorded;
- Assist in identifying reasonable alternatives; and
- Provide relevant local information and knowledge to the environmental assessment.

✎ During the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Phase:

- Contribute relevant local information and knowledge to the environmental assessment;
- Verify that their issues have been considered in the EIA process; and
- Comment on the findings of the environmental assessments.

✎ During the decision-making phase:

- Obtain information on the outcome, i.e. the competent authority's decision, and how and by when the decision can be appealed.

This IRR lists all verbal and written issues raised by I&APs and stakeholders during the 30-day initial registration and comment period of the Scoping Phase (16th May 2014 to 16th June 2014), the Draft Scoping Report public review period (2nd July 2014 to 18th August 2014), the Final Scoping Report review period (14th January 2015 to 14th February 2015) as well as the Draft Environmental Impact Assessment Report public review period (15 January 2016 to 24th February 2016). A further 10 days Public Participation was granted to I&APs who requested an extension. A breakdown of the PPP is given within the remaining sections of this IRR.

The Final EIA Reports were submitted in April 2016 to the DEA for authorisation. In May 2016 a letter of "Notification of Procedural Flaws, objection thereto and call to the Department of Environmental Affairs for restoration of correct order with reference to the proposed Umsinde Emoyeni Wind Energy Facilities and Associated Grid Infrastructure, Western and Northern Cape Provinces" was submitted to the Minister of Environmental Affairs, from Mr Andre van der Spuy. On 24 August 2017 the DEA responded to the letter. A copy of the response is included in Appendix X.

¹Greyling, T. 1999. Towards Managing Disputes: Appropriate Public Participation. Proceedings of the Conference on Environmental Dispute Resolution, Fourways, June 1999. AIC Centre for Mining.

Based on the finding of the letter of objection from Mr van der Spuy, the DEA issued a letter of rejection on the submission of the final EIA Reports, in Spetmeber 2017. A copy of the letter is included in Appendix Y. The DEA requested that the Final EIA Reports be issued for an additional 30 day commenting period, in line with the EIA Regulations, 2010.

The Report have been updated and released for public review and comment for a period from 30 days from 08 February 2018 to 09 March 2018.

2. METHODOLOGY

The PPP follows the requirements of Regulation 54 of Government Notice No. R. (GN R.) 543 of the EIA Regulations (2010) (Regulation 41 of GN R. 982 in the new EIA Regulations, 2014) promulgated under Section 24 (5) of the National Environmental Management Act (Act 107 of 1998 - NEMA), as amended.

2.1. IDENTIFICATION OF INTERESTED AND AFFECTED PARTIES

The I&APs referred to in this IRR include:

- ✎ All pre-identified and registered landowners;
- ✎ Pre-identified and registered key stakeholders; and
- ✎ All I&APs who responded to the initial and Draft Scoping Report notifications and requested to be registered.

The pre-identified I&APs were identified through various avenues such as consultation with the proponent and known landowners within the study area, review of related previously conducted studies (including the adjacent Ishwati Emoyeni Wind Energy Facility), and identification of key interest groups and authorities. Many of the key I&APs were pre-identified but a large number have also registered in response to the various notifications to date (refer to Appendix D).

The overall Proposed Development site is approximately 93 000 hectares (Ha), a small proportion of which will be used for the proposed Wind Energy Facility (WEF) and associated grid connection infrastructure (the original area of interest for the 2 phases of the WEF is 58 100 Ha and the remaining extent covers the proposed grid connection infrastructure). All landowners whose properties are within the Proposed Development site have been notified about the Proposed Development and invited to participate via post, fax and/or email prior to submission of the application forms to the Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA) (the competent authority) (refer to Appendix E).

Affected landowner contact details were obtained via the following process:

- ✎ A Windeeds search was conducted to obtain the contact details of the affected landowners, where available;
- ✎ Where the contact details were not available on Windeeds the following steps were conducted:

- Where the property was owned by a company, a CIPRO search was carried out to identify the owners and their contact details;
- Where the property was owned by a Trust, efforts were made to solicit contact details from the relevant municipality; and
- Landowner details from the previously conducted EIA for the Ishwati Emoyeni Wind Energy Facility project were obtained from the applicant.

In addition, the Applicant initiated contact and preliminary discussions with the affected landowners prior to the commencement of the EIA process (i.e. during the pre-feasibility phase). These consultations were undertaken to inform the landowners of the Applicants' intention, and to get relevant permissions to undertake the necessary pre-feasibility investigations.

Please refer to Appendix C for the full landowner database as well as the landowner notification map.

Furthermore, in order to ensure full participation from occupiers, affected and adjacent landowners have been engaged with towards soliciting occupiers' contact details for their notification regarding the project. Please refer to Appendix Q for the record of landowner and occupier consultation.

2.2. NOTICES, ADVERTISEMENTS AND BACKGROUND INFORMATION DOCUMENTS

This section provides details on the notifications that were distributed as part of the process to date.

2.2.1. INITIAL NOTIFICATION

Notification during the initial notification component of the PPP was given in the following manner:

- ✎ Three advertisements (refer to Appendix A) were placed in the:
 - Graaff Reinet Advertiser (English and Afrikaans) on the 16th May 2014;
 - Die Burger (Afrikaans) on the 16th May 2014; and
 - Die Courier (English and Afrikaans) on the 16th May 2014.
- ✎ A2 Correx notices were placed within and around the proposed site area in 30 locations, in English and Afrikaans (refer to Appendix B for photographs of the placed site notices, including a map depicting the location of placements);
- ✎ A3 posters were placed at 8 local public gathering places in English and Afrikaans (refer to Appendix B);
- ✎ A Background Information Document (BID) (refer to Appendix F) in English and Afrikaans was prepared and distributed by post and made available on the EIMS website (www.eims.co.za) as well as on the Environmental Assessment Practitioner's website (www.arcusconsulting.co.uk/services/sa-projects);

- ✎ Notification letters (English and Afrikaans), faxes, and emails were distributed to all pre-identified key I&APs including government organisations, NGOs, relevant municipalities, ward councillors and other organisations that might be affected (refer to Appendix F); and
- ✎ All identifiable landowners within the pre-determined study area were identified and written notification, distributed to them (refer to Appendix E).

The notices and written notification afforded all pre-identified I&APs the opportunity to register for the project as well as to submit their issues/queries/concerns, and indicate the contact details of any other potential I&APs that should be contacted. The contact person at EIMS, contact number, email and faxes were clearly stated on the notifications. Comments/concerns and queries were encouraged to be submitted in either of the following manners:

- ✎ Electronically (fax, email);
- ✎ Telephonically; and/or
- ✎ Written letters.

In response to the initial notification, communication regarding the proposed development was distributed within the local community (outside of the EIA process). When the Applicant was made aware of this matter, a response was drafted and distributed in the form of an open letter in order to address the issues of concern that were raised in the circulated communication. Please refer to Appendix H for a copy of the open letter that was distributed to the community.

2.2.2. DRAFT SCOPING REPORT NOTIFICATION

Notification regarding the availability of the Draft Scoping Report, a component of the PPP, was given in the following manner:

- ✎ Three advertisements in English and Afrikaans were placed in the following newspapers (refer to Appendix A):
 - Graaff Reinet Advertiser (English and Afrikaans) on the 4th July 2014;
 - Die Burger (Afrikaans) on the 4th July 2014; and
 - Die Courier (English and Afrikaans) on the 4th July 2014.
- ✎ Notification letters (English and Afrikaans), faxes, and/or emails were distributed to all I&APs (pre-identified key I&APs, I&APs registered during the initial notification period, as well as adjacent and surrounding landowners) (refer to Appendix H)
- ✎ All affected landowners within the pre-determined impact radius were notified (Appendix G)

Written notification afforded all I&APs the opportunity to submit their issues/queries/concerns on the Proposed Development and the content of the Draft Scoping Report. The contact person, contact number, email and faxes

were clearly stated on the distributed notifications. I&APs were encouraged to submit their comments/concerns and queries in either of the following manners:

- ✎ Electronically (fax, email);
- ✎ Telephonically; and/or
- ✎ Written letters.

Copies of the Draft Scoping Report were made available to the public at public areas and online (see Table 1 below for details) for perusal and comment by all I&APs. Comments received from I&APs were included in the IRR (Appendix R) submitted to the DEA for consideration as part of the Final Scoping Report. Furthermore, copies of the Executive Summary of the Draft Scoping Report were provided in English and Afrikaans at the public review venues and online with the Draft Scoping Report, as well as during the Public Meeting that took place on the 17th of July 2014.

2.2.3. **DRAFT SCOPING REPORT PUBLIC MEETING, FOCUS GROUP MEETINGS, OPEN SESSIONS NOTIFICATIONS**

A public meeting was held on the 17th July 2014 as described in Section 2.3 below. Notification regarding the scheduled Public Meeting was given in the following manner:

- ✎ Three advertisements (Appendix A) were placed in the following newspapers:
 - Graaff Reinet Advertiser (English and Afrikaans) on the 4th July 2014;
 - Die Burger (Afrikaans) on the 4th July 2014; and
 - Die Courier (English and Afrikaans) on the 4th July 2014.
- ✎ Notification letters (English and Afrikaans), faxes, and/or emails were distributed to all I&APs (pre-identified key I&APs, I&APs registered during the initial notification period, as well as adjacent and surrounding landowners) (Appendix H).
- ✎ All affected landowners within the pre-determined impact radius (all landowners within the study area boundary) were notified (Appendix G).

Additional public consultation opportunities were offered to all I&APs in the form of focus group meetings, and extended informal discussions (open sessions) before, and after, the scheduled public meeting on the 17th July 2014. Notification regarding the open sessions was given in the following manner: Notification letters (English and Afrikaans), faxes, and emails were distributed to all key I&APs (pre-identified key I&APs, I&APs registered during the initial notification period and the Draft Scoping Report period, as well as adjacent and surrounding landowners).

Invitations to attend focus group meetings were distributed via email to various key stakeholders within Murraysburg (which included a surrounding landowner, Murraysburg Development Council of Stakeholders, Murraysburg

Farmers Association, and the Murraysburg Land Care Forum). The focus group meetings took place on the 17th July 2014 prior to the public meeting.

2.2.4. DRAFT SCOPING REPORT REVIEW EXTENSION NOTIFICATION

As a result of a request from the I&APs, the commenting period for the review of the Draft Scoping Report was extended from the 11th August 2014 to the 18th August 2014 to afford all I&APs additional time to comment on the Draft Scoping Report. Notification regarding the extension of the Draft Scoping Report public comment period was given in the following manner:

- ✎ Three advertisements (Appendix A) were placed in the same newspapers utilised for the previous announcement of the initial registration and the availability of the Draft Scoping Report, as follows:
 - Graaff Reinet Advertiser (English and Afrikaans) on the 1st August 2014;
 - Die Burger on the 31st July 2014; and
 - Die Courier on the 1st August 2014.

Registered I&APs were notified via the distribution of notification letters (English and Afrikaans), faxes, and/or emails. Please refer to Appendix K for Landowner notifications and Appendix L for Key I&APs notifications. The written notification once again presented all I&APs the opportunity to submit their issues/queries/concerns on the proposed development and the content of the Draft Scoping Report, and the contact details for submitting the said comments were clearly stated on the distributed notifications.

2.2.5. FINAL SCOPING REPORT NOTIFICATION

Notification regarding the availability of the Final Scoping Report, a component of the PPP, was given in the following manner:

- ✎ Notification letters (English and Afrikaans), faxes, and/or emails were distributed to all I&APs (pre-identified key I&APs, I&APs registered during the initial notification and Draft Scoping Report review periods, as well as adjacent and surrounding landowners) (Appendix N); and
- ✎ All affected landowners within the pre-determined impact radius were notified (Appendix M).

Written notification afforded all I&APs the opportunity to submit their issues/queries/concerns on the Proposed Development and the content of the Final Scoping Report. The contact persons, telephone and fax numbers, as well as email addresses were clearly stated on the distributed notifications. I&APs were encouraged to submit their comments/concerns and queries in either of the following manners:

- ✎ Electronically (fax, email);
- ✎ Telephonically; and/or

↳ Written letters.

2.2.6. FINAL SCOPING REPORT REVIEW EXTENSION NOTIFICATION

As a result of a request from the I&APs, the commenting period for the review of the Final Scoping Report was extended from the 19th February 2015 to the 21st March 2015 to afford all I&APs additional time to comment on the Final Scoping Report. Notification regarding the extension of the Final Scoping Report public comment period was given in the following manner:

- ↳ Notification letters (English and Afrikaans), faxes, and/or emails were distributed to all I&APs (pre-identified key I&APs, I&APs registered during the initial notification and Draft Scoping Report review periods, as well as adjacent and surrounding landowners); and
- ↳ All affected landowners within the pre-determined impact radius were notified.

Please refer to Appendix O for a record of the Landowner notifications and Appendix P for Key I&APs notifications. The written notification once again presented all I&APs the opportunity to submit their issues/queries/concerns on the proposed development and the content of the Final Scoping Report, and the contact details for submitting the said comments were clearly stated on the distributed notifications.

Copies of the Final Scoping Report were made available to the public at public areas and online (see Table 1 below for details) for perusal and comment by all I&APs. Comments received from I&APs to date are included in this IRR (Appendix R) to be submitted to the DEA for consideration towards the decision making as part of the Draft Environmental Impact Assessment Report submission. Furthermore, copies of the Executive Summary of the Final Scoping Report were provided in English and Afrikaans at the public review venues and online with the Final Scoping Report.

2.2.7. REQUEST FOR LAND OCCUPIER DETAILS AND NOTIFICATION FROM LANDOWNERS

In an effort to make this EIA process as open and inclusive as possible, notification was sent to affected and surrounding landowners to request them to notify their respective property occupiers about the proposed development or send the EAP the occupiers' contact details so that they would be specifically notified (above and beyond the notification process outlined above) and included in the PPP for this project. Notification letters (English and Afrikaans), faxes, and/or emails were distributed to affected landowners within the pre-determined impact radius, as well as to the adjacent landowners). Please refer to Appendix Q for these landowner notifications.

Further follow-up telephonic consultation was undertaken where both the affected and adjacent landowners were contacted and requested to provide a list of occupiers on their properties and their contact details. The record of this consultation is included in Appendix Q. The land occupiers were then contacted to verify the contact details obtained from the landowners, and a brief description of the project provided. Land occupiers were asked for any

additional contact information and where only telephonic details were available, EIMS made a note to send future notifications via sms only.

2.2.8. PRE- DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT REPORT NOTIFICATION

Notification regarding the scheduled upcoming Draft Environmental Impact Report, as well as details of the scheduled Public Meeting was disseminated to I&APs on the 4th December 2016. The notification was distributed via letters, faxes, sms, and/or email to all to all I&APs (pre-identified key I&APs, registered I&APs, affected landowners, adjacent and surrounding landowners, as well as land occupiers) (refer to Appendix R). Please note that this notification was done in addition to what the NEMA Regulations require and a further notificaton drive was undertaken in January 2016 prior to the Draft EIA being disseminated.

2.2.9. DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT REPORT NOTIFICATION

Notification regarding the availability of the Draft Environmental Impact Assessment Report, a component of the PPP, was given in the following manner:

- ✎ Notification letters (English and Afrikaans), faxes, and/or emails were distributed to all I&APs (pre-identified key I&APs, registered I&APs, affected landowners, adjacent and surrounding landowners, as well as land occupiers) (refer to Appendix S)
- ✎ SMS notification was sent out to land occupiers who had neither postal, fax nor email addresses (refer to Appendix S); and
- ✎ All affected landowners within the pre-determined impact radius were notified (Appendix S)

Written notification afforded all I&APs the opportunity to submit their issues/queries/concerns on the Proposed Development and the content of the Draft Environmental Impact Assessment Report. The contact person, contact number, email and faxes were clearly stated on the distributed notifications. I&APs were encouraged to submit their comments/concerns and queries in either of the following manners:

- ✎ Electronically (fax, email);
- ✎ Telephonically; and/or
- ✎ Written letters.

Copies of the Draft Environmental Impact Assessment Report were made available to the public and registered I&APs at public venues and online (see Table 1 below for details) for perusal and comment. Comments received from I&APs are included in this IRR (Appendix U) submitted to the DEA for consideration as part of the Final Environmental Report. Furthermore, copies of the Executive Summary of the Draft Environmental Assessment Report were provided in English and Afrikaans at the public review venues and online with the Draft Environmental Impact Assessment Reports, as well as during the Public Meeting that took place on the 4th of February 2016.

2.2.10. DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT REPORT PUBLIC MEETING AND FOCUS GROUP MEETINGS NOTIFICATIONS

A public meeting was held on the 4th February 2016 as described in Section 2.3 below. Notification regarding the scheduled Public Meeting was given in the following manner:

- ✎ Three advertisements (Appendix A) were placed in the following newspapers:
 - Graaff Reinet Advertiser (English and Afrikaans) on the 15th January 2016;
 - Die Burger (Afrikaans) on the 15th January 2016; and
 - Die Courier (English and Afrikaans) on the 15th January 2016.
- ✎ Notification letters (English and Afrikaans), faxes, and/or emails were distributed to all I&APs (pre-identified key I&APs, registered I&APs, affected landowners, adjacent and surrounding landowners, as well as land occupiers) (Appendix S).

Additional public consultation opportunities were offered to Landowners and occupiers in the form of focus group meetings, between the 3rd February 2016 and the 5th February 2016, taking place before and after the scheduled public meeting. Telephonic consultation and follow up email consultation was undertaken whereby both the affected and adjacent landowners were contacted towards making arrangements for focus group meetings at their respective properties with their occupiers/workers. This was particularly in an effort to accommodate land occupiers that would not be able to attend the scheduled public meeting and to provide an opportunity for more one-on-one discussions. The record of this consultation is included in Appendix T. Table 1 below summarises the PPP carried out to date.

2.2.11. REVISED FINAL EIA REPORT NOTIFICATIONS

As requested by the DEA the revised Final EIA Reports have been made available to all registered interested and affected parties for a 30 day review period. Notifications by fax, email, and registered mail have been sent out informing I&APs of the additional comment and review period.

TABLE 1: OPPORTUNITIES PROVIDED FOR PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PHASE			
ACTION	DESCRIPTION	PUBLICATION/PLACE	DATE
Initial Public Notification	Newspaper advertisement (English & Afrikaans).	Graaff Reinet Advertiser;	16 May 2014.
		Die Courier; and	16 May 2014.
		Die Burger.	16 May 2014.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PHASE			
(announcement of project).	Placement of site notices.	Sixty A2 site notices (English & Afrikaans) were placed at key locations within and around the site area (30 locations).	14 & 15 May 2014.
	Placement of posters.	Sixteen A3 posters (English & Afrikaans) were placed at key public places within the site area (Murraysburg & Richmond) (8 locations).	15 May 2014.
	Notification of landowners & key I&APs.	Affected landowners were notified via email, fax, and/or post. Key I&APs and surrounding landowners were notified via e-mail, fax, and/or post.	13 March 2014. Commenced 16 th May 2014 until the 16 th June 2014. Registration of I&APs however, is ongoing
Announcement for Public Review of Draft Scoping Report	Newspaper advertisement	Graaff Reinet Advertiser; Die Courier; and Die Burger.	4 July 2014.
	Notification of landowners and key I&APs.	Affected landowners were notified via e-mail, fax, and/or post; and Key I&APs and surrounding landowners were notified via e-mail, fax, and/or post.	2 July 2014.
	Draft Scoping Report and Executive Summary (in English)	Ubuntu Local Municipality; Beaufort West Local Municipality; Murraysburg Farmers Co-Operative;	2 July 2014.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PHASE			
	and Afrikaans) placement	Beaufort West Local Municipality (Murraysburg office); Richmond Police Station; Richmond Ntsikelelo Tida Library; EIMS website (www.eims.co.za); and Arcus website (www.arcusconsulting.co.uk/services/sa-projects).	
Additional Public Consultation in the form of Open Sessions	Notification of landowners and key I&APs.	Affected landowners were notified via e-mail, fax, and/or post; and Key I&APs and surrounding landowners were notified via e-mail, fax, and/or post.	10 July 2014.
Scoping Public Meeting	Attendance of Landowners and key I&APs at Public Meeting.	Murraysburg Town Hall	17 July 2014.
Scoping Focus Group Meetings	Attendance of invited key stakeholders at Focus Group Meetings.	Ms. Adri Smith, representative for the Murraysburg Farmers Association Mr. van der Merwe, an affected landowner (Badsfontein); Mr. Duval Johnson, representative for the Murraysburg Development Council of Stakeholders, (Murraysburg Town Hall); and Mr. Albertus van den Berg, representative for the Murraysburg Land Care Forum (Church in Murraysburg).	9 July 2014. 11 July 2014. 11 July 2014. 15 July 2014.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PHASE			
Extension of Public Review of Draft Scoping Report	Notification of landowners and key I&APs.	Affected landowners were notified via e-mail, fax, and/or post; and Key I&APs and surrounding landowners were notified via e-mail, fax, and/or post.	25 July 2014.
	Newspaper advertisement	Graaff Reinet Advertiser; Die Courier; and Die Burger.	01 August 2014. 01 August 2014. 31 July 2014.
Announcement for Public Review of Final Scoping Report	Notification of landowners and key I&APs.	Affected landowners were notified via e-mail, fax, and/or post; and Key I&APs and surrounding landowners were notified via e-mail, fax, and/or post.	13 January 2015.
	Final Scoping Report and Executive Summary (in English and Afrikaans) placement	Ubuntu Local Municipality; Beaufort West Local Municipality; Murraysburg Farmers Co-Operative; Beaufort West Local Municipality (Murraysburg office); Richmond Police Station; Richmond Ntsikelelo Tida Library; EIMS website (www.eims.co.za); and Arcus website (www.arcusconsulting.co.uk/services/sa-projects).	13 January 2015.
Extension of Public Review of Final Scoping Report	Notification of landowners and key I&APs.	Affected landowners were notified via e-mail, fax, and/or post; and Key I&APs and surrounding landowners were notified via e-mail, fax, and/or post.	19 February 2015.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PHASE			
Request for Landowners to Inform Land Occupiers About Project and for Occupiers' Details	Notification of affected landowners, as well as adjacent and surrounding landowners	Landowners were notified via e-mail, fax, and/or post.	02 November 2015.
		Telephonic consultation with affected and adjacent landowners as well as land occupiers.	02 – 04 December 2015.
Pre-announcement of Draft Environmental Impact Assessment Report availability	Notification of landowners, occupiers, and key I&APs.	Affected and adjacent landowners were notified via e-mail, fax, and/or post; Land occupiers were notified via sms; and Key I&APs and surrounding landowners were notified via e-mail, fax, and/or post.	4 December 2015
Announcement of Availability of Draft Environmental Impact Assessment Report for Public Review	Notification of landowners, occupiers, and key I&APs.	Affected and adjacent landowners were notified via e-mail, fax, and/or post; Land occupiers were notified via sms; and Key I&APs and surrounding landowners were notified via e-mail, fax, and/or post.	Post sent on 14 January 2016. Faxes and Emails sent on 15 January 2016.
		Ubuntu Local Municipality; Beaufort West Local Municipality; Murraysburg Farmers Co-Operative; Beaufort West Local Municipality (Murraysburg office); Murraysburg Public Library; Richmond Police Station; Richmond Ntsikelelo Tida Library;	15 January 2016.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PHASE			
		EIMS website (www.eims.co.za); and	
	Newspaper Advertisements.	Graaff Reinet Advertiser; Die Courier; and Die Burger.	15 January 2016.
Announcement of Availability of Final Environmental Impact Assessment Report for Public Review	Notification of landowners, occupiers, and key I&APs.	Affected and adjacent landowners were notified via e-mail, fax, and/or post; Land occupiers were notified via sms; and Key I&APs and surrounding landowners were notified via e-mail, fax, and/or post.	21 April 2016.

2.3. FOCUS GROUP MEETINGS

During the review period of the Draft Scoping Report, a number of focus group meetings were arranged prior to the public meeting held on the 17th of July 2014. The following focus group meetings were held on the 17th July 2014:

- Meeting with Mr. Izak van der Merwe at 08h30, at his farm Badsfontein. Mr. Michaud Du Toit (farmer) later joined the meeting for a short site visit around Mr. van der Merwe's property where various concerns by Mr. van der Merwe regarding the Proposed Development were discussed. The following project team members were present at this focus group meeting: Ms. Katherine Pearson and Ms. Sofie van den Bergh from Windlab; Ms. Jenny Slack from Arcus; and Ms. Nobuhle Hughes and Ms. Marita Oosthuizen from EIMS. The attendance register and minutes of the meeting are provided in Appendix W of this IRR.
- Meeting with members of the Murraysburg Development Council of Stakeholders at 11h00 in the Murraysburg Town Hall. The following project team members were present at this focus group meeting: Ms. Katherine Pearson and Ms. Sofie van den Bergh from Windlab, Ms. Jenny Slack from Arcus; and Ms. Nobuhle Hughes and Ms. Marita Oosthuizen from EIMS. The attendance register and minutes of the meeting are provided in Appendix W of this IRR.
- Meeting with representatives of both the Murraysburg Land Care Forum and the Murraysburg Farmers Association was held at 12h30 at a Church in Murraysburg. The following project team members were present at this focus group meeting, Ms. Katherine Pearson and Ms. Sofie van den Bergh from Windlab;

Ms. Jenny Slack from Arcus; and Ms. Nobuhle Hughes and Ms. Marita Oosthuizen from EIMS. The attendance register and minutes of the meeting are provided in Appendix W of this IRR.

During the review period of the Draft Environmental Impact Assessment Report, seven (7) Focus groups were arranged through the affected and adjacent landowners to meet with their respective land occupiers at their premises, in order to discuss the Proposed Development and solicit the land occupiers' concerns, queries, comments and suggestions. The minutes of the focus group meetings were recorded, and these are included in Appendix W of this IRR. The following group meetings were held on the 3rd February 2016:

- ✎ Meeting at Mr. Kayne Kingwill's farm (farm Middevelei 52) at 14h30. The attendance register and minutes of the meeting are provided in Appendix W of this IRR.
- ✎ Meeting at Mr. Chris Slabbert's farm (farm Voetpad 51) at 16h30. The attendance register and minutes of the meeting are provided in Appendix W of this IRR.
- ✎ Meeting at Andrew Wallis's farm (farm De Hoop 30/ Springfontein) at 17h30. The attendance register and minutes of the meeting are provided in Appendix W of this IRR.
- ✎ Meeting at Mr. Martin Hesselink's farm (farm Driefontein 26) at 18h15. The attendance register and minutes of the meeting are provided in Appendix W of this IRR.

The following group meetings were held on the 4th February 2016 prior to the public meeting:

- ✎ Meeting at Mr. Izak van der Merwe's farm (farm Badsfontein 10) at 08h40. The attendance register and minutes of the meeting are provided in Appendix W of this IRR.
- ✎ Meeting at Mr. Kobus van Heerden's farm (farm Klipplaat 109 (Bakensklip)) at 10h40. The attendance register and minutes of the meeting are provided in Appendix W of this IRR.

The following group meeting was held on the 5th February 2016:

- ✎ Meeting at Mr. Izak van Heerden's farm (farm Schietkuil 3) at 09h30. The attendance register and minutes of the meeting are provided in Appendix W of this IRR.

A focus group meeting was planned with Mr. Jan Pickard to meet with the occupiers at his farm (farm Ratefontein 100) on the 5th February 2016; however, Mr. Pickard declined the invitation and stated that he would get feedback from the meeting held at farm Badsfontein 10.

2.4. PUBLIC MEETING AND OPEN HOUSE SESSION

A public meeting was held at the Murraysburg Town Hall on the 17th of July 2015 at 15h00, to present the findings of the Scoping phase of the EIA process. During the public meeting, Emoyeni Wind Farm Project (the applicant) and Arcus (the EAP) made presentations prior to opening the floor for comments, concerns and/or queries. The attendance register and minutes of the meeting are presented in Appendix W of this IRR. In addition, during the

open house session, informative posters were hung up in the town hall prior to the public meeting and the team was available prior to and after the public meeting for one-on-one discussion and questions from the public. Members of the team that were present were: Ian Macdonald, Katherine Persson and Sofie Van den Bergh from Windlab; Jennifer Slack from Arcus; and Nobuhle Hughes and Ariel Oosthuizen from EIMS.

A second public meeting was held on the 4th February 2016 at 15h00, to present the findings of the EIA phase. During the public meeting, the Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP) – Arcus, and the applicant – Emoyeni Wind Farm Project made presentations prior to opening the floor for comments, concerns and/or queries which was facilitated by the public participation team - EIMS. During the public meeting, information posters were available on the walls in the town hall as well as documentation such as the draft EIA Reports, executive summaries (English and Afrikaans), and comment sheets (English and Afrikaans). The attendance register and minutes of the meeting are presented in Appendix W of this IRR.

2.5. SUMMARY OF COMMENTS

Comments submitted to EIMS were recorded, and distributed to the EAP for review and preparing a response, thereafter EIMS submitted these responses to the relevant I&AP. The comments received to date are included in the correspondence record presented in Appendix U and the table in Section 3 below. These comments pertain to the aspects/ areas summarised below:

- | | |
|---|---|
| ✓ Acknowledgement of receipt of notification | ✓ Determination of the Project's approval |
| ✓ Access road; | ✓ Deregistration; |
| ✓ Alternatives; | ✓ Ecology; |
| ✓ Air quality concerns; | ✓ Economy; |
| ✓ Archaeology and Palaeontology; | ✓ EIA process; |
| ✓ Avifauna specialist study; | ✓ Employment; |
| ✓ Bees specialist study; | ✓ Eskom specific issues; |
| ✓ Benefit for the community; | ✓ FSR submission to the DEA; |
| ✓ Climate and rainfall; | ✓ Focus group land occupier meeting arrangements; |
| ✓ Compensation; | ✓ General; |
| ✓ Correspondence outside the EIA process; | ✓ Geology; |
| ✓ Cumulative impacts; | ✓ Green energy; |
| ✓ Department of Water and Sanitation specific issues; | ✓ Groundwater; |

- ↘ Health issues;
- ↘ Hunting;
- ↘ Infrastructure;
- ↘ Land-use and planning;
- ↘ Land occupier involvement;
- ↘ Land occupiers contact information;
- ↘ Land value;
- ↘ Livestock;
- ↘ Need for the project;
- ↘ Nuisance;
- ↘ Noise pollution;
- ↘ Presence of important birds species and habitat within the development study;
- ↘ Property values;
- ↘ Project team;
- ↘ Public Participation Process;
- ↘ Proposed community trust and development shareholding
- ↘ Quality of life;
- ↘ Registration;
- ↘ Power supply
- ↘ Scoping phase acceptance letter;
- ↘ Request for information;
- ↘ Request for documentation;
- ↘ Request for extension comment review period;
- ↘ Safety and security;
- ↘ Specialist studies;
- ↘ Other social impacts;
- ↘ Surface water;
- ↘ Square Kilometre Array (SKA) specific issues;
- ↘ Short-term benefits versus long-term impacts
- ↘ Telkom specific conditions;
- ↘ Visual impact;
- ↘ Waste management; and
- ↘ Wind turbine syndrome.

3. ISSUES RAISED

The issues raised by I&APs to date are presented in Table 2 below. Responses have been correlated from the EIA team and where applicable, the Applicant and distributed by EIMS as the PPP representative to I&APs. Please refer to Appendix U for copies of correspondence received during the EIA process, and Appendix V for comments received outside the commenting periods.

TABLE 2: COMMENTS RECEIVED FROM INTERESTED AND AFFECTED PARTIES AND ASSOCIATED RESPONSES

Name	Date	Method	Issue	Response	Aspect/ Area
Colene Runkel – Statutory Control South African National Roads Agency (SANRAL)	2014/03/13	Email	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Ms. Colene Runkel from SANRAL acknowledged receipt of the initial project notification dated 13 March 2014. Ms. Runkel requested a locality plan indicating all major roads that will be affected by this project to enable SANRAL to provide comment. Ms. Runkel thanked EIMS for providing the locality map and she informed EIMS that the physical locality of the wind farm will not affect SANRAL; however access from the N1 will be affected by the proposed project. Ms. Runkel requested that SANRAL be provided with a Traffic Impact Assessment that will be undertaken by an ACSA registered Traffic Engineer which will assess the impact of the additional traffic at N1/R83 intersection and the condition with regard to turning lanes with recommendations for improvement. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> This was noted by EIMS. EIMS thanked Ms. Colene Runkel for responding to the initial notification and attached the locality map of the proposed study area showing the major roads in the vicinity. EIMS informed Ms. Runkel that a Traffic Risk Assessment study has been undertaken for this proposed development and they attached the Traffic Assessment study for Ms. Runkel's perusal. EIMS let Ms. Runkel know that the traffic assessment study was undertaken by Iris Wink, who is registered as a Professional Engineer with the Engineering Council of South Africa (Registration number 20110156). Furthermore, EIMS explained to Ms. Runkel that a Traffic Impact Statement is usually completed after preferred bidder status has been awarded through the Renewable Energy Independent Power Producers Programme and the study that was undertaken by Mr. Wink was for that particular reason. EIMS then asked if Ms. Runkel could provide a scope for the required Traffic Impact Statement that SANRAL would require to be undertaken. 	Receipt/ Acknowledgem ent of Notification Access Roads

Colene Runkel – Statutory Control South African National Roads Agency (SANRAL)	2016/01/15	Email	Thank you for your e-mail. I am currently out of the office. Please contact Shaun Dyers (dyerss@nra.co.za) from 5 Jan, and Rene de Kock (dekokkr@nra.co.za) from 11 Jan. Nicole Abrahams abrahamsn@nra.co.za) can be contacted for all EIA applications or contact them at (021) 957 4600.	This was noted by EIMS.	General.
Sibulele Mdingi - Environmental Practitioner: Independent Power Producer Eskom Holdings SOC Limited	2014/03/28	Email and Telephone	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Ms. Sibulele Mdingi from Eskom requested to be registered as an Interested and Affected Party (I&AP) and provided EIMS with her contact information. EIMS received a phone call from Ms. Sibulele Mdingi from Eskom enquiring about the received notification regarding the Umsinde Emoyeni WEF project. Ms. Mdingi wanted to get clarification on the Eskom property affected by the proposed development. Ms. Mdingi stated that she would like to be included as an I&AP for the project 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> EIMS informed Ms. Mdingi that she has been registered in the I&AP database for this project and EIMS attached the project's notification documents, including the locality plan. In addition, EIMS let Ms. Mdingi know that the project documentation is also available on the EIMS website followed by a brief description of the steps to follow to access the initial documentation. EIMS asked Ms. Mdingi to let them know should she have any further problems or require assistance. EIMS informed Ms. Mdingi that since the distribution of the initial notification to affected landowners, Eskom has been withdrawn as an affected landowner as their property was no longer included in the proposed study area. EIMS let Ms. Mdingi know that the EIMS would be sending an official letter to Eskom to this effect shortly. EIMS informed Ms. Mdingi that although Eskom was no longer an affected landowner, EIMS would register Ms. Mdingi as an I&AP for this project. 	Receipt/ Acknowledgem ent of Notification Registration
Stefan Cramer – Community member	2014/05/17	Telephone	Mr. Stephan Cramer asked to be registered as an I&AP in the Environmental Impact Assessment process for the Emoyeni Wind	EIMS thanked Mr. Cramer for responding to the initial notification and EIMS let him know that he has been registered as an I&AP for this project and will thus be notified of further project information.	Receipt/ Acknowledgem ent of Notification

			Farm Project (EWEP) as an energy planner and consultant for the Karoo.		
Jenna Lavin - Heritage Officer South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA)	2014/05/19	Email	Ms. Jenna Lavin informed EIMS that SAHRA no longer processes applications received via email, post or email. Ms. Lavin advised EIMS to register the project on the SAHRA website (SAHRIS) in order for SAHRA to comment on this project. Ms. Lavin advised EIMS to create a case and upload all the relevant documentation to SAHRIS (www.sahra.org.za) and to contact her if she requires assistance.	EIMS let Ms. Lavin know that the project will be registered on SAHRIS and all available initial notification documents will be uploaded on the SAHRIS website.	Receipt/ Acknowledgement of Notification
Leonard Shaw – Wireless Planning Development and Support Telkom SA SOC Ltd	2015/05/19	Email	Dear Zizo, In the attached document it is stated that a Background Information Document (BID) and location plan can be found on the website www.eims.co.za . I cannot find such information.	EIMS response: Good morning Leonard, Thank you for your response and for showing interest on the project. There is no direct link to the documentation on our website however you need to go through a quick registration process on the EIMS website to have access to the report. Please follow the following instructions: Go to www.eims.co.za At the left hand bottom of the page click "Register". Once you details have been filled in on the registration form (not forgetting the verification text) click "Send Registration". You will then receive a verification link on your email. Once registration has been verified you will be able to access our EIA reports. Once logged in on the left hand side you will see "Reports" click on it and it will get you to our projects list where the Umsinde Emoyeni WEF EIA BID is.	

Leonard Shaw – Wireless Planning Development and Support Telkom SA SOC Ltd	2015/05/19	Email	<p>We have two radio terminals terminating in the proposed wind farm (one on the edge). We require a 300m separation between the tip of the turbine blade the terminals and their radio paths.</p> <p>We are also open to relocating these terminals at you're project's cost.</p> <p>If we receive the turbines layout and the conditions above are met, we issue an approval letter in accordance with Section 29 of the Electronic Communications Act no. 36 of 2005.</p> <p>Please let us know if you have any further queries.</p>	This was noted by EIMS.	General.
Leonard Shaw – Wireless Planning Development and Support Telkom SA SOC Ltd	2016/01/28	Email	<p>Good day.</p> <p>We have previously responded on this project.</p>	This was noted by EIMS.	General.
Coert Louber – Operational Specialist Telkom SA SOC Ltd	2014/05/23	Email	<p>We have one TDMA link running into the proposed farm area.</p>	<p>EIMS response: Hi Coert,</p> <p>What is the height of the Telkom towers?</p> <p>The setback you require is quite large and it might be the case that pathways go well above our turbines.</p>	General.
Coert Louber - Operational Specialist Telkom SA SOC Ltd	2014/09/02	Email	<p>Hi Ben,</p> <p>If the 300m buffer is too hard to meet we can look at an alternative solution. The link of concern is a low capacity TDMA feed to a wireless DECT network.</p>	<p>EIMS response: Hi Coert,</p> <p>Please see the attached shapefile that shows the radio path missing all turbines at the proposed Umsinde wind farm for both phases. We are able to</p>	General.

			<p>Should the 300 m not be achievable we can investigate how many clients would be affected and then these clients will have to be migrated to a different service at the cost of the wind farm company.</p> <p>But let's first see how close to the turbines the link will be when you have an initial layout. We can then do a wind farm interference analysis to see if the buffer can slightly be reduced.</p>	re-jig the layout, taking into account your required 300m buffer.	
Coert Louber - Operational Specialist Telkom SA SOC Ltd	2014/0915	Email and attached Approval letter	<p>Good Day Ben,</p> <p>Find attached the approval letter.</p> <p>RE: APPLICATION FOR APPROVAL OF THE UMSINDE EMOYENI WIND ENERGY FACILITY</p> <p>The above matter refers:</p> <p>Kindly note that Telkom SA SOC Ltd ("Telkom") has received an application from Windlab Developments South Africa (Pty) Ltd, hereafter referred to as THE APPLICANT, who wishes to construct a wind farm named UMSINDE EMOYENI WIND ENERGY FACILITY with a turbine layout as defined as in Annexure 1, hereafter referred to as THE SITE, in accordance with the provisions of Section 29(1) (b) of Electronic Communications Act, no. 36 of 1995 ("The Act").</p> <p>Telkom has analysed the information provided by the Applicant in accordance with the provisions of Section 29(1) (c) of the Act, and specifically the location of the site. Telkom SA hereby grants the Applicant the approval to proceed with the construction of its energy</p>	This was noted by EIMS.	Telkom Specific conditions

		<p>project at the site subject to the following terms and conditions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Take note that the findings made by Telkom are based on simulation and calculated on a theoretical model, using available data and assumptions where no data was provided. Therefore, such findings may change at any time should any further information be made available to or come at Telkom's attention.➤ At any time after the approval or during construction of the project, should any radio transmissions be affected by construction activities, Telkom will give the Applicant 30 (thirty) days' written notice to minimise or reduce and/or remove the cause of the interference. Under no circumstances will Telkom be liable to the Applicant or any other third party for any damages, of any nature whatsoever, suffered as a consequence of the aforementioned request.➤ Construction activities underneath, along, across or within close proximity to Telkom infrastructure must comply to the applicable Telkom guidelines relating to clearances between equipment and the proposed construction activity. Furthermore, the Applicant must strictly adhere to and all installations must be fully compliant with the Occupational Health and Safety Act, 1993 (Act 85 of 1993).➤ This approval is further subject to the submitted application's boundaries or structures listed in annexure1, the materials used as well as the size and positioning of structures declared in the application. If any radio system is compromised by a deviation of this	
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			<p>submission and the deviation cannot be reversed, the Applicant shall be liable for the cost to re-establish or relocate the service and under no circumstances will Telkom be liable to the Applicant or any other third party for any damages, of any nature whatsoever, suffered as a consequence.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ This approval is valid and applicable to and between Telkom and the Applicant. It does not include approval by any other electronic communication operators that have a co-sharing agreement for use on Telkom radio masts. ➤ Any additions, amendments, additional structures to be built or change to the energy farm boundaries will require a fresh application to Telkom. ➤ The validity of this approval is for a period of twelve (12) months. If construction of the designed project commences after the expiry of the twelve month period, the application must be resubmitted to Telkom for evaluation and approval. ➤ This approval does not imply any right of access to Telkom property or use of Telkom's access roads for construction or maintenance of the design project. Permission must be obtained from Telkom in this regard. Furthermore Telkom reserves the right to claim damages in terms of Section 108 of the Post Office Act No.44 of 1958, for any loss sustained as a result of damage to our electronic communications infrastructure. ➤ The Applicant shall, in the carrying out of any work or project take all necessary precautions for the safety of Telkom's employees, contractors, representatives and its property including other radio links 		
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			<p>on or near the Site against damages as result of construction of the Applicant's energy project. The Applicant shall be liable for all and any direct and/or indirect, and/or representatives to any employee, contractor, representative or property of Telkom including radio links or land which may have been disturbed.</p> <p>↘ Any work in connection with the construction of the Applicant's energy project shall be carried out by the Applicant, in such a way as to avoid any possible loss or inconveniences to Telkom, its customers or the public, and on completion of such work, any property of Telkom, including radio links or land which may have been disturbed shall be restored to the same condition which it was in before commencement of the construction of energy project.</p> <p>↘ In no event will Telkom, its employees, contractors, subcontractors or representatives be liable to the Applicant or anyone else for special, collateral, direct, indirect, incidental, consequential or any other damages (including without limitation, loss of goodwill, loss of profits or revenues, loss of savings, loss of use, interruptions of business, and claims of the Applicant or injury) whether or not such damages or injury occurred prior or subsequent to, or are alleged as a result of any Telkom radio links approved and/or not approved in terms of this letter or as result of deficit, even if Telkom SA has been advised of the possibility of such damages or injury.</p>		
Simon Gear – Policy and	2014/05/21	Email	Mr. Simon Gear thanked EIMS for the invitation to be registered as an I&AP on this project and	EIMS let Mr. Gear know that he has been registered as an I&AP on this project using the	Receipt/ Acknowledgem

Advocacy Manager Birdlife South Africa			he asked Birdlife South Africa to be registered as an I&AP and he also provided EIMS with his contact details. Furthermore, Mr. Gear let EIMS know that Birdlife may comment on the project in due course. Mr. Gear also forwarded guidelines for avifauna surveys for wind farms EIAs Birdlife for the attention of the avifauna specialist.	contact details that he provided. EIMS informed Mr. Gear that the information he provided has been forwarded to the avifauna specialist (Mr. Andrew Pearson) for this project.	ent of Notification
Simon Gear – Policy and Advocacy Manager Birdlife South Africa	2016/02/24	Email and attached letter	<p>RE: DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT REPORT FOR THE PROPOSED UMSINDE EMOYENI WIND ENERGY FACILITY, PHASE 1 AND 2, IN THE WESTERN AND NORTHERN CAPE PROVINCES</p> <p>Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the above report. We understand that the above developments are located close to each other, we have therefore chose to comment on both phases together since the impact and issues are similar.</p> <p>Wind energy facilities can have significant impacts on birds by directly killing them during collision with turbines or powerlines, or indirectly by creating barriers to movement, displacing sensitive species, affecting breeding success and by changing preferred habitat. While Birdlife South Africa supports the responsible development of renewable energy, we are concerned that the proposed developments are located in an area of high avifaunal sensitivity:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A high number of raptor flights was recorded, which could be associated with a high collision risk after construction. Of particular concern was the high flight activity and abundance of Verreaux's Eagle in the area. At least 6 individuals 	<p>EIMS response: Good Afternoon Mr Gear,</p> <p>Thank you very much for the comments received from Birdlife SA regarding the above-mentioned project. Please find attached responses (in bold) from the project team for your perusal. Should you have any queries or concerns in this regard, please do not hesitate to contact me.</p> <p>Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the above report.</p> <p>Thank you for your comments. We wish to provide detailed responses to give further explanation on the mitigation approach for the project, and to explain the detailed findings of the avifaunal specialist study</p> <p>We understand that the above developments are located close to each other, we have therefore chose to comment on both phases together since the impact and issues are similar. Wind energy facilities can have significant impacts on birds by directly killing them during collision with turbines or power lines, or indirectly by creating barriers to movement, displacing sensitive species, affecting breeding success and by changing preferred habitat. We have acknowledged these potential impacts and have rated them accordingly following 12 months of monitoring as well as</p>	Presence of important birds species and habitat within the development study.

			<p>were seen at the same time. According to the avifaunal assessment, this species was found to be “widespread and relatively active across the WEF site, and particularly in the south of the site, along prominent ridgelines and near the nest sites”. The high population density suggests that this population is of conservation importance. Early indications from operational monitoring at other windfarms suggests that this species is particularly prone to collisions. At least 5 fatalities have occurred at 2 wind farms in South Africa in the past year.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • According to the nest surveys, the area has a high number of bird nests (active and inactive). Movement of birds increases during the breeding season when birds collect nesting materials or food for the nestling. This might have an impact on breeding pair’s success, since the likelihood of collision may also increase during these periods. Seventy-one (71) active/inactive nests were found, of which 22 were Rock Kestrel, 21 Verreaux’s Eagle, 14 White-necked Raven and 7 Jackal Buzzard. Although not threatened, Rock Kestrel and Jack Buzzard are also proving to be collision-prone in South Africa. • In 2014, Smallie monitored the Badsfontein Dam which is situated 13 km away from the most western turbine string of the Umsinde Emoyeni WEF. Smallie found the dam to have a high density of water-associated bird species. He therefore surmised that the dam might be an important stopover point for birds such as flamingos, and other migratory birds. 	<p>additional site work for nest surveys. The significance ratings of residual impacts, following mitigation ranged from low to medium. The most significant were electrocution, power line collisions and wind turbine collisions in the operational phase which all had a medium negative significance. While BirdLife South Africa supports the responsible development of renewable energy, we are concerned that the proposed developments are located in an area of high avifaunal sensitivity:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A high number of raptor flights was recorded, which could be associated with a high collision risk after construction. The significance of turbine collision impacts was rated as ‘Very High’ prior to mitigation and ‘Medium’ following mitigation. It must be noted that these ratings were for one of the Phases (either WEF phase 1 or WEF phase 2), i.e up to a maximum of 98 turbines, as each phase was assessed separately. The worst case scenario of all 98 turbines in both phases being constructed was assessed under the cumulative assessment. Of particular concern was the high flight activity and abundance of Verreaux’s Eagle in the area. At least 6 individuals were seen at the same time. According to the avifaunal assessment, this species was found to be “widespread and relatively active across the WEF site, and particularly in the south of the site, along prominent ridgelines and near the nest sites”. Phase 1 and Phase 2 turbine layouts are in the north, and north east of the site. The turbine layouts have been informed by the avian activity recorded on site, which is one of the reasons that the layouts are 	
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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The proposed Umsinde Emoyeni WEFs are situated approximately 50 km away from the Platberg-Karoo Conservancy and Camdeboo National Park important Bird Areas (IBAs). IBAs are of international importance for bird conservation because they hold a large number of threatened species, especially highly, mobile species. Apart from being close to IBAs, the proposed sites hold a high diversity of species, including a high number of endemic and threatened species that may be vulnerable to the impacts of wind energy (priority species). These include Blue Cranes, Ludwig's Bustard, Verreaux's Eagle, Lanner Falcon, Martial Eagle, Kori Bustard, Secretary bird, Black Harrier, African Marsh Harrier, and Greater Flamingo. In light of the above we consider the site to be of high sensitivity. We support the specialist's assessment that the wind farms could present a very high risk of collisions (before mitigation). <p>We are concerned that it may not be possible to minimise this risk to acceptable levels. Although the specialist suggests that the significance could be reduced to medium they report low confidence in this finding.</p> <p>There are too many uncertainties for Birdlife South Africa to be comfortable that proposed mitigation will be adequate.</p> <p>Although we understand that wind, farm layouts flexibility change over time, there is still considerable in the final layout and it is not clear to what extent the specialist's recommendations would be considered reasonable and feasible, especially when</p>	<p>predominantly in the north and east, not the south.The high population density suggests that this population is of conservation importance. Early indications from operational monitoring at other windfarms suggests that this species is particularly prone to collisions. At least 5 fatalities have occurred at 2 wind farms in South Africa in the past year.</p> <p>While we acknowledge that this information shows that this species is susceptible, it is not surprising that it is susceptible and was always predicted to be (Retief, et al. 2011, Pers.Com. BARESG). Personal conversation with Jon Smallie and BARESG, suggests that four of these fatalities, may be linked to an increase (post construction) in prey abundance on the site in question. It will not necessarily be the same conditions on the Umsinde WEF. Our assessment did consider the fact that Verreaux's Eagles have been found to collide, and we cited Smallie' report (Smallie, 2015). We also considered that in other parts of the world, similar birds (e.g. Golden Eagle) have co-existed and bred successfully for a number of years in close proximity to operational WEFs. Alvaro Camina (pers comm. 2014) is of the opinion that that the proximity of Golden Eagle nesting sites to turbines in Spain did not significantly affect territory occupancy or breeding success, despite some wind turbines being closer than 1km.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> According to the nest surveys, the area has a high number of bird nests (active and inactive). A total of 19 Raptor nest were found within 	
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		<p>weighed against other environmental and financial constraints. What guarantee is there that turbines will not be developed in the area identified as medium or high sensitivity? We are particularly concerned as the environmental constraint maps only indicate nest buffers and not other areas of avifaunal sensitivity. As it stands, the combined environmental constraints appear to provide very little room to move.</p> <p>We also note that many turbines have been placed in areas where no sensitivity score has been assigned. Is this because no birds were recorded, or because these areas were not visible in the vantage point surveys, or both? Please clarify what proportion of the site was visible in vantage point watches?</p> <p>We support the idea of no-go areas around areas of high sensitivity, however no-go areas in this study appear to surround the WEF and birds may still fly over the remainder of site, which would still present a risk. For example, while we strongly support the use of nest buffers, nest buffers alone are unlikely to protect species such as Verreaux's Eagle. A detailed understanding of the resident bird's territory use is required to ensure that turbines are placed well away from their core territories and other areas where collision risk may be high.</p> <p>Again, we support the buffering of ridgelines (and other areas important for territory use), but we are alarmed that these areas are only given a sensitivity rating of "medium" – and therefore available for possible development. The assessment appears to rely largely on monitoring and adaptive management to</p>	<p>the WEF site. Movement of birds increases during the breeding season when birds collect nesting materials or food for the nestling. This might have an impact on breeding pairs' success, since the likelihood of collision may also increase during these periods. Seventy-one (71) active/inactive nests were found, of which 22 were Rock Krestel, 21 Verreaux's Eagle, 14 White-necked Raven and 7 Jackal Buzzard. Of the 71 nests, 54 were raptors, and the other 17 were non-priority species, including White-necked Raven (14 nests). Of these 54 nests, 19 were within the WEF site. Importantly, 5 of the 21 Verreaux's Eagle nests located were within the WEF site. There are no active Verreaux's Eagle nests within 3 km from any turbine locations. The majority of VE nests are located more than 5 km from turbines, which is more than the buffer included in the report of 3 km. Although not threatened, Rock Kestrel and Jackal Buzzard are also proving to be collision-prone in South Africa. Noted, agreed, and this was considered in our impact assessment.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In 2014, Smallie monitored the Badsfontein Dam which is situated 13 km away from the most western turbine string of the Umsinde Emoyeni WEF. Smallie found the dam to have a high density of water-associated bird species. He therefore surmised that the dam might be an important stopover point for birds such as flamingos and other migratory birds. Our report states "During the scoping phase for the Proposed Ishwati Emoyeni project, comments made by I&APs highlighted that the Badsfontein Dam,
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		<p>minimise the risk to birds. This is concerning for several reasons , including:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) The current apparent lack of capacity within the Department of Environmental Affairs to review monitoring reports and enforce operational phase mitigation; b) Limited evidence of the effectiveness of operational phase mitigation in contexts similar to this, and c) Uncertainty as to whether mitigation will be feasible (it can be costly and has implications for power generation). <p>The proposed development sites are located adjacent to the Ishwati Emoyeni Wind Energy Facility. As a result, the three development sites close to each other could result in cumulative impacts on bird species.</p> <p>Birdlife South Africa supports the responsible development of wind farms. However, after reviewing the above report and doing a desktop study on the proposed development sites, we are of the opinion that the proposed development site, we are of the opinion that the proposed development sites are not suitable for the development of a wind energy facility. We do not support the proposed developments and believe that there are other more suitable areas available for the development of wind energy in South Africa.</p>	<p><i>located about 13 km from the most western proposed turbine string of the Umsinde Emoyeni WEF Phase 2, may be an important stopover point for birds, such as flamingos and other migratory species. It was also noted that Pectoral Sandpiper may be an occasional visitor to the dam. The Badsfontein dam was monitored by Smallie (2014) and was found to have higher densities of water-associated bird species than the broader area. A wetland count was also conducted by Arcus at Badsfontein dam during the 12 month pre-construction bird surveys for the Umsinde Emoyeni WEF site". We also said "Badsfontein dam supported large numbers of Red-knobbed Coot and Yellow-billed Duck as well as a pair of African Fish Eagle. While no Greater Flamingo were recorded at Badsfontein dam during the surveys, a large congregation of Greater Flamingo were recorded at Middelvlei dam during the autumn survey. These dams may be important stopover points for these flamingo." We agree that it might be important for birds such as flamingos and other migratory birds. In one year of monitoring, however, we did not record high numbers of these birds. It is likely that these birds would fly at great height when doing long distance movements, and may be less susceptible to collision impacts than to displacement/barriers to movement impacts.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The proposed Umsinde Emoyeni WEFs are situated approximately 50 km away from the Platberg-Karoo Conservancy and Camdeboo National Park Important Bird Areas (IBAs). The presence of these IBAs was noted in the
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				<p>report and bird data from them were considered. We believe the distance between the turbines and the IBA's to be sufficient to provide protection to bird species living in and utilising these IBAs. IBAs are of international importance for bird conservation because they hold a large numbers of threatened species. Building WEF close to the IBA could have a significant impact on threatened species, especially highly mobile species. We do not believe that saying that 45 km away can be considered close, if all IBA's are buffered by 45 km, what development could be or would be present in this buffer zones? Mitigation measure where identified and mentioned in the report.</p> <p>Apart from being close to IBAs, the proposed sites hold a high diversity of species, including a high number of endemic and threatened species that may be vulnerable to the impacts of wind energy (priority species). These include Blue Cranes, Ludwig's Bustard, Verreaux's Eagle, Lanner Falcon, Martial Eagle, Kori Bustard, Secretarybird, Black Harrier, African Marsh Harrier, and Greater Flamingo.</p> <p>In light of the above we consider the site to be of high sensitivity. We support the specialist's assessment that the wind farms could present a very high risk of collisions (before mitigation).</p> <p>We are concerned that it may not be possible to minimise this risk to acceptable levels. Although the specialist suggests that the significance could be reduced to "medium" they report low confidence in this finding. There are too many uncertainties for</p>	
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				<p>BirdLife South Africa to be comfortable that proposed mitigation will be adequate.</p> <p>Although we understand that wind farm layouts change over time, there is considerable flexibility in the final layout and it is not clear to what extent the specialist's recommendations would be considered reasonable and feasible, especially when weighed against It would not be for the developer to consider if the recommendation/mitigations are reasonable or feasible. These will be part of the Environmental Authorisation and would be a requirement of this for the developer to implement. The approved layout can't be changed without an amendment application being submitted to the DEA. What guarantee is there that turbines will not be developed in the areas identified as medium or high sensitivity? We have been in discussion with the developer and they reaffirm that the mitigations we have recommended are definitely feasible. The developer has seriously considered the bird no-go areas and sensitivities in the layout iterations and they wish to make it clear that they take the recommended mitigation measures seriously and that they will adhere to them, as they will form part of the conditions of the Environmental Authorisation. The DEA approves the final layout to be developed, and as mentioned the developer will not be able to deviate from this without an application for an amendment (which would require further monitoring and assessment) . Micro-siting will also occur prior to construction and this will then be signed off by the specialist. We are particularly concerned as the environmental constraint maps only indicate nest buffers and not other areas of avifaunal sensitivity. As it stands, the combined environmental constraints appear to provide very little room to move. There are a</p>	
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				<p>number of maps in the EIA reports, including Figure 9.4 – Ecological Sensitivity, Figure 9.5 Avifaunal Sensitivity, Figure 9.6 Avifaunal No-Go Areas, and Figure 9.8 Environmental Constraints.</p> <p>We also note that many turbines have been placed in areas where no sensitivity score has been assigned. Is this because no birds were recorded, or because these areas were not visible in the vantage point surveys, or both? This could be a result of both scenarios. The magnitude and remoteness of the site did not allow for complete VP coverage, something which was not required by the applicable guidelines (and is still not required, where logistical and practical constraints can be justified). The site is rugged, and access tracks do not allow complete coverage. Getting to some VPs took more than two hours from the observer's accommodation. Please clarify what proportion of the site was visible in vantage point watches? A total of 17 Vantage Points were utilised, the most for any wind farm project in South Africa that the specialist is aware of. A total of 899 hours and 38 minutes of VP observations were carried out in the WEF site with an additional 181 hours and 22 minutes carried out on the control site. The WEF site covers 58 100 hectares. If we consider that VPs were conducted within a 360 degree radius up to 3 km (in some cases larger birds such as eagles were observed further than this), the area covered by 14 VP's on the WEF site would be 395,840,200m² or 39584.02 hectares, approximately 68% of the WEF site area.</p> <p>We support the idea of no-go areas around areas of high sensitivity, however no-go areas in this study appear to surround the WEF and birds may</p>	
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still fly over the remainder of site, which would still present a risk. **We did not restrict our nest search to the WEF, and hence the no-go areas outside of the WEF associated with nests.** For example, while we strongly support the use of nest buffers, nest buffers alone are unlikely to protect species such as Verreaux's Eagle. **These buffers were provided based on various considerations including: the recommendations given by Dr. Andrew Jenkin's in his nest survey report, appended to the specialist report; buffers proposed at other WEFs; observed flight activity; recorded flight behaviour of Verreaux's Eagles in the Cedarberg (pers. Co. Megan Murgatroyd and Dr. Andrew Jenkins); and consideration of the draft Verreaux's Eagle guidelines by Birdlife SA.**

These draft guidelines state:

“There have been few empirical studies disturbance distances for Verreaux's Eagles and to date, specialists in South Africa have relied on expert opinion when recommending buffers. For Verreaux's Eagles proposed buffers have ranged from 800m up to 2.5km (mean = 1.45km). Few specialist reports have provided empirical justification for the extent, although an analysis of activity around eagle nests in the Karoo found that activity was generally higher within 1km of the nest sites, marginally higher between 1 and 1.5km, with no clear pattern beyond that (Percival 2013).

BirdLife South Africa recommends a non-negotiable no-go buffer of a minimum of 1km, in order to minimise risk of disturbing breeding birds and to reduce the risk of juveniles colliding with turbines. An

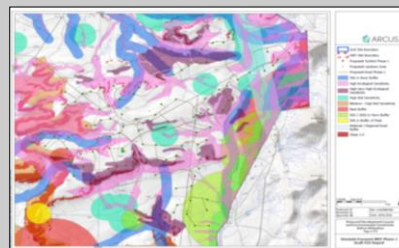
				<p><i>additional precautionary buffer of 3 km is recommended around nests to reduce the risk of collisions and displacement. This precautionary buffer may be reduced (or increased) should the results of monitoring indicate that this is desirable. In the event that a change in the extent of the precautionary buffer is contemplated, it must be clearly demonstrated that there is a low risk of collisions. In order to protect areas around alternate nests and reduce any incentive to disrupt nesting and/or breeding, these buffers should be applied to all inactive nests.</i></p> <p><i>It is important to be aware that a nest buffer alone is unlikely to be adequate to mitigate potential impacts on Verreaux's Eagles. Bird may move great distances away from the nest and may regularly use habitat kilometres away. It is therefore important to consider the spatial extent and relative use of the territory."</i></p> <p>We believe that the spatial extent and relative use of the territory has been considered in the almost 900 hours of VP observations, which in turn created a sensitivity map which has advised turbine placement.</p> <p>A detailed understanding of the resident birds' territory use is required to ensure that turbines are placed well away from their core territories and other areas where collision risk may be high.</p> <p>Again, we support the buffering of ridgelines (and other areas important for birds) (a crude surrogate for territory use), but we are alarmed that these areas are only given a sensitivity rating of "medium" – and therefore available for possible development.</p> <p>We have recommended placement of turbines</p>	
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				<p>outside these areas. Where ridges have coincided with high levels of flight activity, they have been designated as high sensitivity. The final proposed layout took into consideration all the no go areas and the areas of high sensitivity to ensure turbines are not placed in these areas.</p> <p>The assessment appears to rely largely on monitoring and adaptive management to minimise the risk to birds. At this stage it is the best way to proceed, as the industry is still young, the more information we can gather and use as adaptive mitigation, the more successful this development and all other developments will be.</p> <p>This is concerning for several reasons, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) The current apparent lack of capacity within the Department of Environmental Affairs to review monitoring reports and enforce operational phase mitigation. By the time the project is developed this could be a non-issue. Also the developer will need to appoint an independent ECO to undertake audits and submit to the DEA, and the lenders that provide funding to the project b) limited evidence of the effectiveness of operational phase mitigation in contexts similar to this and, c) Uncertainty as to whether mitigation will be feasible (it can be costly and has implications for power generation). – The layouts presented have embedded mitigation; this means they have evolved as a result of the findings of specialist studies (including avifauna). The current layout complies with the recommendations regarding 	
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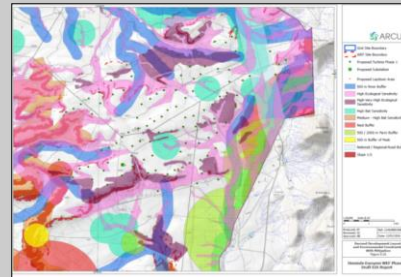
avifaunal no-go areas and the number of turbines in Medium areas has been kept to an absolute minimum and all turbines have been taken out of areas that have been designated as High sensitivity. It is for this reason that the impact rating has been reduced from High to Medium once mitigation has been taken into account This purpose of an EIA is to start with an area of interest ("AOI") and identify sensitive areas which can then be excluded from the development envelope leaving a smaller, less-sensitive area which is what this EIA has sought to achieve **With all these measures, as included in the EIA report and in the environmental authorisation, the developer has no other option but to adhere to the measures provided, and work the costs into their project plan. Please see the below images that show how the turbine layouts have evolved to take into account identified sensitive areas and reduce impact to a minimum.**

Phase 1

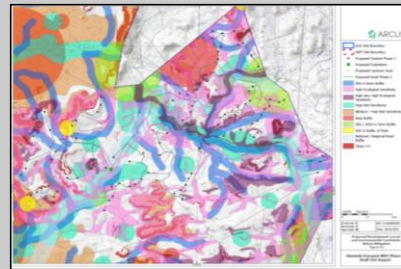
Layout without mitigation:



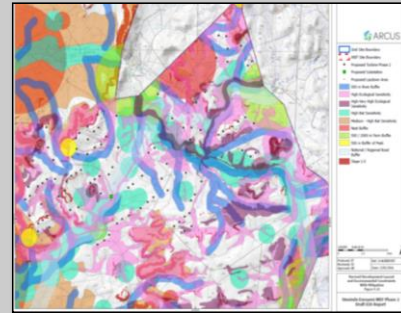
Layout with mitigation taken into account:



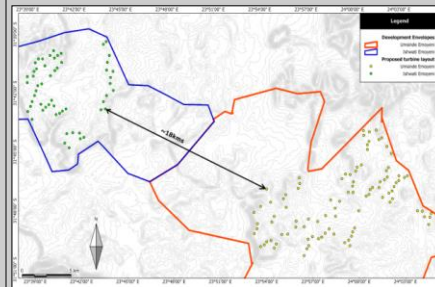
Phase 2
Layout without mitigation:



Layout with mitigation taken into account:



The proposed development sites are located adjacent to the proposed Ishwati Emoyeni Wind Energy Facility. **Although the farm boundaries of these developments are adjacent, the developments should not actually be labelled as adjacent.** There is in fact a very large corridor, with no proposed turbines between these two developments. The closest proposed turbines are 18 km away from each other (see picture below).



			<p>The proposed development sites are located adjacent to the proposed Ishwati Emoyeni Wind Energy Facility. Although the farm boundaries of these developments are adjacent, the developments should not actually be labelled as adjacent. There is in fact a very large corridor, with no proposed turbines between these two developments (see the area highlighted in the rough screenshot below). The closest proposed turbines are 18 km away from each other.</p> <p>As a result, the three development sites close to each other could result in cumulative impacts on bird species. We agree that there could be cumulative impacts, and we addressed this in our report, going so far to advise that we do not recommend that all 98 turbines on both Umsinde phases be developed. Considering this corridor, as well as the mitigations /recommendations that we proposed, we were comfortable in concluding that <i>“If a reduced turbine number alternative (i.e. if 32 - 49 turbines per phase are constructed), or if only one WEF phase (i.e. maximum 98 turbines) and the mitigations and recommendations made by Smallie (2014) are implemented, for the Ishwati Emoyeni WEF, the cumulative impact may be acceptable.”</i> We acknowledge that there is uncertainty surrounding cumulative impact assessment for birds and thus recommended that a <i>‘strategic assessment of the impact that multiple projects in this area could have on key species needs to be undertaken as soon as possible’</i> and that such an assessment is best undertaken by appropriate regional or national agencies. It should also be noted that the figure of 98 turbines is a theoretical maximum and, as outlined in the EIA, it is unlikely that this ceiling</p>	
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				<p>will be reached. It is more likely that a figure of between 40 and 60 turbines will be used. As an example; if a turbine with a capacity of 3MW is used for a windfarm with a nameplate capacity of 147MW (maximum allowed installed capacity according to the REIPPPP) then the total number of turbines installed will be 49 (147MW / 3MW = 49). This is well below the figure of 98.</p> <p>BirdLife South Africa supports the responsible development of wind farms. However, after reviewing the above report and doing a desktop study on the proposed development sites, we are of the opinion that the proposed development sites are not suitable for the development of a wind energy facility. We would welcome to meet with Birdlife SA to discuss the project and Birdlife's concerns further. We do not support the proposed developments and believe that there are other more suitable areas available for the development of wind energy in South Africa.</p>	
Izak van der Merwe Landowner	2014/06/10	Telephone	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Mr. Izak van der Merwe phoned EIMS to let them know that he had tried to fax through his registration from throughout the weekend and this morning, but the fax did not go through. He stated that a few other farmers have been struggling to get their registration forms faxed through. He was concerned since the end date for the advertised registration period was approaching the following week and was worried that those whose registration forms have not been received by EIMS would be left out of the process. EIMS phoned Mr. Izak van der Merwe to let him know that the EIMS fax machine was 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> EIMS assured Mr. Izak van der Merwe that registration will continue after the allocated 30 day period mentioned in the initial notification documents. EIMS let Mr. van der Merwe know that some faxed registration forms had been received in the morning but would check to make sure that the fax machine was functioning properly. EIMS asked Mr. van der Merwe to resend the registration forms and they would phone Mr. van der Merwe to let him know if there was a problem with the fax machine. Mr. van der Merwe stated that there was nothing much that can be done as the problem was due to lack of infrastructure in 	Receipt/ Acknowledgement of Notification

			<p>functional and EIMS informed Mr. van der Merwe that the server for the office had been down over the weekend and that is why his fax did not go through. EIMS apologised for any inconvenience caused. EIMS further confirmed receipt of Mr van der Merwe's resent registration form and thanked him for responding to the initial notification. In light of previously mentioned concern regarding the infrastructure restrictions for landowners in Murraysburg mentioned by Mr. van der Merwe, EIMS asked Mr van der Merwe if he had any suggestions of alternative ways to correspond with landowners and other residents of Murraysburg.</p> <p>3. Mr. van der Merwe agreed to notifications being sent to the Farmer's Co-Operative in Murraysburg and he also suggested the Farmers Association as a means of contact, however he also said these may have problems with the internet from time to time. Mr. van der Merwe gave EIMS names of the chairperson and secretary of the Farmers Association.</p>	<p>Murraysburg. EIMS suggested sending notification to the Farmer's Co-Operative in Murraysburg.</p> <p>3. This was well noted by EIMS and EIMS wrote down the contact details of the chairperson and secretary of the Farmers Association.</p>	
Izak and Suzanna van der Merwe – Landowners	2014/06/14	Facsimile	<p>1. Mr. and Mrs. Izak and Suzanna van der Merwe are commercial farmers who are very concerned about the potential impacts of the proposed project. In addition, Mr. and Mrs. Van der Merwe raised these following concerns:</p> <p>✎ they were unable to read the BID because the font was small making it almost illegible. Surely a developer who has millions to spend can afford to present better, larger, more legible notifications.</p>	<p>1. EIMS apologised to Mr. and Mrs van der Merwe that they found the booklet of the BID difficult to read. EIMS enclosed a new copy where the font size was increased.</p> <p>EIMS explained to Mr. and Mrs van der Merwe that the current site boundary is the study area within which the proposed project will be located. As they correctly noted however, the exact location of the turbines and other infrastructure are not yet confirmed. This is because the exact location of each turbine will be informed by the results of the environmental impact assessment (EIA) process. The EIA</p>	General, Request for Information

			<p>no indication was provided on the exact locations of where proposed powerlines and tower positions will be. Mr. and Mrs. Izak and Suzanna Van der Merwe noted that they reserve the right to carry out their lawful right and raise an objection once this detail is known.</p> <p>2. Furthermore, Mr. and Mrs. van der Merwe requested that the linkage between this proposed project and the Ishwati Project must be clearly explained.</p> <p>3. Mr. and Mrs. van der Merwe also had difficulty faxing their comments to EIMS and wondered how people were expected to submit comments.</p>	<p>process will consider the entire study area, and look to site the project infrastructure in the areas which minimise environmental impacts. As such, it is important that the locations are not set as the start of the project, enable these environmental, and any further technical consideration, to be taken.</p> <p>2. EIMS explained to Mr. and Mrs. van der Merwe that the neighbouring Iswhati Emoyeni Wind Farm is also being proposed by the same company, Windlab Development South Africa (Pty) Ltd, that owns the Umsinde Emoyeni Project (and the Project Company Emoyeni Wind Farm Project (Pty) Ltd which has applied to start the process for Environmental Authorisation). The two projects are separate and have applied for separate Environmental Authorisations. Each project will be bid individually to the Department of Energy under the Renewable Energy Independent Producers Programme. The two projects are related through the proponent, Windlab Developments South Africa (Pty) Ltd. However, if both projects are to receive approval and proceed, the proposed Umsinde Emoyeni grid connection may be able to be simplified. Windlab Development South Africa (Pty) Ltd have numerous wind projects located across South Africa including Bedford in the Eastern Cape, and Vredenburg in the Western Cape.</p> <p>3. Furthermore, EIMS let Mr. and Mrs. van der Merwe know that some faxed registration forms had been received in the morning but they would check to make sure that the fax machine was functioning properly. EIMS asked Mr. and Mrs. van der Merwe to resend the registration forms and they would phone to</p>	
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				let them know if there was a problem with the fax machine. EIMS subsequently received the faxed registration forms.	
Izak van der Merwe - Landowner	2014/07/03	Email	Please provide me with a hard copy of the Draft Scoping Report. Fast internet is not available for large documents. My address: L.J. van der Merwe, P.O. Box 344, Badsfontein, Murraysburg, 6995.	<p>Response from EIMS: Thank you for your response. I have mailed an electronic copy (CD) of the Draft Scoping Report (DSR) to your address provided. Hard copies of the DSR are available for review at the Murraysburg Local Municipality as well as the Murraysburg Farmers' Co-operative.</p> <p>EIMS sent a CD copy of the DSR to Mr. van der Merwe via a Courier as per request and asked Mr. van der Merwe to advise if he received the parcel. EIMS also let Mr. van der Merwe know that a hard copy of the DSR was prepared for him but is unable to give him the exact date of arrival as the courier only delivers in the Murraysburg area twice a week. EIMS informed Mr. van der Merwe that they will make a follow up. Furthermore, EIMS asked Mr. van der Merwe to provide them with a residential/ physical address to which they may ask the courier to deliver the hard copy</p>	Request for Documentation.
Izak van der Merwe - Landowner	2014/08/18	Focus group meeting	Comment was received from Mr. van der Merwe on the 17 th July 2014 at the Focus Group Meeting. Subsequently, updated comment was received from Mr. Andre van der Spuy representing Mr. van der Merwe and another landowner. EIMS contacted Mr. van der Merwe to confirm if the latest comments received from	EIMS response: Thank you for the submitted comments regarding the Draft Scoping Report for the proposed project. As per our telephonic conversation earlier, this serves to confirm the comments and objections received on the 18 th July 2014 from Andre van der Spuy regarding the Umsinde Emoyeni WEF project (on behalf of	

			Mr. Andre van der Spuy should replace comments submitted by Mr. van der Merwe at the Focus Group Meeting.	yourself and Mr. Jan Pickard), are to replace the comments documents previously submitted at the focus group meeting held on the 17 th July 2014 (which was initially submitted for the Iswhati project).	
Izak van der Merwe - Landowner	2015/01/20	Email	<p>Dear Nobuhle Hughes,</p> <p>Can you please provide me with a hardcopy of the Final Scoping Report of the Umsinde Emoyeni Wind Energy Facility EIA. Fact that the hardcopy is available at the local co-op does not help, because during 8-5 business hours I am normally busy on the farm. If I can get to the co-op there is no chance that I can work through that thick document. Will you please courier the hardcopy to:</p> <p>Karoo Vleisboere Co-op, Leebstraat, Murraysburg Attn: I.J. van der Merwe Tel: 049 844 9622</p> <p>You will also understand that the time constrain make it very difficult for anyone to give comments and concerns on this document before 15th of next month. Due to the fact that I don't know if all my concerns that are expressed during your visit to my farm, were captured. I would like to work through the document myself. I also like ask if I received the documents very late that you will take this in consideration and that you will grand me an extension of time for comments. I thank you.</p>	<p>EIMS response: Dear Mr. van der Merwe,</p> <p>Thank you for your request. We are preparing a hard copy of the Final Scoping (Appendix 1.1 will be provided in CD) and this will be couriered to the address provided.</p> <p>The Final Scoping Report is currently with the Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA) for their review and to collate comments. The FSR review period is handled by the DEA and we are not in the position to extend this. We would suggest you contact the DEA with any comments at this stage in the process.</p>	Request for documentation.
Izak van der Merwe - Landowner	2016/01/18	Email	<p>Dear Nobuhle Hughes</p> <p>Can you please provide me with a hard copy of the Draft Environmental Impact Assessment Report for the Umsinde Emoyeni Wind Energy Facility EIA.</p>	<p>EIMS response: Thank you for contacting us. We will be able to send you a hard copy of the Draft Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Report with the Public Participation Process appendix (which is a very large document) in electronic form.</p>	Request for Documentation.

			<p>It is not possible for me to sit in the library or co-op during the day to make a thorough study of the report, because of my workload during the day.</p> <p>Kind regards Izak van der Merwe P.O. Box 344 Badsfontein Murraysburg 6995</p>	<p>Can we proceed with the delivery address as follows: Karoo Vleisboere Co-op, Leebstraat, Murraysburg (Attention: I.J. van der Merwe, 049 844 9622). Please confirm that this arrangement suits you and we will proceed with the delivery arrangements. Please also be advised that the courier only delivers to Murraysburg on certain days of the week and thus the delivery will be dependent on this.</p>	
Izak van der Merwe - Landowner	2016/01/19	Email	<p>Hello Nobuhle</p> <p>That will be fine- I will pick it up at Karoo Vleisboere.</p>	<p>This was noted and delivered accordingly.</p>	General.
Izak van der Merwe - Landowner	2016/02/04	Focus group meeting	<p>Mr Izak van der Merwe commented that he previously voiced concern about the occupiers not being involved until the project was almost finished for the Ishwati project. He stated that the occupiers on his property are like family and many generations have worked on his farm therefore he is upset that they are being excluded from the process.</p> <p>Mr Izak van der Merwe is further concerned about how the many generations of workers may be affected by the proposed development such as possibly losing their jobs if the farms are not able to continue with their current operations. His concerns include the proposed development's impact on eco-tourism as well as local farming practices and businesses. These are similar concerns Mr van der Merwe has stated previously to the developer and the EAP (CSIR) for the Ishwati project at several meetings.</p> <p>Mr Van der Merwe further added that he shares the views of Mr Willem van Heerden from the Netherlands (a regular guest at his lodge who is</p>	<p>The EAP cannot comment on the Ishwati Process as Arcus was not involved in that project.</p>	<p>Land occupiers. Job opportunities; Alternative; Request for Documentation</p>

			apparently an expert on solar energy) who believes that wind farms are not favourable in the Karoo and that solar would be a better option. Mr Izak van der Merwe also stated that he requested a copy of the Draft EIA Report and only received the document on the 3rd February 2016 as the labelling was not clear on the package and thus the Murraysburg Farmers' Co-operative (where the document was delivered as per his request) had not known who the package was for.	The developer has conducted extensive wind monitoring at the proposed site and this show that wind farms in this area and on this site is suitable. The EAP will ensure that all labels are clear going forward.	
Mrs. Suzanne van der Merwe	2016/04/02	Focus group meeting	Mrs Van der Merwe (who joined the meeting) mentioned that she is concerned that specialists (particularly regarding avifauna) that were on site would not tell the owners where they stayed what they were doing and would not discuss their assessments. She is also concerned that some landowners and occupiers have been excluded from the project.	The bird teams that were on site were sub contracted bird observers, and they had no input into the assessment. They were on site just to observe bird flights and movements. It was not intended that they were not discussing the project, they had not information on it. All land owners and surrounding land owners have been conducted and informed of the project. There have not been any land owner or occupiers that have been excluded from the process.	Avifauna specialist study EIA process
Mrs. Suzanne van der Merwe	2016/04/02	Focus group meeting	Mrs Van der Merwe asked for clarification on if a 100 turbines are constructed, how many jobs approximately will be created?	Ms Katherine Persson answered that the exact number of jobs created depends on various aspects. She gave an example of a wind farm development in the Eastern Cape where 200 jobs were created during construction and a maximum of 15 jobs during operation. She reiterated that when bidding to the DoE, the developer needs to score on the price they are going to sell the generated electricity at (the tariff) as well as the social benefits / economic development from the proposed development. She added that Windlab focuses on providing opportunities for the youth to allow for/ facilitate longer term benefits (these benefits include bursaries) however, the details of these benefits are finalised after the EIA process.	Job creation.

Izak van der Merwe Landowner	2016/02/04	Focus group meeting	<p>Mr Izak van der Merwe added he has three family members that live near the Nobelsfontein wind Farm and thus he knows about the operation of wind farms and the concerns related to social/ community benefits. He added that he knows the business of developing people and for the proposed project (Umsinde Emoyeni) he feels the proposed opportunities cannot be turned to food in the mouth. He stated that he is afraid that the information presented will create false hope to the community.</p> <p>Furthermore, Mr van der Merwe mentioned concerns that - should any benefits arise - there is a potential for the misuse of funds by municipalities (e.g. Beaufort West) and proposed following some of the best practise from previous wind farm projects where bursaries are set up as a means of social commitment. He is overall concerned that the farm workers will not benefit from the proposed development.</p>	Mr Ben Brimble commented with regards to Mr Van der Merwe's concerns about the potential to misuse of funds and the Beaufort West local municipality getting all the money or benefits. He mentioned that a broad-based Community Trust will be set up for the community within a 50km radius from the study area. The Trust will not be managed by the municipality as trustees will include community members, representatives of project company as well as external personnel who will help in managing the Trust.	Social/Community benefits.
Izak van der Merwe Landowner	2016/02/04	Public meeting	<p>Mr Izak van der Merwe stated that he is contesting the proposed development as he had done with all other EIAs where the area has been classified as being of low agricultural potential due to only rain data being utilised. He said that agriculture is more profitable in the area. He also added that there is a Martial eagle nest in between the Umsinde Emoyeni and the Ishwati projects, he stated that he showed the said nest to the avifauna specialist. Mr Van der Merwe added that Blue Cranes are precisely where the proposed project site is located and this information is not included in the Report.</p> <p>He continued to mention his concern regarding the social impact particularly the impact on the town from the influx of workers which is known to result in unplanned pregnancies (e.g.</p>	<p>This was noted by the EAP. the soils and agricultural potential assessment specialist study concluded that the proposed development of a wind energy facility will have a small impact on agricultural activities as the soils are of very low potential and only suited to extensive grazig. The turbine foot prints are limited to rocky shallow soils areas with very limited grazing potential.</p> <p>The bird specialist is aware of the nest and this is included in the specialist report. information on blue cranes is included in the report based on data gathered during four seasona surveys.</p>	<p>Objection to the application for EA;</p> <p>Social impacts;</p> <p>Visual impact</p> <p>Pristine landscape.</p>

			projects in Poffadder, Uppington, etc.), how will such an impact be mitigated. He lastly stated that the proposed development will have visual impacts as well as an impact on sense of place. According to the preliminary locality map, the Trouberg (mountains) are within the development site and this is very special, and there are no alien trees within the farms.	<p>The social specialist has addressed the impact of influx of workers into the town. appropriate education and awareness training during the construction phase must be implemented by the developer.</p> <p>The visual specialist has assessed the potential impact of the development on the sense of place. The visual specialist has rated the development of medium visual significance.</p> <p>Sense of place varies from individual to individual.</p>	
Izak van der Merwe - Landowner	2016/02/04	Public meeting	Mr Izak van der Merwe indicated that he is contesting the issue of wind farms being a good option for the Karoo, he added that he prefers solar as a renewable energy source and not wind which is the wrong technology for the area	This was noted by the EAP. the developer has undertaken years of wind monitoring at the site and these data conclude that wind resource is good in this area and a wind farm is viable.	Alternative.
Timothy Mathews - Community member	2014/06/13	Email	Mr. Timothy Mathews requested to be registered as an I&AP and provided his contact details.	EIMS let Mr. Mathews know that he has been added to the I&AP database for this project.	Receipt/ Acknowledgement of Notification
Daniel Jacobs - Community member	2014/06/13	Email and Fax	Mr. Daniel Jacobs requested to be registered as an I&AP and asked his friend, Ngqondo Blekiwe to forward his registration form.	EIMS confirmed receipt of Mr. Daniel Jacobs's registration form via facsimile and email and they let Mr. Jacobs know that that he has been registered as an I&AP for this project.	Receipt/ Acknowledgement of Notification
Daniel Jacobs - Community member	2014/06/13	Telephone	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> EIMS phoned Mr. Daniel Jacobs to confirm receipt of his faxed registration form. EIMS then asked if Mr. Daniel Jacobs has an email address or fax number as these were not included in the completed registration form. EIMS stated that should Mr. Daniel Jacobs not have a fax number and/or email address, EIMS will send future 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Mr. Jacobs's brother answered the phone and he advised EIMS that he would let Mr. Daniel Jacobs know that EIMS received his filled-in form. Jacobs's brother said he would ask Mr. Jacobs to contact EIMS with these details as Mr. Jacobs has EIMS's contact details. 	Receipt/ Acknowledgement of Notification

			correspondence to the postal address provided in his registration form.		
Daniel Jacobs – Community member	2014/06/11	Email	<p>1. Mr. Daniel Jacobs asked if the plants growing on site will be affected by the proposed project.</p> <p>2. Mr. Daniel Jacobs stated that the proposed project will be a very good employment opportunity for Murraysburg and it will relieve unemployment.</p> <p>3. Mr. Daniel Jacobs enquired if local labour and contractors will be utilised. He also asked how much the people who will work on this project earn and whether they will be paid weekly or monthly. In addition, Mr. Jacobs asked how many people from the local community will be employed.</p> <p>4. Mr. Daniel Jacobs asked how their ground water will be affected by the proposed project.</p> <p>5. Mr. Daniel Jacobs asked how much water will be used for this project.</p> <p>6. Will there be an effect on telephones and internet?</p> <p>7. Mr. Daniel Jacobs stated that he is well informed about safety and security and that he knows the following regarding safety:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✎ Weapons are not allowed on site; ✎ Drinking and fighting is prohibited in the work place and; ✎ No making of fires on site. <p>With regard to security:</p>	<p>Response from EIMS: Dear Mr Jacobs</p> <p>Thank you for completing the comment form in relation to the Umsinde Emoyeni Wind Energy Facility and associated grid infrastructure. You have been registered as an Interested and Affected Party (I&AP) for the project and will be kept informed of key project dates and information.</p> <p>At present we are in the early stages of conducting an environmental impact assessment (EIA) in terms of the National Environmental Management Act 1998 (NEMA). Through this process a team of specialist environmental professional have been formed, who will be responsible for identifying and assessing the potential environmental impact of the proposed project. The first stage in this process is “scoping”. The scoping stage is when we identify the potential likely environmental impacts which may result from the proposed wind energy facility (WEF) and its associated grid infrastructure, and how we intend to assess these in the full EIA. In order to do this the EIA team, who are experienced in the local area and with this type of development, are consulted along with key stakeholders and the public. The Draft Scoping Report is currently being finalised and will be provided for public comment. As a registered Interested and Affected Party (I&AP) you will be notified of the issue of the Draft Scoping Report, and where copies can be located for you to view and how you can comment. These comments will then be taken into account in preparing the Final Scoping Report which will be submitted to the Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA) for consideration.</p> <p>The Draft Scoping Report will contain information on the existing baseline environment at the project</p>	<p>Ecology</p> <p>Employment</p> <p>Groundwater</p> <p>Surface Water</p> <p>Waste Management</p> <p>General</p>

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✎ Security must oversee what people doing on site and monitor them; and ✎ Security must also make sure that the site is in order. <p>8. How much waste will be there? How will it be managed?</p>	<p>site, and will outline the topics which will be considered in the EIA. The following list identifies these topics, their appropriate references in the Draft Scoping Report and the environmental specialist who will be compiling the study.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✎ Bird Impact Assessment and Monitoring: Arcus Consulting – Andrew Pearson /Chapter 8 of the Draft Scoping Report; ✎ Bat Impact Assessment and Monitoring: NSS Environmental – Kate McEwan/ Chapter 6 of the Draft Scoping Report; ✎ Terrestrial Ecological Impact Assessment (Flora and Fauna): Anchor Environmental – Simon Todd/ Chapter 5of the Draft Scoping Report; ✎ Archaeology and Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment: ACO Associates – Tim Hart / Chapter 10 of the Draft Scoping Report; ✎ Palaeontology Assessment: via ACO Associates – John Almond / Chapter 10 of the Draft Scoping Report; ✎ Aquatic/ Wetland Assessment: Scherman Colloty and Associates – Brian Colloty / Chapter 7 of the Draft Scoping Report; ✎ Noise Impact Assessment: Enviro-Acoustic Research – Morne de Jager / Chapter 11 of the Draft Scoping Report; ✎ Visual Assessment Bernard Oberholzer Landscape Architects & Meirelles Lawson Burger Architects - Bernard Oberholzer and Quinton Lawson / Chapter 4 of the Draft Scoping Report; 	
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				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✎ Soil and Agriculture: Terrasoils – Johan van de Waals / Chapter 9 of the Draft Scoping Report; and ✎ Social Impact Assessment: Tony Barbour Environmental Consulting and Research – Tony Barbour/ Chapter 12 of the Draft Scoping Report <p>The Draft Scoping Report will be available for review for a period of 40 days, during which time we will also be holding a number of public and focus group meetings in the area of the project site. As a registered I&AP you will be notified of the location and timings of the public meetings and we would gladly meet with you at this time to discuss any concerns you may have on any of the topics raised.</p> <p>Following completion of the scoping phase, the EIA phase will be undertaken which will include the design of the facility within the project site, and the assessment of impacts. The findings of this stage will be presented in the Draft EIA Report. This will similarly be available for public comment prior to the development of the Final EIA Report. Once the Final EIA Report is completed this will be provided to the DEA for a decision to be made whether to grant Environmental Authorisation for the project. Comment on the Final EIA Report can also be made to the DEA directly.</p> <p>We understand you have the following queries regarding the proposed project and have provided some specific information in response to these below:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Compensation and employment – how much will people be employed and how will they be paid; 	
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				<p><i>The project will be developed under the Department of Energy's Renewable Energy Independent Power Producers Procurement Program (REIPPPP). An explanation of the REIPPPP and its requirements can be found in Chapter 3 of the forthcoming Draft Scoping Report.</i></p> <p><i>As a part of the REIPPPP, local communities are required to have a stake in the ownership of the project, which is either funded by financier or by the other equity shareholder (which is known as a 'free carry'). Community ownership of an operating wind farm is generally conducted via a broad-based community trust, with the surrounding communities as beneficiaries of the dividends paid to shareholders in the project company. The dividend revenue will be invested in community development initiatives which would be outlined in the community trust deeds. In addition, successful REIPPPP projects are required to invest a percentage of gross revenue in socio economic development and enterprise development, primarily in the surrounding local communities (currently defined in the REIPPPP as located within a 50 km radius of the wind farm's operational site). If the wind farm is constructed, a number of critical community development programmes would be established that would have the potential to positively impact the communities near the wind facilities.</i></p> <p><i>Wind energy can provide technical skills to South Africans and thus improve the technical skills profile of the country and the regions where wind energy facilities are located. Through the REIPPPP,</i></p>
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				<p><i>developers' own initiatives and through support from international donor agencies, a number of young South Africans are being trained on various aspects of wind farm construction and operation.</i></p> <p><i>In addition, projects are required to indicate skills transfer and training initiatives as part of the economic development commitments of projects that are submitted under the REIPPPP.</i></p> <p><i>During the operation and maintenance phase, a number of employment opportunities will be created. These opportunities may include site management, environmental management, facility operation and maintenance, community liaison, administration, monitoring, reporting, catering, cleaning and security. The exact number of jobs during operation (and construction) is not yet known, but will be defined in detail in the later stages of project development.</i></p> <p>2. Ecology – how will plants be affected; <i>An ecological assessment including the impact on plants will be undertaken as part of the EIA process outlined above. This will include identifying sensitive plant species and where possible, avoiding these areas in the planning of the project so as to minimise impacts. Information to date will be available in the forthcoming Draft Scoping Report, Chapter 5.</i></p> <p>3. Groundwater and water use; <i>The project applied for is a Wind Energy Facility (WEF) and its associated grid infrastructure. Water will be required</i></p>
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				<p>during the construction phase for normal construction activities such as mixing concrete, and washing equipment; and during operation limited amounts of water will be required for servicing the on-site office facilities and for limited maintenance activities such as cleaning equipment. This water may be sourced from the local municipality or may utilise existing or new boreholes. A Water Use License Application (WULA) will be made to the Department of Water Affairs and Sanitation if necessary to permit the use of water for the project.</p> <p>The project does not require any structures to be placed into the ground to a depth which would interact with the groundwater resource. The management of this water would be contained with the Environmental management Plan (EMP) which would stipulate compliance with any Water Use License.</p> <p>An assessment of the surface water impacts will be included in the EIA, and information on this will be presented in Chapter 7 of the Draft Scoping Report.</p> <p>4. Land-use- will farmers be able to keep animals around the project; Yes. Farmers will continue to be able to use the area for grazing around the project. Land-use is considered in Chapter 9 of the forthcoming Draft Scoping Report. Whilst the proposed site is large the project will only occupy a small footprint within this area, and other activities including the existing agricultural activities will be able to continue in the area presenting</p>
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				<p><i>concurrently with the operation of the WEF. As part of the development process for wind farms on agricultural land, wind farm developers are required to apply to the local Municipality where the projects are located to amend the land use to allow for renewable energy</i></p> <p><i>In the Western Cape, developers submit a consent use application to the municipality to add the land use of renewable energy to the current zoning (Agriculture Zone 1) of the properties, to obtain a consent use on land zoned as Agricultural Zone 1 to accommodate a wind energy facility. This consent use, if granted, doesn't change the current zoning of agriculture, it only allows for renewable energy facilities on the agricultural land, and specifically only allows for the renewable energy project and associated infrastructure (such as access roads and electrical infrastructure);</i></p> <p>5. Safety and security; <i>Safety and security will also be a consideration in the social impact assessment information available to date relating to this process is provided in Chapter 12 of the forthcoming Draft Scoping Report. 24 hours security will be provided on the site during construction and may include the installation of CCTV systems</i></p> <p>6. Will there be an effect on telephones and internet? <i>The proponent will be in contact with Telkom and other network providers to address any impact the project might have on their infrastructure, but most projects</i></p>
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				<p><i>no impact on telecommunication services in the local area, and mitigation measures can be implemented if necessary.</i></p> <p>7. Waste management. <i>Whilst not a specific topic in the EIA this will be included in the environmental management plan (EMP) which will be developed through the EIA process. Best practice in construction techniques including the management of waste will be a requirement of the EMP which, if Environmental Authorisation is granted, will become legally binding.</i></p> <p>We hope this provides some further information related to your areas of concern, and we welcome further comments and queries on the content of the Draft Scoping Report and subsequent reports to follow which you will be notified of as a registered I&AP.</p>	
Blekiwe Ngqondo – Community member	2014/06/13	Email	<p>I am staying at Murraysburg and I am unemployed. I am sending this email to ask the following questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Who will be employed at this project? ➤ What qualifications do you need to qualify for employment? ➤ If you have an application form will you please email me? <p>Thank you for your response. I just hope your head office will respond swiftly. I believe this project will be beneficiary to the Karoo, as we need electricity and the power cuts are a problem. Also price is killing us.</p>	<p>Response from EIMS: This email serves to notify you that your comments regarding employment have been noted and have been forwarded to the project proponent for use in their procurement process</p> <p>The comments regarding the proposed project being beneficiary to the Karoo and the power outage problem in the area were noted by EIMS. Please note that all electricity generated by the windfarm will be fed into the national grid and will not be used by individual houses in the Murraysberg area. As part of the economic development commitments of the project, a programme to install roof-top solar panels could be implemented but this would need to be investigated further.</p>	<p>Employment</p> <p>Benefit for the Community</p> <p>Other</p>

Jacobus Albertus van den Berg – Landowner	2014/06/13	Email and Fax	Mr. Jacobus Albertus van den Berg requested to be registered as an I&AP and provided EIMS with his contact details.	EIMS confirmed receipt of Mr. van den Berg's email and facsimile and they let Mr. van den Berg know that he has been registered as an I&P for this project.	Receipt/ Acknowledgem ent of Notification
Jacobus Albertus van den Berg – Landowner	2014/06/12	Facsimile	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Mr. Jacobus Albertus van den Berg is concerned about the damage to natural vegetation, soil and wildlife. Mr. Jacobus Albertus van den Berg is concerned about the damage to the roads. Mr. Jacobus Albertus van den Berg wanted to know what kind of environmental rehabilitation is planned at the building sites after completion of the project. Mr. Van den Berg also enquired about the effects this proposed development will have on farming activities like cattle, sheep and goats. Mr Jacobus Albertus van den Berg stated that crime will rise as a result of the influx of strangers. How long is the life span of the project and what afterwards? Mr. Jacobus Albertus van den Berg is concerned about surface water (more runoff of rainwater, more soil erosion, and a higher risk of floods and excessive deposition of silt downstream as well as pollution of surface water as a result of construction activities. Mr. Jacobus Albertus van den Berg stated that vision will be affected by wind turbines on ridges against the horizon. 	<p>Response from EIMS: Dear Mr van den Berg</p> <p>Thank you for completing the comment form in relation to the Umsinde Emoyeni Wind Energy Facility and associated grid infrastructure. You have been registered as an Interested and Affected Party (I&AP) for the project and will be kept informed of key project dates and information.</p> <p>We understand your farm is located close to the project site and you wish to register your concern and request further information regarding the project.</p> <p>We note your comments regarding the importance of green energy supply but are concerned about negative impacts on your farming activities.</p> <p>At present we are in the early stages of conducting an environmental impact assessment (EIA) in terms of the National Environmental Management Act 1998 (NEMA). Through this process a team of specialist environmental professional have been formed, who will be responsible for identifying and assessing the potential environmental impact of the proposed project. The first stage in this process is "scoping". The scoping stage is when we identify the potential likely environmental impacts which may result from the proposed wind energy facility (WEF) and its associated grid infrastructure, and how we intend to assess these in the full EIA. In order to do this the EIA team, who are experienced in the local area and with this type of development, are consulted along with key stakeholders and the public. The Draft Scoping Report is currently being</p>	<p>Ecology</p> <p>Infrastructure</p> <p>Land-use and Planning</p> <p>Safety and Security</p> <p>Other Social Impacts</p> <p>Surface Water</p> <p>Visual Impact</p> <p>General</p> <p>Green Energy</p>

			<p>8. Mr Jacobus Albertus van den Berg's property is 15 km's north of Murraysburg and it is almost on the border of the wind energy facility. Mr. van den Berg is an environmentally conscious person and based on what he knows he is sure that the project will only have negative effects on my farming enterprise. On the other hand he must acknowledge the importance of development and the importance of green energy. His aim is to minimise the possible negative effects on his property and also on the environment as a whole on the short and long term.</p>	<p>finalised and will be provided for public comment. As a registered Interested and Affected Party (I&AP) you will be notified of the issue of the Draft Scoping Report, and where copies can be located for you to view and how you can comment. These comments will then be taken into account in preparing the Final Scoping Report which will be submitted to the Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA) for consideration.</p> <p>The Draft Scoping Report will contain information on the existing baseline environment at the project site, and will outline the topics which will be considered in the EIA. The following list identifies these topics, their appropriate references in the Draft Scoping Report and the environmental specialist who will be compiling the study.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✎ Bird Impact Assessment and Monitoring: Arcus Consulting – Andrew Pearson /Chapter 8 of the Draft Scoping Report; ✎ Bat Impact Assessment and Monitoring: NSS Environmental – Kate McEwan/ Chapter 6 of the Draft Scoping Report; ✎ Terrestrial Ecological Impact Assessment (Flora and Fauna): Anchor Environmental – Simon Todd/ Chapter 5 of the Draft Scoping Report; ✎ Archaeology and Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment: ACO Associates – Tim Hart / Chapter 10 of the Draft Scoping Report; ✎ Palaeontology Assessment: via ACO Associates – John Almond / Chapter 10 of the Draft Scoping Report; 	
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				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✎ Aquatic/ Wetland Assessment: Scherman Colloty and Associates – Brian Colloty / Chapter 7 of the Draft Scoping Report; ✎ Noise Impact Assessment: Enviro-Acoustic Research – Morne de Jager / Chapter 11 of the Draft Scoping Report; ✎ Visual Assessment Bernard Oberholzer Landscape Architects & Meirrelles Lawson Burger Architects - Bernard Oberholzer and Quinton Lawson / Chapter 4 of the Draft Scoping Report; ✎ Soil and Agriculture: Terrasoils – Johan van de Waals / Chapter 9 of the Draft Scoping Report; and ✎ Social Impact Assessment: Tony Barbour Environmental Consulting and Research – Tony Barbour/ Chapter 12 of the Draft Scoping Report. <p>The Draft Scoping Report will be available for review for a period of 40 days, during which time we will also be holding a number of public and focus group meetings in the area of the project site. As a registered I&AP you will be notified of the location and timings of the public meetings and we would gladly meet with you at this time to discuss any concerns you may have on any of the topics raised.</p> <p>Following completion of the scoping phase, the EIA phase will be undertaken which will include the design of the facility within the project site, and the assessment of impacts. The findings of this stage will be presented in the Draft EIA Report. This will similarly be available for public comment prior to the development of the Final EIA Report. Once the Final EIA Report is completed this will be provided</p>	
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				<p>to the DEA for a decision to be made whether to grant Environmental Authorisation for the project. Comment on the Final EIA Report can also be made to the DEA directly.</p> <p>With regard to your specific areas of concern we provide some further information below:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ecology including damage to vegetation and wildlife: <i>The Draft Scoping Report will include information at this stage in the process on ecology (Chapter 5), birds (Chapter 8) and bat (Chapter 6). These potential impacts will be taken in account throughout the EIA process and further information will be made available throughout the process.</i> 2. Infrastructure and damage to roads: <i>Any on-site roads that are created or upgraded for the purpose of the project will be maintained during construction and operation by the construction and wind farm operation contractors. All the national (National Road Traffic Act (Act 93 of 1996)) and provincial required permits (Western Cape Provincial Road Traffic Administration Act, 2012, (Act 6 of 2012); Western Cape Transport Infrastructure Act, 2013 (Act 1 of 2013)) will be applied for when required much later in the project development process once the EIA is complete and there is more certainty that the project is likely to proceed;</i> 3. Rehabilitation that will be undertaken after completion of the project: <i>At the end of the operation phase, the Proposed Development will be decommissioned, or may be repowered</i> 	
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				<p><i>i.e. redesigned and refitted so as to operate for a longer period. Repowering would not be undertaken under this application or resulting Environmental Authorisation, and would be subject to a new application at the time. In the event of decommissioning, typically, all above ground equipment will be dismantled and removed from the site. This approach is considered to be best practice environmentally and less damaging than seeking to remove all foundations, underground cables in their entirety.</i></p> <p>4. Safety and security concerns relating to increased crime: <i>Safety and security will also be a consideration in the social impact assessment information available to date relating to this process is provided in Chapter 12 of the forthcoming Draft Scoping Report. 24 hours security will be provided on the site during construction and may include the installation of CCTV systems.</i></p> <p>5. Surface water and soil erosion concerns: <i>The Draft Scoping Report will consider the impacts on surface water, soils and soil erosion impacts associated with ecology in Chapters 7, 9 and 5 respectively.</i></p> <p>We hope this provides some further information related to your areas of concern, and we welcome further comments and queries on the content of the Draft Scoping Report and subsequent reports to follow which you will be notified of as a registered I&AP.</p>	
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Peet de Klerk - Community member	2014/06/13	Email	Mr. Peet de Klerk requested to be registered as an I&AP.	EIMS let Mr. de Klerk know that he has been registered as an I&AP for this project.	Receipt/Acknowledgement of Notification
Kalie van Heerden - Community member	2014/06/14	Email	Mr. Kalie van Heerden requested to be registered as an I&AP.	EIMS let Mr. van Heerden know that he has been registered as an I&AP for this project.	Receipt/Acknowledgement of Notification
Paul Rubidge - B9 Contractors	2014/06/15	Email	Mr. Paul Rubidge requested to be registered as an I&AP and provided EIMS with his contact details.	EIMS let Mr. Rubidge know that he has been registered as an I&AP for this project.	Receipt/Acknowledgement of Notification
Paul Rubidge - B9 Contractors	2014/06/15	Email	<p>My areas of concern are the following</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. cumulative impact of the WEF in our area; 2. the effects on the ecology; and 3. land use planning. <p>I own B9 Contractors and have been involved in the area with regard to the restoration of ecology on farms amongst other things.</p>	<p>Response from EIMS: Dear Mr P Rubidge</p> <p>Thank you for completing the comment form in relation to the Umsinde Emoyeni Wind Energy Facility (WEF) and associated grid infrastructure. You have now been registered as an Interested and Affected Party (I&AP) and will be notified for the issue of documentation and consultation events associated with the proposed project.</p> <p>At present we are in the early stages of conducting an environmental impact assessment (EIA) in terms of the National Environmental Management Act 1998 (NEMA). Through this process a team of specialist environmental professional have been formed, who will be responsible for identifying and assessing the potential environmental impact of the proposed project. The first stage in this process is "scoping". The scoping stage is when we identify the potential likely environmental impacts which may result from the proposed wind energy facility (WEF) and its associated grid infrastructure, and how we intend to assess these in the full EIA. In order to do this the EIA team, who are experienced in the local area and with this type of development,</p>	<p>Cumulative Impacts</p> <p>Land Use Planning</p>

				<p>are consulted along with key stakeholders and the public. The Draft Scoping Report is currently being finalised and will be provided for public comment. As a registered Interested and Affected Party (I&AP) you will be notified of the issue of the Draft Scoping Report, and where copies can be located for you to view and how you can comment. These comments will then be taken into account in preparing the Final Scoping Report which will be submitted to the Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA) for consideration.</p> <p>The Draft Scoping Report will contain information on the existing baseline environment at the project site, and will outline the topics which will be considered in the EIA. The following list identifies these topics, their appropriate references in the Draft Scoping Report and the environmental specialist who will be compiling the study.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✎ Bird Impact Assessment and Monitoring: Arcus Consulting – Andrew Pearson /Chapter 8 of the Draft Scoping Report; ✎ Bat Impact Assessment and Monitoring: NSS Environmental – Kate McEwan/ Chapter 6 of the Draft Scoping Report; ✎ Terrestrial Ecological Impact Assessment (Flora and Fauna): Anchor Environmental – Simon Todd/ Chapter 5of the Draft Scoping Report; ✎ Archaeology and Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment: ACO Associates – Tim Hart / Chapter 10 of the Draft Scoping Report; ✎ Palaeontology Assessment: via ACO Associates – John Almond / Chapter 10 of the Draft Scoping Report; 	
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				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Aquatic/ Wetland Assessment: Scherman Colloty and Associates – Brian Colloty / Chapter 7 of the Draft Scoping Report; ➤ Noise Impact Assessment: Enviro-Acoustic Research – Morne de Jager / Chapter 11 of the Draft Scoping Report; ➤ Visual Assessment Bernard Oberholzer Landscape Architects & Meirrelles Lawson Burger Architects - Bernard Oberholzer and Quinton Lawson / Chapter 4 of the Draft Scoping Report; ➤ Soil and Agriculture: Terrasoils – Johan van de Waals / Chapter 9 of the Draft Scoping Report; and ➤ Social Impact Assessment: Tony Barbour Environmental Consulting and Research – Tony Barbour/ Chapter 12 of the Draft Scoping Report. <p>Following completion of the scoping phase, the EIA phase will be undertaken which will include the design of the facility within the project site, and the assessment of impacts. The findings of this stage will be presented in the Draft EIA Report. This will similarly be available for public comment prior to the development of the Final EIA Report. Once the Final EIA Report is completed this will be provided to the DEA for a decision to be made whether to grant Environmental Authorisation for the project. Comment on the Final EIA Report can also be made to the DEA directly.</p> <p>We note your specific concerns with regard to ecology, cumulative impacts and land use</p>	
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				<p>planning. Please see some further information below relating to these points.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Ecology: <i>The Draft Scoping Report will include information at this stage in the process on ecology (Chapter 5), birds (Chapter 8) and bat (Chapter 6). These potential impacts will be taken in account throughout the EIA process and further information will be made available throughout the process.</i> ➤ Assessment of cumulative impacts is a requirement of the EIA under NEMA. <i>In the case of this project the cumulative impacts of all the component parts will be assessed within each other and also with other facilities in the area including the neighbouring Ishwati Emoyeni wind energy facility.</i> ➤ Land-use and planning associated with concerns over change in use; <i>Land-use is considered in Chapter 9 of the forthcoming Draft Scoping Report. Whilst the proposed site is large the project will only occupy a small footprint within this area, and other activities including the existing agricultural activities will be able to continue in the area presenting concurrently with the operation of the WEF. As part of the development process for wind farms on agricultural land, wind farm developers are required to apply to the local Municipality where the projects are located to amend the land use to allow for renewable energy</i> <p><i>In the Western Cape, developers submit a consent use application to the municipality to</i></p>	
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				<p><i>add the land use of renewable energy to the current zoning (Agriculture Zone 1) of the properties, to obtain a consent use on land zoned as Agricultural Zone 1 to accommodate a wind energy facility. This consent use, if granted, doesn't change the current zoning of agriculture, it only allows for renewable energy facilities on the agricultural land, and specifically only allows for the renewable energy project and associated infrastructure (such as access roads and electrical infrastructure)</i></p> <p>The Draft Scoping Report will be available for review in the near future for a period of 40 days, during which time we will also be holding a number of public and focus group meetings in the area of the project site. As a registered I&AP you will be notified of the location and timings of the public meetings and we would gladly meet with you at this time to discuss any concerns you may have on any of the topics raised as we appreciate there is a lot of information available.</p> <p>We welcome further comments and queries on the content of the Draft Scoping Report and subsequent reports to follow which you will be notified of as a registered I&AP.</p>	
Wayne Rubidge - Zoetvlei	2014/06/14	Email	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What proof of all air and thermodynamic effects and studies to be undertaken? 2. Mr. Wayne Rubidge stated that the Karoo is one of the most treasured sites in the world, worthy of world heritage status. 3. How can you compensate for the loss of big bird impacts such as eagles, Blue Cranes etc? 	<p>Response from EIMS: Dear Mr W Rubidge</p> <p>Thank you for completing the comment form in relation to the Umsinde Emoyeni Wind Energy Facility (WEF) and associated grid infrastructure. You have now been registered as an Interested and Affected Party (I&AP) and will be notified for the issue of documentation and consultation events associated with the proposed project.</p>	<p>Air Quality</p> <p>Archaeology and Palaeontology</p> <p>Compensation</p> <p>Ecology</p> <p>Economy</p>

		<p>4. The great escarpment is a pristine ecological area. This would be crazy to go ahead. Eskom has conceded power lines kill birds.</p> <p>5. No direct benefits.</p> <p>6. No direct benefits in long or medium terms.</p> <p>7. No need for project in a pristine environment.</p> <p>8. Disturbs the delicate balance of the Karoo.</p> <p>9. Negative (huge) impact on property value.</p> <p>10. Very negative for the whole region.</p> <p>11. Instability will be negative.</p> <p>12. There will be yes.</p> <p>Yes, he is concerned about this impact.</p> <p>13. Huge visual pollution for the 100 km</p> <p>14. The huge amount of trucks, concrete etc. will pollute the environment.</p> <p>15. Mr. Wayne Rubidge asked if the category was with regard to the impact of construction on geology?</p> <p>16. The available water is all that holds the Karoo together. Any impact on water is a disaster.</p> <p>17. Mr. Wayne Rubidge stated that this proposed project will add stress on existing infrastructure which has no capacity.</p>	<p>We understand you have concerns associated with the proposed project regarding the environmental impacts regarding the sensitivity of the receiving environment for the proposed development, specifically including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✍ The potential collision risk of power line and WEF infrastructure on birds, specifically noting a concern for Blue Crane; ✍ Air quality, specifically the nature of any air studies and thermodynamic effects; ✍ Archaeology and palaeontology value of the Karoo; ✍ Compensation related to impacts on Blue Crane and Eagles; ✍ Ecology concerns; ✍ No direct benefits with regard to economy or employment; ✍ The impacts of construction on geology; ✍ Impacts on water resources of the Karoo including groundwater; ✍ Infrastructure associated with capacity; ✍ Land-use and planning associated with concerns over change in use; ✍ Need for the project referring to choice of the site; ✍ Nuisance related to the sense of place of the Karoo; ✍ Concern over potential decline in property values associated with wind energy facilities; ✍ Quality of life relating to the view of human receptors of the WEF for the region; ✍ Safety and security concerns associated with instability in the local community; ✍ Noting there will be other social impacts; 	<p>Employment</p> <p>Need for the Project</p> <p>Nuisance</p> <p>Property Values</p> <p>Quality of Life</p> <p>Safety and Security</p> <p>Other Social Impacts</p> <p>Surface Water</p> <p>Visual Impact</p> <p>Waste Management</p> <p>Geology</p> <p>Groundwater</p> <p>Infrastructure</p> <p>Land-use and Planning</p> <p>General</p> <p>Avifauna</p>
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			<p>18. Any change in land-use in the Karoo is disastrous</p> <p>As a land owner, a concerned Karoo citizen, a conservationist who loves his country, an employer and affected resident, all of who hereby are opposed to a wind farm of this magnitude, in this very sensitive environment and question the entire project.</p> <p>Eskom has already conceded its power lines kill Blue Cranes in the mountains of the Karoo. A wind farm is many times worse. The great escarpment is home to this endangered national bird, of which there are few left. It is ridiculous to think a WEF will get the go ahead in this area when ESKOM has already conceded to the negative impacts to occur.</p> <p>National bird the Blue Crane in one of its last sanctuaries.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Surface water concerns; ✓ Visual impacts; and ✓ Waste management associated with the use of concrete and traffic. <p>At present we are in the early stages of conducting an environmental impact assessment (EIA) in terms of the National Environmental Management Act 1998 (NEMA). Through this process a team of specialist environmental professional have been formed, who will be responsible for identifying and assessing the potential environmental impact of the proposed project. The first stage in this process is “scoping”. The scoping stage is when we identify the potential likely environmental impacts which may result from the proposed wind energy facility (WEF) and its associated grid infrastructure, and how we intend to assess these in the full EIA. In order to do this the EIA team, who are experienced in the local area and with this type of development, are consulted along with key stakeholders and the public. The Draft Scoping Report is currently being finalised and will be provided for public comment. As a registered Interested and Affected Party (I&AP) you will be notified of the issue of the Draft Scoping Report, and where copies can be located for you to view and how you can comment. These comments will then be taken into account in preparing the Final Scoping Report which will be submitted to the Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA) for consideration.</p> <p>The Draft Scoping Report will contain information on the existing baseline environment at the project site, and will outline the topics which will be considered in the EIA. The following list identifies these topics, their appropriate references in the Draft Scoping Report and the environmental specialist who will be compiling the study.</p>	
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				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✎ Bird Impact Assessment and Monitoring: Arcus Consulting – Andrew Pearson /Chapter 8 of the Draft Scoping Report; ✎ Bat Impact Assessment and Monitoring: NSS Environmental – Kate McEwan/ Chapter 6 of the Draft Scoping Report; ✎ Terrestrial Ecological Impact Assessment (Flora and Fauna): Anchor Environmental – Simon Todd/ Chapter 5of the Draft Scoping Report; ✎ Archaeology and Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment: ACO Associates – Tim Hart / Chapter 10 of the Draft Scoping Report; ✎ Palaeontology Assessment: via ACO Associates – John Almond / Chapter 10 of the Draft Scoping Report; ✎ Aquatic/ Wetland Assessment: Scherman Colloty and Associates – Brian Colloty / Chapter 7 of the Draft Scoping Report; ✎ Noise Impact Assessment: Enviro-Acoustic Research – Morne de Jager / Chapter 11 of the Draft Scoping Report; ✎ Visual Assessment Bernard Oberholzer Landscape Architects & Meirelles Lawson Burger Architects - Bernard Oberholzer and Quinton Lawson / Chapter 4 of the Draft Scoping Report; ✎ Soil and Agriculture: Terrasoils – Johan van de Waals / Chapter 9 of the Draft Scoping Report; and
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				<p>✎ Social Impact Assessment: Tony Barbour Environmental Consulting and Research – Tony Barbour/ Chapter 12 of the Draft Scoping Report.</p> <p>Following completion of the scoping phase, the EIA phase will be undertaken which will include the design of the facility within the project site, and the assessment of impacts. The findings of this stage will be presented in the Draft EIA Report. This will similarly be available for public comment prior to the development of the Final EIA Report. Once the Final EIA Report is completed this will be provided to the DEA for a decision to be made whether to grant Environmental Authorisation for the project. Comment on the Final EIA Report can also be made to the DEA directly.</p> <p>With regard to concerns over, archaeology, ecology, the need for the project and site selection, surface water, social impacts, and visual impacts, information on the scoping process to date will be provided in the Draft Scoping Report.</p> <p>With regard to specific areas of concern we provide some further additional responses below:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The potential collision risk of power line and WEF infrastructure on birds, specifically noting a concern for Blue Crane and compensation related to Blue Cranes and Eagles; <i>At present a 12 month survey of the birds in and around the project site is currently underway and the findings to date will be available for review in Chapter 8 of the Draft Scoping Report. Although impacts on birds can occur from wind energy facilities and grid connections, appropriately sited and designed facilities can have little or no impact on bird</i>
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				<p><i>communities. Impacts on birds vary from species to species. Information on species recorded on the site is presented in Chapter 8 of the Draft Scoping Report as well as desk based information on the locality from available resources. The assessment will take into consideration potential impacts on Priority species which include Blue Crane and all eagles in the EIA process.</i></p> <p><i>The potential impacts of the birds recorded and their locations within the site will be assessed by an Avifaunal Specialist registered with the South African Council for Natural Scientific Persons (SACNASP). The findings of this study will be fed into the design and management of the facility so as to as far as possible reduce impacts on birds. The impact assessment will conclude if these measures are sufficient to reduce the potential impact to acceptable levels.</i></p> <p>2. Air quality, specifically the nature of any air studies and thermodynamic effects; <i>There is a potential for dust emissions associated with the construction and operation phase which will be controlled through good best practice during construction methods which will be stipulated and be a legal requirement of the environmental management plan (EMP) to be produced as part of the EIA phase. With regard to thermodynamics, please provide some further information as to your specific concern regarding the development of a wind energy facility and associated grid infrastructure and we will endeavour to understand this query and</i></p>
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				<p><i>respond in due course. We would be happy to discuss this point at a public meeting which will be held during the scoping phase if that would be helpful.</i></p> <p>3. No direct benefits with regard to economy or employment;</p> <p><i>The project will be developed under the Department of Energy's Renewable Energy Independent Power Producers Procurement Program (REIPPPP). As explanation of the REIPPPP and its requirements can be found in Chapter 3 of the forthcoming Draft Scoping Report. As a part of the REIPPPP, local communities are required to have a stake in the ownership of the project, which is either funded by financier or by the other equity shareholder (which is known as a 'free carry'). Community ownership of an operating wind farm is generally conducted via a broad-based community trust, with the surrounding communities as beneficiaries of the dividends paid to shareholders in the project company. The dividend revenue will be invested in community development initiatives which would be outlined in the community trust deeds. In addition, successful REIPPPP projects are required to invest a percentage of gross revenue in socio economic development and enterprise development, primarily in the surrounding local communities (currently defined in the REIPPPP as located within a 50 km radius of the wind farm's operational site). If the wind farm is constructed, a number of critical community development programmes would be established that would have the potential to positively</i></p>
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				<p><i>impact the communities near the wind facilities.</i></p> <p><i>Wind energy can provide technical skills to South Africans and thus improve the technical skills profile of the country and the regions where wind energy facilities are located. Through the REIPPPP, developers' own initiatives and through support from international donor agencies, a number of young South Africans are being trained on various aspects of wind farm construction and operation.</i></p> <p><i>In addition, projects are required to indicate skills transfer and training initiatives as part of the economic development commitments of projects that are submitted under the REIPPPP.</i></p> <p><i>During the operation and maintenance phase, a number of employment opportunities will be created. These opportunities may include site management, environmental management, facility operation and maintenance, community liaison, administration, monitoring, reporting, catering, cleaning and security. The exact number of jobs during operation (and construction) is not yet known, but will be defined in detail in the later stages of project development.</i></p> <p>4. The impacts of construction on geology; <i>The project does not require any construction activities which are likely to result in potential geological impacts. The project infrastructure is located on the surface with excavations being limited to trenches for the burial of cables (where practicable); borrow pits for the</i></p>
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				<p><i>excavation of construction materials, and foundations for access tracks, turbines and other above ground infrastructure. As such there are not deemed to be any likely potential impacts on geology from the proposed projects and this has been scoped out of the EIA. An assessment of Soils and Land Use will however be performed.</i></p> <p>5. Impacts on water resources of the Karoo including groundwater;</p> <p><i>The project applied for is a Wind Energy Facility (WEF) and its associated grid infrastructure. Water will be required during the construction phase for normal construction activities such as mixing concrete, and washing equipment; and during operation limited amounts of water will be required for servicing the on-site office facilities and for limited maintenance activities such as cleaning equipment. This water may be sourced from the local municipality or may utilise existing or new boreholes. A Water Use License Application (WULA) will be made to the Department of Water Affairs if necessary to permit the use of water for the project.</i></p> <p><i>The project does not require any structures to be placed into the ground to a depth which would interact with the groundwater resource. The management of this water would be contained with the Environmental management Plan (EMP) which would stipulate compliance with any Water Use License.</i></p> <p><i>An assessment of the surface water impacts will be included in the EIA, and</i></p>
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				<p><i>information on this will be presented in Chapter 7 of the Draft Scoping Report.</i></p> <p>6. Infrastructure associated with capacity; <i>With regard to the electrical grid infrastructure the project will have to construct its own infrastructure. It will connect into the existing National Grid through an agreement with Eskom who will ensure capacity is provided. With regard to traffic volumes an initial Traffic Study has been completed and provided to SANRAL and the project proponent will continue to liaise with SANRAL and relevant municipal and provincial authorities to ensure the road network is managed in accordance with their requirements and existing road capacity.</i></p> <p>7. Land-use and planning associated with concerns over change in use; <i>Land-use is considered in Chapter 9 of the forthcoming Draft Scoping Report. Whilst the proposed site is large the project will only occupy a small footprint within this area, and other activities including the existing agricultural activities will be able to continue in the area presenting concurrently with the operation of the WEF. As part of the development process for wind farms on agricultural land, wind farm developers are required to apply to the local Municipality where the projects are located to amend the land use to allow for renewable energy In the Western Cape, developers submit a consent use application to the municipality to add the land use of renewable energy to the current zoning (Agriculture Zone 1) of the properties, to obtain a consent use</i></p>
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				<p><i>on land zoned as Agricultural Zone 1 to accommodate a wind energy facility. This consent use, if granted, doesn't change the current zoning of agriculture, it only allows for renewable energy facilities on the agricultural land, and specifically only allows for the renewable energy project and associated infrastructure (such as access roads and electrical infrastructure);</i></p> <p>8. Nuisance related to the sense of place of the Karoo; <i>A visual impact study is being undertaken as a part of the EIA and information to date will be presented in Chapter 4 of the forthcoming Draft Scoping Report. This will include consideration of the sense of place of the Karoo;</i></p> <p>9. Concern over potential decline in property values associated with wind energy facilities; <i>Globally, there is little evidence of property values in the surrounding areas decreasing due to wind farms. On the contrary, international research has found no impact or even a positive impact on property values near wind farms. Articles are available online at: http://newscenter.lbl.gov/news-releases/2013/08/27/no-evidence-of-residential-property-value-impacts-near-u-s-wind-turbines-a-new-berkeley-lab-study-finds/ http://blog.ucusa.org/effect-of-wind-turbines-on-property-values-384</i></p> <p>10. Quality of life relating to the view of human receptors of the WEF for the region;</p>
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				<p><i>A social impact assessment will be undertaken for the project which will include consideration of the impact on quality of life. Information available to date will be presented in Chapter 12 of the forthcoming Draft Scoping Report;</i></p> <p>11. Safety and security concerns associated with instability in the local community; <i>Safety and security will also be a consideration in the social impact assessment information available to date relating to this process is provided in Chapter 12 of the forthcoming Draft Scoping Report. 24 hours security will be provided on the site during construction and may include the installation of CCTV systems.</i></p> <p>12. Waste management associated with the use of concrete; <i>Whilst not a specific topic in the EIA this will be included in the environmental management plan (EMP) which will be developed through the EIA process. Best practice in construction techniques including the management of waste will be a requirement of the EMP which, if Environmental Authorisation is granted, will become legally binding.</i></p> <p>The Draft Scoping Report will be available for review in the near future for a period of 40 days, during which time we will also be holding a number of public and focus group meetings in the area of the project site. As a registered I&AP you will be notified of the location and timings of the public meetings and we would gladly meet with you at this time to discuss any concerns you may have on any</p>
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				<p>of the topics raised as we appreciate there is a lot of information available.</p> <p>We welcome further comments and queries on the content of the Draft Scoping Report and subsequent reports to follow which you will be notified of as a registered I&AP.</p>	
Wayne Rubidge - Zoetvlei	2014/07/04	Email	<p>Dear Ian,</p> <p>We have been following the discontent amongst the greater community to your 2 x WEF and your responses thereto. I write to you with some points that have been highlighted.</p> <p>I have also been contacted by I&EP and landowners with regard to the WEF negative impact on land prices. As an introduction I am a landowner a I&EP and the Karoo Principle for SA's leading real estate agency which has the largest footprint in the Karoo. I would also like to categorically state that in principle we support acceptable alternative and green energy solutions however we are disappointed that you do not acknowledge that your 2 WEF will have a severe negative impact on land prices and land value in the adjacent area as well as surrounding areas including the town of Murraysburg. I can categorically state that the WEF WILL HAVE A SEVERE NEGATIVE IMPACT ON LAND PRICES AND LAND VALUES. The reason is simple in that there is no market or buyer appetite for Karoo farms that are anywhere near WEF. A WEF reduces land values to a arbitrary agricultural value. This is a fact and undisputable. Further there is a substantial future loss of potential for farms in the general area of a WEF. Who is your specialist that will comment on land prices and land values</p>	<p>Response from EIMS: Thank you for your email.</p> <p>Windlab are committed to an open and informed Public Participation Process (PPP) which affords all Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) the opportunity to be involved in the project via the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process. The PPP forms an important part of the EIA process which is being conducted by an independent Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP).</p> <p>We have consistently encouraged all interested and affected parties to submit all comments and concerns to the EAP so that they can be officially recorded as part of the formal PPP and responded to in the appropriate manner. We would like to reiterate that we urge you to do so. The EAP will respond to all communications that are made through this process. I&AP's comments are compiled by the EAP at the end of each week and responses drafted during the following week, so you can expect a response within approximately two weeks (depending on the volume of comments that require responses), and your communication and the response will be included in the next report that is issued as part of the EIA process.</p>	<p>Property Values</p> <p>Alternatives</p> <p>Compensation</p> <p>Project Footprint</p> <p>Avifauna</p>

		<p>We take note of a previous statement made to you in this regard (if the wind farm goes ahead then negatively affected farmers and land owners will require compensation for their losses/ cost of the wind farm (because of a decrease in property value; impact on businesses such as farming and ecotourism, B&B, the environment etc). Compensation will have to be agreed upon BEFORE (important!) the EIA process is concluded as compensation is a form of "mitigation". "Mitigation" of negative impacts due to an activity is a fundamental principle of an EIA and it is a means of bringing an unacceptably high negative impact down to an acceptable level.) However it appears from that correspondence that most in the larger community do not want the WEF's at all.</p> <p>Looking at the Scoping Report we will be commenting further as there are many questions around the process, i.e. the how why and where. An EIA process is supposed to be fair and transparent. Your team had 6 years to consult with Stakeholders and discuss in the pre-feasibility stage yet you only give I&EP 30 days to register and 40 days to comment. You did not afford the larger community enough time to consult and discuss. Your registration and advertisement process seemed to be flawed (BID not legible, no website links, fax not working etc. also All I &EP were not adequately notified. You gave a extension but how was the public supposed to know this.</p> <p>Some interesting information which should be more or less accurate. We are all laymen so we have to wade through over 1000 pages of reports in 40 days!</p>	<p>You can register as an I&AP and submit your comments/questions to the EAP at any time. Their contact details are as follows:</p> <p>Nobuhle Hughes Environmental Impact Management Services (Pty) Ltd Postal Address: P.O. Box 2083, Pinetown, 2123 Telephone: 011 789 7170 Fax: 011 787 3059 Email: emoyeni@eims.co.za</p> <p>Please quote reference 0999 when commenting on this Project</p> <p>If we receive communications that are outside the formal EIA process we will forward these to the EAP and respond via the EIA process so that these communications are formally recorded and are available for review by other I&APs that have interest in the project. We will also ensure that all of the email addresses included in the distribution list on your email below are automatically registered as I&APs. Please let me know if you would prefer not to be automatically registered as an I&AP.</p> <p>Please note that the Draft Scoping Report has been released for comment last week. All registered I&APs have been informed of the release and how to access the documents for review. Advertisements have been published in last week's Die Burger newspaper, Die Courier and the Graaff-Reinet Advertiser. \</p> <p>Registered I&APs have been informed of a public meeting regarding the Draft Scoping Report on Thursday 17 July in Murraysburg.</p> <p>Please accept my apologies if you have received this response numerous times; I am responding to</p>	
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		<p>You (WINDLAB) are also the owner of the adjacent Ishati WEF. So you own both wind farms. Why are there 2 separate EIA's when in essence it is one project with 4 phases. Does 1 big project require you to do a onerous EIA that will be difficult for you to get of the ground</p> <p>In total there will be 4 phases each with around 98 turbines = 392 turbines. This makes it 4.3 times bigger than the biggest wind farm in AFRICA (Ethiopia). Is this will be the biggest WEF in Africa</p> <p>The size of your turbines is huge giving a maximum height of each turbine is 180 m. This makes its relief higher than most Karoo mountains and koppies. This width is a further massive 130m (x392) = over 1000 hectares. You keep saying in your reports that this is a low impact development</p> <p>The footprint for the base of each turbine is 400m² and 3 meters deep. This equates to 1200m³ of concrete per tower! The total concrete just for the bases is 500 000m³ of concrete</p> <p>And, The footprint of the adjacent laydown area is a further 1125 m². Therefore each tower requires a sacrifice area of 1525m². This multiplied by 392 gives you what you will disturb just to put down the towers</p> <p>Then there is the 65km of power lines with a 73m servitude, 1200m² substation, up to 500m² storage, borrow pits, roads etc. You say the footprint will be less than 20m² so you don't have to follow certain processes. It appears if your footprint is bigger you have to follow</p>	<p>numerous emails with large and different distribution lists.</p>	
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		<p>different and more difficult processes. You also mention you will have to blast etc</p> <p>In your report you mention all the time the little or low impact of the WEF. Taking the above stats in mind I cannot see how. You refer to roads as tracks but you plan to make them up to 9m wide. This is not a track it is a full blown road! It would be better if you give the facts and not try and wrap it in cotton wool. This is misleading what is supposed to be a fair and open process</p> <p>In previous comments reference was made to a creeping energy land use which you rejected. This is in fact TRUE. It started with the massive Escom Gamma line, then your first WEF, and now the Umsinde Emoyeni one. It is a fact and this substantiates it once the land use is changed from agriculture to energy there is no stopping. This point is made as many issues were glossed over in the events prior to the scoping report. You can now understand the ire of the community as these are just some of the points that are of major concern. It is also being questioned why closed doors and confidential discussions were being held with stakeholders and there attorneys in the years preceding. As the wind farm effects many more than just the stake holders and your identified I&EP why the secrecy. This surely is counterproductive and divisive in a stable rural community</p> <p>With regard to your specialist studies. If we just take the bird study done over 1 year. One year for big birds is not acceptable at all. The EWT crane working group can confirm that the Karoo mountain and escarpment where the WEF site is one of the last surviving natural habitats and is home to the critically endangered blue crane. We have monitored the</p>		
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		<p>loss of over 150 blue cranes on 5 spans of power lines on one property which is less than 23km from your WEF. We also know that depending on the season or the year blue cranes like many birds frequent the different places in the escarpment at different times in different seasons in different years. As a previous commentator said Escom has conceded that its power lines in this area are fatal. It seems that you intend to dispute the effect that the 2WEF will have on big bird populations. Can we have details of the process followed for Appendix 8.2: SABAP-1 and SABAP-2 Data for the WEF and Grid Connection?</p> <p>There is shortcomings in your specialist studies. We would a like a study done for example on tortoises as well as we have seen the negative impact the WEF and the turbines have on their senses. You say that animals are not effected by turbines however on a wind farm site inspection it was noted that wild animals do not go near WEF if they have a choice. On noise it is clear that sound travels in the Karoo like few other places and traffic on the N1 can be heard 30-40km away. The noise pollution of the WEF turning at full speed will be heard well beyond your planning area. What about horizon pollution. With your towers 180m high the visual impact could be over 100 and up to 150km. These potentially affected parties would not have been notified</p> <p>With regard to other specialist studies such as those (Cultural) to be done by Dr Hart. It was Dr Harts own mentor Professor Samson and colleagues who suggested the Karoo is worthy of World Heritage Status. I am sure Prof Bruce Rubidge (Paleo) and others will from there</p>		
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			<p>fields of expertise concur that your WEF will terminally effect and degrade the Karoo's cultural and natural heritage. We can only hope that Dr Hart and the other specialist help bring understanding to the lasting and permanent negative effects of a WEF of this SIZE will bring to the Karoo. The largest in Africa located in a natural area!!</p> <p>As a compromise a valid suggestion would be to take a existing disturbed area and make that a sacrifice area. A EIA process can determine suitable sacrifice areas in other parts of the Karoo less vulnerable to ecological disturbance, stability, land value etc. Secondly if the power generated was for the use of local communities this would be more acceptable and thirdly the size of your wind farm looks like total exploitation. You also say that it may not just be 20 years. You also say that there is NO long term job creation. The result is a destabilised community and a degraded landscape with sever negative ecological consequences</p> <p>Further comments on the registration process and the scoping will be directed to EIMS, WINLAB and ARCUS. It is also noted that most of your feedback is in the form of a cut and paste.</p>		
Wayne Rubidge - Zoetvlei	2014/07/09	Email	<p>Dear Ian</p> <p>As mentioned in my previous email the comments will be fully detailed in a submission to the EAP as per PPP and we look forward to your response thereto. The contents of the email below would only be a indication of the issues raised which will be fully detailed in the formal response as per EIA procedures. This will include the issues around the AVI Fauna</p>	<p>Response from EIMS: Dear Mr Rubidge</p> <p>We have received your comments regarding the Umsinde Emoyeni WEF and associated grid connection in emails dated 4th July 2014 (15h33) and 9th July 2014 (08h40). As stated in our previous letter we are currently at the scoping stage of the EIA and as such we are not able to comment on the outcomes of the EIA which will assess the impacts, this will come at a later stage. We have</p>	<p>General</p> <p>Avifauna</p>

		<p>study highlighted in a previous Blue Crane email circulated.</p> <p>We are aware the processes followed in the first EIA for the adjacent Winlab Ishwati WEF are being contested and it is also felt that not all I&EP were not notified for various reasons. We support the I&EP who are contesting the processes in your first wind farm. Further many other I&EP were not involved in the EIA process for Ishwati and we also therefore request that that this be re-opened. Can you please send me the Avi Fauna study for the Ishwati EIA. We believe that Jon Smalie was your appointed specialist? It appears as if the Blue Crane issue may not been adequately dealt with in that specialist study and again ask that Bradley Gibbons comment</p> <p>If anyone would not like to be copied in on - going open discussions please reply to this email requesting this. We take note that in your draft scoping report only a few of the registered I&EP comments were noted and we understand that many more I&EP registered and are not recorded in the draft scoping report made available.</p> <p>There are 3 email lists being circulated. Can you as you have undertaken to with this list ... "also ensure that all of the email addresses included in the distribution list on your email below are automatically registered as I&AP" on the other lists being circulated. A list can be provided ?</p>	<p>responded to your specific points regarding the email of the 4th July, 15h33.</p> <p>In response to your email dated 9th July 2014, 08h40, we note the comments on this email were related to both the Ishwati Emoyeni EIA and the Umsinde Emoyeni EIA.</p> <p>It is not appropriate for us to respond to queries regarding the Ishwati Emoyeni Project, these should be responded to by the appropriate EIA team as they will have the information to deal with your request, we will of course log this query in our I&AP database. You can reach the EIA team for the Ishwati Emoyeni Project at:</p> <p>Samantha Naidoo – CSIR Project Manager Tel: 031 242 2397 Fax: 031 261 2509 Email: snaidoo5@csir.co.za and Ismail Banoo – CSIR Project Leader Tel: 031 242 2378 Fax: 031 261 2509 Email: ibanoo@csir.co.za</p> <p>We understand your comment relating to Umsinde Emoyeni is:</p> <p>We take note that in your draft scoping report only a few of the registered I&EP comments were noted and we understand that many more I&EP registered and are not recorded in the draft scoping report made available."</p> <p>Appendix 1.1 of the Draft Scoping Report provides a description of the public participation process, including a summary table of the comments received from I&AP. The appendices to this report (Appendix A-H) then provides duplicate copies of all the comments received and our responses hereto. We maintain a full register of all I&AP</p>	
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				<p>comments and all are documented and evidence provided in the Draft Scoping Report. Appendix 1.1 of the Draft Scoping Report contains the following:</p> <p>Appendix A – Proof of Advertisements Appendix B – Proof of Site notices and Poster Placement Appendix C – Landowner Database Appendix D – Stakeholder and I&AP Database Appendix E – Landowner Initial Notification letters Appendix F- Key Stakeholder Initial Notifications Appendix G – Correspondence (including correspondence to I&AP's) Appendix H – Windlab Correspondence with Local Community Outside the EIA Process.</p> <p>Correspondence includes those comments received up to the printing of the Draft Scoping Report. Comments received after that date were not included in the Draft Scoping Report, however the Issues and Responses Report is a live document which will continue to be updated throughout the EIA process.</p> <p>We will be holding a public meeting in Murraysburg on the 17th July between 3 and 5pm at the town hall, we will also be available from 2-3pm and 5-7pm for further discussions to answer any queries. We would welcome your attendance at this event to discuss your comments further.</p>	
Wayne Rubidge - Zoetvlei	2014/07/11	Email	<p>Dear Ian, EIMS and ARCUS</p> <p>Thank you for the communications we receive from you and agreeing to</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The extension for the registration of interested and effected parties before the draft scoping report is finalized inviting further interested and effected 	<p>Response from EIMS: Thank you for your continued involvement in the Umsinde Emoyeni Wind Energy facility project. Please find below responses provided by the EAP (Arcus), the public participation team (EIMS), and the applicant respectively, to your recent comments and queries.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Interested and Affected Parties (I&AP's) can be registered and file comments throughout the EIA process. We are currently in the 	<p>Receipt/ Acknowledgem ent of Notification Registration General</p>

			<p>parties to continue to register who were not aware of the development.</p> <p>2. An undertaking to renew efforts to contact further potential interested and effected parties. Based on your agreement to extend the registration we formally ask that you similarly extend the closing date for comments to the Scoping Report a further 40 days to the end of September? This is only fair as it will afford all new registered I&EP parties a chance to study the reports. As mentioned most of us are not familiar with the process and the reports so it is only reasonable that we all be given an extension to understand the scope and implications of the development?</p> <p>3. We also ask that a full copies of the Scoping Report be made available at the Richmond Country Club as well as Richmond Info (Richmond Heritage) as well as the (Co-ops BKB, CMW, OVK,,) in all surrounding towns (20 copies at each place). We also ask that Graaff Reinet Heritage, Granaat and the Graaff Reinet Bird Club be invited to participate and are given legible copies of the BID and maps of study area.</p> <p>A second round of advertisements communicating this (still open for registration) would be appropriate considering the issues in the initial registration. Publishing a more consumer friendly and legible BID document is also requested? As you have acknowledged there were many issues in the initial registration and notification process so a</p>	<p>scoping phase which will be followed by the impact assessment phase. In addition to being afforded the opportunity to comment on the Draft Scoping Report you can also submit comments on the Final Scoping Report (directly to the Department of Environmental Affairs), and on the Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) and Final EIR (directly to the Department of Environmental Affairs). As a registered I&AP you will be kept informed about these opportunities to comment, as well as about public meetings and other consultation opportunities.</p> <p>2. With regard to the process please find attached an overview of the EIA process. This shows in red where we are to date and the rest of the process to be followed. This will be explained further during the Public Meeting on the 17th July at 3-5pm at Murraysburg Town Hall which we would encourage you to attend. We understand the EIA process is complex. It is a highly technical discipline taking into account the complexities of the environment, which as per your other correspondence we note you appreciate, should be covered in a technically sound assessment. We would welcome meeting you on the 17th July to provide further explanation of this process.</p> <p>3. The I&AP's from your contact lists have been added to the I&AP database as of the 8th July 2014. The consultation on the Draft Scoping Report began on the 2nd July 2014. As such we will offer as a gesture of good will to extend the consultation period in line with timescale by 7 calendar days to 18th August 2014, allowing longer than the statutory 40 calendar days comment period. We will notify all registered</p>	
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			<p>fresh start to this process is recommended and requested.</p> <p>We also thank you for registering the additional I&EP. The groups of I&EP you have registered by email can be collectively referred to as Karoo News. There will be further Karoo News members who would like to register over the following weeks. On behalf of Karoo News members a collective submission will be made with comments to the registration process and the Draft Scoping Report.</p> <p>Many of us at Karoo News were not aware of Windlab's adjacent first industrial WEF the Ishwati Wind Farm. We are aware that the EIA submission is being contested. Could you please provide the contact details so we can also have the opportunity to register for Ishwati as the advertising process for Ishwati was also incomplete and not all I&EP could register.</p> <p>4. Is EIMS also the EAP for Ishwati? We would like to register before the EIA is submitted to DEA.</p> <p>Karoo News supports the I&EP who are contesting this EIA. Can you also please make available the various reports and studies for Ishwati. Your desk top studies in the Emonyeni Scoping Report unequivocally confirm that Ishwati is also located in what is regarded by the specialists as a "very sensitive natural wilderness area". Further it is not easy for us to give in depth comment on Emonyeni as we don't have the Ishwati details and</p>	<p>I&AP's of this extension. Hard copies of the reports are available for viewing at:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Ubuntu Local Municipality (in Victoria West) ✓ Beaufort West Local Municipality (in Beaufort West) ✓ Murraysburg Farmers' Co-operative ✓ Beaufort West Local Municipality (Murraysburg Office) ✓ Richmond Ntsikelelo Tida Library ✓ Richmond Police Station. <p>We understand you are requesting for additional copies to be provided in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Richmond Country Club; and ✓ Richmond Info (Richmond Heritage). <p>Please can you specify the addresses, contact number and names of a contact for these locations and any other locations you are suggesting we provide a hard copy to.</p> <p>Your justification for requesting 20 hard copies at each of these additional locations is unclear, as the documents are already available for review in Victoria West, Beaufort West, Murraysburg and Richmond. Please provide further information on why 20 hard copies are required at these locations. Subject to confirmation of the exact locations we are willing to supply at up to 3 additional locations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ 1 hard copy of the full Draft Scoping Report; ✓ 5 CD copies (to avoid the need for downloads); and ✓ 10 hard copies of the executive summary (5 in English and 5 in Afrikaans). 	
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			<p>we are concerned amongst other issues with the cumulative effect of both wind farms as they are adjacent. We would like to understand the studies in Ishwati and also how they took the cumulative impact of 2 adjacent industrial wind farms into consideration in what they refer to as a "mountain natural wilderness area". As a commentator and I&EP (Chris) eloquently put it that it will be akin to putting a wind farm on top of Table Mountain.</p> <p>Karoo News is receiving many comments from members and these will all be collated and submitted. Many if not most will not be able to attend your open meeting in Murraysburg on the 17th and therefore support a continued open electronic dialogue.</p> <p>Examples of responses and comments received by Karoo News thus far include "Page iv of the executive summary talks about fatal flaws (or the lack thereof) concerning visual receptors. The blue crane should be considered a fatal flaw , other fatal flaws to consider in the wef scoping report are the fact that desktop studies are not regarded as legal comprehensive studies but are only there to act as guidelines to environmental and social studies that should be effected over a period of at least 18 months (or a full season in the study area) in my opinion the draft scoping report of eims is fatally flawed at the onset. Please forward this mail to all as I am unable to do so." (B9 Contractors). To all Karoo News members please continue sending your comments to Karoo News and or Eims and forward to</p>	<p>Please provide full contact details including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Contact name ✓ Contact number ✓ Address ✓ Email ✓ Fax number of available <p>So we are able to add them to the I&AP database and notify them of which project documents are currently available for review and as the project progresses further</p> <p>The initial BID document was circulated and several I&AP's comments received in relation to that document. In addition a large print copy was provided to those who requested it. The I&AP database has registered over 358 parties. An extension has been granted for the review of the Draft Scoping Report for new I&AP's registered which provide up to the 18th August 2014. A newspaper advertisement will be placed in this regard and will again notify people of the method for registering as an I&AP. As 358 I&AP's are successfully registered we do not believe there has been any issue regarding registration. We have received a good level of communication from the public and stakeholder I&AP's indicating they are aware of the project. As such the initial notification period will not be restarted and we will be progressing with the Draft Scoping consultation in line with the information above.</p> <p>We have registered all the parties on your emails to date however as requested above we ask you to send a consolidated list of all parties so we can ensure this matches our records. We have however received communications from some parties on your</p>	
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			<p>all who you think may be potential interested parties</p> <p>We thank you for your co-operation and eagerly await your response to questions and concerns raised as well as making available documentation from Ishwati and confirmation on how to register our support as concerned and effected I&EP for Ishwati as well. Please be aware that you have had since 2009 to engage with stakeholders and we are only allowed 30 days to register and 40 days to comment. To most of us this is inadequate considering the logistic and communication restraints of people living in the Karoo. We also await your comments and feedback on the requests made in preceding emails to this one</p>	<p>list requesting to be removed as I&AP's. As such we are unclear as to if all the parties copied have agreed to be referred to as one group which is what is implied by terming the group "Karoo News". We will continue to respond to yourself as an individual unless we receive communication from other I&AP's that they wish to be included as a group.</p> <p>Our email dated 8th July at 15h24 stated that the responses to your queries will only be addressed to yourself unless other parties inform us they wish to receive the response. To date no other party has requested they receive the response. We will continue in this regard until individual parties indicate they wish to be incorporated in the response. They can of course read the responses as part of the publishing of the Issues and Responses Report through the EIA process</p> <p>Contacts for the Ishwati Emoyeni project are: Samantha Naidoo – CSIR Project Manager (EAP) Tel: 031 242 2397 Fax: 031 261 2509 Email: snaidoo5@csir.co.za And Ismail Banoo – CSIR Project Leader Tel: 031 242 2378 Fax: 031 261 2509 Email: ibanoo@csir.co.za</p> <p>4. The EAP for the Umsinde Emoyeni project is Jennifer Slack of Arcus Consulting. EIMS are managing the public participation process as part of the EAP/EIA team on Umsinde Emoyeni. The EIA for the Ishwati Emoyeni project (relevant EAP contact details provided in response above) was submitted to the DEA on 28 March 2014.</p>	
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				<p>The Ishwati Emoyeni project was undertaken and submitted before the Umsinde Emoyeni project; information that was available at that time was used to undertake a cumulative assessment. A cumulative assessment cannot be undertaken without the correct level of project information, which will only be determined for Umsinde Emoyeni through the EIA phase of the process (please see attached EIA process chart Stage 3). The EIA should, in their cumulative assessment take consideration of projects in the vicinity which may result in cumulative effects for which project information is known so an assessment can be undertaken. As such the onus is on the Umsinde Emoyeni project to discuss the Ishwati Emoyeni project cumulative effects, not the reverse situation. The Umsinde Emoyeni EIA will evaluate the cumulative impacts of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Umsinde Emoyeni Phase 1 ✓ Umsinde Emoyeni Phase 2 ✓ Umsinde Emoyeni Phase 1 and 2 ✓ Umsinde Emoyeni Phase 1 and 2 plus Ishwati Emoyeni <p>As per our email dated 8th July at 15.24 – we request anyone wishing to be copied in on the response to emails from yourself inform us through the appropriate channels, which is electronic communications are required is emoyeni@eims.co.za. To date we have received no responses to this and hence would request any members of Karoo News who do wish to be notified inform us asap so we can add them to your distribution list. We are happy to engage with these parties as a group if they confirm through the official I&AP</p>	
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				<p>registration process they wish to receive these communications.</p> <p>As noted above the first stage in this process is “scoping”. This is the “how” stage of the EIA where we determined how we will complete the assessment. We identify the potential likely environmental impacts which may result from the proposed wind energy facility (WEF) and its associated grid infrastructure, and how we intend to assess these in the full EIA. In order to do this the EIA team, who are experienced in the local area and with this type of development, are consulted along with key stakeholders and the public. We suggest you compile a list of your specific queries, their sources and request for further information so these can be addressed. We should note that as shown on the cover pages, and all headers and footers of the Draft Scoping Report, the report has been compiled by Arcus Consulting, not EIMS. We would ask that you suggest that all parties contact us directly so we can specifically address their comment as we are doing with yourself. We welcome the opportunity to assist I&AP’s in understanding the studies provided in the Draft Scoping Report and any queries they may have.</p>	
Wayne Rubidge - Zoetvlei	2014/07/14	Email	<p>Thank you for the feedback to the letter dated 4th July.</p> <p>Please note. All the I&AP referred to in the email 11th July as the Karoo News Group also await response to the questions in the email of 11th July.</p>	<p>Response from EIMS: Dear Mr Rubidge,</p> <p>We will respond to all I&AP comments as soon as possible.</p> <p>In response to your queries below:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. As stated in Chapter 12: Socio-Economic impacts of the Draft Scoping Report, the Socio-economic Impact Assessment as part of the EIA phase will assess factors such as way 	<p>Land Value</p> <p>Registration</p> <p>Stakeholder Engagement</p> <p>Specialist Studies</p>

		<p>There are still some questions outstanding that have not been addressed in the 4th July email. Outstanding questions are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The appointment of a Land Value Specialist and the issues around long job creation or the lack thereof as for example tourism job creation is sacrificed in a turbinised environment. This was an undertaking from the developer to appoint a specialist. We also reject using the Iswhwati report as a baseline study for Umsinde. 2. That the registration and advertising process be re-opened to allow the broader general public to participate due to flaws in the initial registration. Can you re-advertise. Also can you extend the date for scoping report submissions and comments. 3. The secrecy and confidentiality issues around Stakeholder engagement procedures. 4. We requested a specialist tortoise study - this is highlighted by Prof Gath Samson of the ZVAP. 5. No answer was given to the project Need and an alternative was proposed. Besides the Stakeholders and the Developer is there sufficient need for this project for this project here. It seems the Need is best served doing further studies on the area. The specialist studies say this is a very sensitive natural or wilderness mountain 	<p>of life and personal and property rights. We note your concern and request for more information in this regard. We propose to provide more information in the Final Scoping Report for inclusion in the EIA phase. A full list of all appointed specialists is provided in the Draft Scoping Report in Section 1.4.2.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. We have responded to your note on the 15th July in this regard. We currently have in excess of 386 I&APs registered for the project from a variety of geographical locations and local groups and communities. Furthermore we have held public meetings and focus group meetings attended by approximately 125 attendees. As such we are engaging with a large number of I&APs who are involved in the process. We have advertised the extension to the Draft Scoping Report review period until the 18th August 2014 and we will continue to advertise throughout the process. Registration is still open and will remain open throughout the EIA process. 3. We are not clear to what you are referring specifically or what your query is. We have recently held a public meetings and an open consultation session, plus extended invitations for focus group meetings and as such held three such meetings with the public and interested groups. In addition, three separate sets of notifications in three different newspapers have been placed to date. The public events were attended by approximately 125 I&APs and were open to anyone who wished to attend. Minutes were taken during any focus group meetings and all minutes will be made publically available. 	<p>Need for the Project Alternatives</p>
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			<p>area so it will come with a huge sacrifice to future job creation, the environment, etc.</p> <p>Again we thank you for the feedback you have provided thus far and await feedback to the unanswered questions.</p>	<p>4. We are not aware of a specific request being made through the I&AP process by Prof Gath Samson or the motivation for the inclusion of this in relation to this type of development. Should Professor Samson request such a study through the appropriate process and provide a motivation for this we will pass this onto the Ecology specialist for consideration in the EIA stage. At present tortoises are included in the Terrestrial Ecology Chapter of the Draft Scoping Report (Chapter 5).</p> <p>5. The project need is presented in Chapter 2 of the Draft Scoping Report.</p> <p>Once again, many thanks for your continued involvement in the project process.</p>	
Wayne Rubidge - Zoetvlei	<p>2014/07/15 16h41</p> <p>2014/07/15 17h49</p>	Email	<p>Thank you for the email and the explanations however there was no attachment?</p> <p>Comments to your feedback:</p> <p>1. As mentioned Karoo News Group as a collective will register and submit our responses, comments and issues. This will be helpful to members who have difficulty with connectivity, time or, or who have not registered yet or decided not to register directly with EIMS but via KNG to provide input. Agreed everyone copied is obviously part of a email group and not necessarily part of the Karoo News Group.</p> <p>It must be noted that many of the I&AP were notified of the development through other processes to those you have mentioned. Further I&AP's such as Granaat or its members and others will register independently to KNG. Thank you for the good will gesture of an extra 7 days</p>	<p>Response from EIMS: Thank you once again for your response, regarding your request for a further extension to the 40 day consultation period on the Draft Scoping Report. The statutory requirement for consultation at this stage of the process is 40 days.</p> <p>1. We have provided 40 days review, which we have now extended by a further 7 days. We have undertaken a public meeting as well as focus group meetings during this time, as well as an open session for the public to meet us (17 July 2014) . All of which is above and beyond the minimum requirements for public participation as we do understand the public are an important part of the process. We are doing this to engage with the public and to get their comments at this stage. There will be no further extension of this comment period. The commenting period on the DSR will end on 18th August 2014. This date was also reported in the public meeting held on the 17th July 2014 which was attended by approximately 101 I&APs.</p>	EIA Process Registration

			<p>however the practicalities of this are impossible hence our request for an additional 40 days. As you say combined efforts have had a positive response to registration so let us continue this way and give everyone sufficient time to comment or KNG to collate their comments. There is time surely as this is a big development with big impacts that need to be considered by the public. We still maintain there were issues with the BID document etc which stalled or frustrated the process</p> <p>Registration details for now are- Karoo News Group (KNG) -- tel 0603341648 email - karoonegroup@gmail.com - a contact will be provided</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Additional hard copies as a result will not be necessary as all communications will be done internally within the KNG ie KNG will be keeping its members informed. 3. Thank you for the update and contacts on the adjacent Ishwati WEF. We have been informed by Mr Ismael Banoo that Samantha Naidoo and the Project Manages are no longer working on the Ishwati Project and are no longer working with the CSIR. Mr Banoo has thank fully allowed the Karoo News Group to register in the Ishwati I&AP database so it can provide comment and receive all further communications relating to the Ishwathi Emoyeni project. We are happy to announce and thank Mr Banoo who also confirmed there will be a further round of consultation with I&AP and encourages all to read and comment on the Final EIA Report (FEIR) for the adjacent Ishwati 	<p>With regard to the review of the Draft Scoping Report we would reiterate the responses from our previous communications:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ This is the comments on the Draft Scoping Report – this is not the full EIA report, no impacts have been assessed at this stage (27 June 2014, 12h02; 15 July 2014, 14h27); and ✓ The scoping report is 153 pages of A4 in length. Furthermore we have prepared a 15 page executive summary and translated this into Afrikaans for assistance with the review. <p>We do not believe 47 days is an unreasonable amount of time to consider this amount of information. We have also undertaken public meetings and focus group meetings attended by over 100 I&APs to talk them through the process and scoping report contents.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. As per your email dated 15 July 2014 (16h41 & 17h49), we understand you no longer require additional hard copies as per our office in the correspondence. 3. May we also reiterate we are not able to comment on Ishwati Emoyeni. The Umsinde Emoyeni EIA process will undertake a cumulative assessment of the Ishwati Emoyeni project during the Umsinde Emoyeni EIA stage. To date this has not yet been undertaken as we are only in the scoping phase (please review the attached process flow chart of the EIA process) therefore this is not available for review at this time. <p>The approach to the assessment of the cumulative impacts of Ishwati Emoyeni was</p>	
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		<p>WEF. Comments will be included in a Adendum Report to the FEIR following which it will be re-submitted to the Department Environmental Affairs (DEA). The Karoo News Group on behalf of its members has now registered as I&AP for the Emoyeni Ishwati WEF.</p> <p>4. The outstanding questions are in the email 14/07/2014. We again request closing date for comments to the draft Scoping Report be a further 40 days and for no other reason other than to take in all the information for now both Ishwati and Umsinde. You will agree it is a lot of information and there will be a cumulative impact as a result of 2X adjacent industrial WEF of this scale so we hope you can agree to this to give us sufficient time.</p> <p>Further to my email from earlier today (email sent on 2014/07/15 at 16h41) which I have copied in for the benefit of others. All comments including mine and those referred to in your email below (FirstAfrica) can now be dealt with via the Karoo News Group (details below). As mentioned KNG will be making a collective submission as well-this will streamline the process however there will be I&AP members who will make individual comments and submissions. We then look forward to your response on the issue raised by FirstAfrica.</p> <p>Karoo News Group – Karoo Nuus Group - KNG Tel 0603341648 – email karoonegroup@gmail.com</p> <p>We support the Great Karoo Conservancy - Save the Karoo's Southern Great Escarpment</p>	<p>outlined in the email response issued on the 15 July 2014, 14h27 and to reiterate: The EIA for Umsinde Emoyeni will include the cumulative assessment of the following scenarios:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Umsinde Emoyeni Phase 1; ✓ Umsinde Emoyeni Phase 2; ✓ Umsinde Emoyeni Phase 1 and 2; ✓ Umsinde Emoyeni Phase 1 and 2 plus Ishwati Emoyeni. <p>Consideration of other developments will also need to be considered in the cumulative assessment. Each specialists study will define the cumulative projects considered.</p> <p>4. Please note that we are preparing a response to your email dated 14 July 2014 with outstanding questions, this will be sent to you shortly.</p>	
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			The Karoo Matters. Save Paper don't Print, Save the Rhinos and our Blue Cranes		
Wayne Rubidge - Zoetvlei	2014/08/11	Email	<p>Thank you. There are however other points in the email sent: 04 July 2014 03:33 PM that need comment from you.</p> <p>Below is some comments to yours.</p> <p>Mr McDonald had the following to say:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✎ The issue of the impact of a wind energy facility on land values (and all other concerns raised by I&APs as part of the Public Participation Process) will be addressed as part of the specialist studies for the EIA. WE SEE NO DIRECT REFERENCE IN THE DSR THAT IS IN LINE WITH THE DEVELOPERS STATEMENT. PLEASE SPECIFY? <p>Then in the IRR you say:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✎ Property Values Globally, there is little evidence of property values in the areas surrounding a wind farm decreasing due to wind farms. On the contrary, international research has found no impact or even a positive impact on property values near wind farms. Articles are available online. THIS APPEARS TO BE YOUR ONLY RESPONSE. WE REFUTE THIS AS THERE ARE AN EQUAL NUMBER OF UP TO DATE REPORTS SAYING A TURBANISED LANDSCAPE NEGATIVELY EFFECTS PROPERTY VALUES IN A NATURAL AREA. WHY ARE YOU NOT OPEN TO THIS. WHY ARE YOU DEFERRING THIS ISSUE. 	<p>EIMS Response: Good afternoon Mr. Rubidge;</p> <p>Thank you for your comments in relation to the Umsinde Emoyeni Draft Scoping Report. Please find attached to this email a response from the Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP) to your comments (Please refer to Appendix R for the attachment).</p> <p>As you are aware we have been responding to comments throughout the scoping consultation period by reply of email. In the case of Karoo New Group (KNG) we have received several emails at the end of the Draft Scoping Report commenting period. It is our understanding from these emails you do not feel all your comments have been responded to despite our efforts to respond to all the points raised. We believe that the standard form of email conversation is not best suited to dealing with these queries and have developed a new register format for the comments of KNG to allow both parties to track the specific queries and comments for the Umsinde Emoyeni EIA process. This will be used for all KNG correspondence moving forwards.</p> <p>The tracker is attached and presents a response to each of your specific queries on the Umsinde Emoyeni project.</p> <p>The EIA team have taken time to fully consider comments from yourself and the other I&AP's in a comprehensive manner. This has of course taken some time to ensure all issues have been fully considered, with the input of the different specialist where needed, and hence has taken longer than initially anticipated.</p>	<p>General</p> <p>Public Participation Process</p> <p>Property Values</p>

			<p>In the DSR the Land and Agriculture specialist says:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Nature of Impact: Direct impacts would be the destruction of agricultural potential from construction of new facilities on the site, although the potential for this impact is considered to be low due to the low agricultural potential of the Proposed Development Site. <u>Significant indirect and/or cumulative impacts are not considered</u> probable due to the low potential on the Proposed Development Site and hence are scoped out of the EIA . THERE IS NO MENTION OF LAND VALUES IN THE, THE IMPACTS OF LAND VALUES. IS THIS THE SPECIALIST THAT WILL BE PROVIDING INPUT INTO LAND VALUE YOU REFER TO. THE CUMULATIVE IMPACT IS SCOPED OUT OF THE EIA. HOW CAN THIS BE POSSIBLE, OR OBJECTIVE? <p>In the Visual report:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Landscape Integrity Visual quality is enhanced by the scenic or rural quality and intactness of the landscape, as well as lack of other visual intrusions. The study area is at present generally intact with few visual intrusions, including manmade vertical and linear features. He further goes to say there will be a cumulative impact assessment. <u>We thank the Visual Specialist for his objective report.</u> 	<p>This response will be included in the Final Scoping Report which is due for issue to the Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA) imminently. Should you have any queries on the Final Scoping Report you can address these to the DEA directly. The next commenting period for the Umsinde Emoyeni project will be in relation to the Draft EIA Report. We would again like to emphasize that at that time we will invite you for a focus group meeting to discuss the Project in person, which will assist in addressing additional comments and concerns.</p> <p>In some of your correspondence we note that you copy in a large number of individuals, including some of the specialists appointed by the EAP to compile specialist reports as a part of the EIA process. In your email of 4 July, for example, you express strong views about the content of some of the specialist studies, suggest there are "shortcomings" in them, address particular specialists by name and advocate conclusions to be drawn by them and their colleagues.</p> <p>As you must be aware, the EIA Regulations require persons compiling specialist reports or undertaking specialist processes, to be independent, have relevant expertise and perform their work objectively. The specialists working on the EIA process for the proposed Umsinde facility have been appointed because of their expertise and independence and are aware of the requirement to perform their work without influence or bias. By including the specialists in your correspondence in which you express strong views against the proposed wind farm, question their competency and suggest conclusions to be drawn, among other things, you are placing the specialists in a difficult position, with the potential to compromise the integrity and objectivity of their reports and of the EIA process.</p>	
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		<p>RICHEST AND DIVERSE IN THE WORLD FOR TORTOISE SPECIES. IT IS ACCEPTED THAT LARGE INDUSTRIAL WEF EFFECT TORTOISES. WE ARE ASKING FOR A SPECIALIST STUDY ON TORTOISES ALONE LIKE THE BATS LIKE BEING DONE IN THE USA.</p> <p>PROF SAMPSON HIGHLIGHTED THE NEED FOR TORTOISE STUDY LET ALONE WEF IMPACTS IN THE ZVAP PROJECT. IN OTHER WORDS WE NO KNOW TORTOISES ARE IMPACTED. WE KNOW THERE ARE TORTOISES, THIS REQUIRES MORE RESEARCH THAN JUST PART OF A GENERAL ECOLOGICAL STUDY. WE WILL SHOW THERE RE OTHER INVERTRABRATE SPECIES THAT ARE ALSO ENDEMIC ND NOT ELUDED TO ANYWHERE.</p> <p>WE UNDERSTAND THAT BUT WE ARE STILL QUESTIONING THE MOTIVATION FOR THE NEEDS AS PER DSR. IT IS A PRO DEVELOPMENT REPORT! THERE ARE OTHER NEEDS THAT APPEAR TO BE MORE IMPORTANT.</p> <p>WHO WAS THE AUTHOR OF THE PARAGRAPH ON NEEDS IN CHAPTER 2. IT CERTAINLY IS NOT OBJECTIVE AND IS MORE OF A MOTIVATION LETTER FOR A WEF. WHO COMPILED THAT?</p> <p>The WHOLE OF 2.8.1 IS BIASED TO A PRO WEF DEVELOPMENT. WHAT ABOUT OUR OTHER BIODIVERSITY, SENSE OF PLACE ETC. OBLIGATIONS.</p> <p>WE ALSO SEE THIS STATEMENT</p>		
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			<p>✎ Whilst no WEF development will occur on site, other wind energy projects go ahead as planned for other areas locally – WHICH DEVELOPMENTS ARE BEING REFERRED TO THE ECONOMIC NEED IS QUESTIONED AS WELL AS THERE ARE NO REAL LONG TERM JOB CREATION BENEFITS - THE GROWING TOURISM WILL BE BETTER OVER 20 YEARS THAN A HANDFULL OF WEF EMPLOYEES.</p>		
First Africa	2014/07/06	Email	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. BLUE CRANES IN THE GREAT KAROO UNDER THREAT – PLEASE REGISTER as a I&EP it is not too late (see attached) 2. South Africa is the 3rd most biologically diverse country in the world. It is a special place and it is an international priority area for conservation of species. We have a long list of red data species with the best known being the Rhino and our national bird, The Blue Crane. Not long ago there were the same number of blue cranes and rhino on the planet of around 100 000. Today both species have critical low numbers of around 20 000. It is criminal to kill a Rhino and it is criminal to kill a Blue Crane. There are 15 Crane species in the world and SA is home to 3 of them. The Blue Cranes last surviving stronghold in their natural habitat is in the Karoo and particularly the mountainous areas of the Great Escarpment at Winlab's project. 3. One such priority area is the greater Murraysburg area where Windlab (Windlab Systems of Australia) are erecting what is planned to be the world's largest industrial wind farm. In fact 2 X industrial wind farms. 	<p>EIMS Response:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. I&AP's can be registered throughout the EIA process up to the finalisation of the Final EIA Report. The final date for registering will be communicated to all I&APs as the EIA process progresses, but it is currently months away. 2. The avifauna specialist has provided the following information on the Blue Crane: There are three species of crane in South Africa one of which, the Blue Crane, occurs regularly around Murraysburg. The Blue Crane is a priority species which should be considered when assessing a WEF development, and as such it was identified in the avifaunal scoping report. The species has also been recorded during monitoring surveys, primarily on the ground with 25 flights recorded during the first two seasonal surveys. This may indicate that this species would be less susceptible than others to collision with turbines, however, any predictions of collision risk can only be made after all data from all four seasonal surveys has been analysed. This will be done during the EIA phase of the study. 	<p>Avifauna</p> <p>Public Participation Process</p> <p>General</p>

			<p>The biggest in Africa and the world. See how our eagles and cranes will be killed: (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8NAAzBArYdw).</p> <p>It is unimaginable what the bird mortalities and particularly big birds such as raptors and cranes will be on the 2 x Karoo escarpment industrial wind farms over 20 years. The area is also full of wind highways for raptors and is home to other red data species all of which are threatened by this massive industrial wind farm now rushed into its scoping phase.</p> <p>The Windlab Emonyi Ishwati and Umsinde Wind Farms will have over 360 winds turbines and some of the biggest in the world of up to 180 meters high.</p> <p>4. It would be criminal to continue the WEF as it is an acceptable fact wind farms kill Blue Cranes and big birds. Blue Cranes are protected. It is a criminal offence to do something that will intentionally lead to the death of our Black and White Rhinos or our national bird The Blue Crane. We demand a thorough AVI FAUNA study and ask that Bradley Gibbons affiliated to the EWT Karoo Crane Working Group add his comment</p> <p>5. We also demand the EIA process be re-opened for the Emonyenii Ishwati Avi fauna study. – The entire area is regarded as a particularly sensitive environment. News flash*****UTILITY COMPANY SENTENCED IN WYOMING FOR KILLING PROTECTED BIRDS AT WIND PROJECTS</p>	<p>3. This statement is incorrect. At present the largest onshore wind farm in the world is understood to be the Alta Wind Energy Centre in California, United States which currently has an installed capacity of 1,320 MW, with an expected total capacity of 1548 MW upon completion (http://www.energy.ca.gov/tour/alta/ accessed 13th July 2014). The USA has numerous other facilities over 500 MW in capacity. The combined installed capacity of the Umsinde Emoyeni Phase 1 and 2, and neighbouring Ishwati Emoyeni would be up to 441 MW. A number of other wind energy projects in South Africa have already received environmental authorisations for more than the total of these three proposed projects in combination. It should be noted all applications for each 147 MW phase are being lodged on an individual basis. A cumulative assessment of impacts will be undertaken for these developments. It is not the case that if one project is granted environmental authorisation to proceed this will result in all three being granted environmental authorisation. It should be noted the EIA team including the Environmental Assessment Practitioner (Arcus Consulting) have experience on working on large scale wind energy projects including multi-phase offshore development up to 1.1 Giga Watts (GW) in capacity. In Europe the Whitelee Onshore Wind Farm in Scotland has a capacity of 539 MW (http://www.whiteleewindfarm.co.uk/about_windfarm?nav accessed 13th July 2014).</p> <p>4. It is not disputed that wind turbines and powerlines have the potential to harm birds through collision. This is a fundamental part of the EIA process as noted in Chapter 8 of the</p>	
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			<p>WASHINGTON – Duke Energy Renewables Inc., a subsidiary of Duke Energy Corp., based in Charlotte, N.C., pleaded guilty in U.S. District Court in Wyoming today to violating the federal Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) in connection with the deaths of protected birds, including golden eagles, at two of the company's wind projects in Wyoming. This case represents the first ever criminal enforcement of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act for unpermitted avian takings at wind projects. Duke Energy Renewables Inc. failed to make all reasonable efforts to build the projects in a way that would avoid the risk of avian deaths by collision with turbine blade. According to papers filed with the court, commercial wind power projects can cause the deaths of federally protected birds in four primary ways: collision with wind turbines, collision with associated meteorological towers, collision with, or electrocution by, associated electrical power facilities, and nest abandonment or behavior avoidance from habitat modification.</p> <p>6. Wind farm noise does harm sleep and health, say scientists. Wind farm noise causes “clear and significant” damage to people’s sleep and mental health, according to the first full peer-reviewed scientific study of the problem. Wind Turbine Disease Wind Turbine Syndrome is the clinical name given to the constellation of symptoms experienced by many (though not all) people who find themselves living near industrial wind turbines. See our eagles and cranes will</p>	<p>Draft Scoping Report. However it should be considered as appropriate to each development that the level of impacts will differ on a site by site basis. Please see below a quote from the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB). Whilst a UK based organisation, the RSPB is internationally recognised for their protection of birds. Furthermore the UK has had a large established wind energy industry with operational wind energy facilities being monitored. As such we feel the advice of such international bodies is of relevance in South Africa as well. The RSPB states: “Some poorly sited wind farms have caused major bird casualties, particularly at Tarifa and Navarra in Spain, and the Altamont Pass in California. At these sites, planners failed to consider adequately the likely impact of putting hundreds, or even thousands, of turbines in areas that are important for birds of prey. Thorough environmental assessment is vital to ensure that all ecological impacts are fully identified prior to consent of any development. If wind farms are located away from major migration routes and important feeding, breeding and roosting areas of those bird species known or suspected to be at risk, it is likely that they will have minimal impacts. We are involved in scrutinising hundreds of wind farm applications every year to determine their likely wildlife impacts, and we ultimately object to about 6% of those we engage with, because they threaten bird populations. Where developers are willing to adapt plans to reduce impacts to acceptable levels we withdraw our objections, in other cases we robustly oppose them. However, there are gaps in knowledge and understanding of the impacts of wind energy,</p>	
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			<p>be killed: (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8NAAzBArYdw).</p> <p>Farm Animal Deaths with an increasing number of industrial-scale wind turbines around the world, numerous reports are surfacing that noise, infrasound and stray voltage (dirty energy) may be harmful to livestock and wildlife. In Wisconsin, a farmer who tells his story on YouTube describes losing 19 cattle that died or had to be put down because they were "pretty much lifeless." In addition, 30 calves have died. The farm is within a mile of a wind facility. One cow removed from the site and moved elsewhere later recovered, the farmer stated.</p>	<p>so the environmental impact of operational wind farms needs to be monitored - and policies and practices need to be adaptable, as we learn more about the impacts of wind farms on birds".(https://www.rspb.org.uk/ourwork/policy/windfarms/; Accessed 14/07/2014) The EIA for avifauna is being undertaken by a team with both South African bird expertise, led by Andrew Pearson formerly of the Endangered Wildlife Trust (EWT), in collaboration with Michael Armitage of Arcus who has been conducting collisions risk assessment and planning of wind energy facilities in the UK for many years. This potential impact will be given robust consideration in the EIA and associated design of the wind energy facility. In the scoping report reference is made to 2 blue cranes in the 93 000ha study area. Yet a few phone calls on one day to landowners in the adjacent area counted in excess of 350 on only 5 separate farms. In an area less than 30 kilometres away there are recordings of 2000 in 2011 on one particular property. There are only 20 000 left in the world. Blue Cranes are the most range restricted of all 15 cranes species. Non-breeding and breeding pairs of Blue Cranes are threatened, endemic species, highly susceptible to collision mortality on power lines, proven susceptible to turbine collision mortality, and possibly susceptible to disturbance and displacement by the operating wind farm. It is unclear where the commenter has read the scoping report refers to 2 blue cranes? Can you please provide a specific reference so we can understand the context and respond appropriately. Table 8.2 of the Draft Scoping Report clearly states that 25 flights of Blue Crane have been recorded</p>
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				<p>during the site surveys to date (this is the spring and summer survey). It should be noted this is the number of flights and not the individual birds. This is the data from the flight activity surveys, it is not the total number of cranes on the site at the time. For a full understanding of the survey methods and its findings to date please read Chapter 8 of the Draft Scoping Report available at www.eims.co.za. Table 8.1 of the Draft Scoping Report which refers to the WEF site only (excluding the grid connection site) states that the South African Bird Atlas Project (SABAP)-1 recorded the following numbers of Blue Crane over the survey period of 1986-1997. Note 3123DB, 3123DD, 3124CA and 3124CC are the squares from this project which cover the WEF site. [extract of page 93 of Draft Scoping Report]</p> <p>Table 8.1: Raptors and Priority species[1]recorded in the quarter degree squares covering the WEF Site[2].</p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>Species:</td> <td>Crane, Blue</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Status</td> <td>V [Vulnerable]</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Report rate (%):</td> <td>3123DB - 0 3124CA - 40 3123DD - 20</td> </tr> </table>	Species:	Crane, Blue	Status	V [Vulnerable]	Report rate (%):	3123DB - 0 3124CA - 40 3123DD - 20
Species:	Crane, Blue									
Status	V [Vulnerable]									
Report rate (%):	3123DB - 0 3124CA - 40 3123DD - 20									

[1] Retief, E.F, Diamond, M., Anderson, M.D., Smit, Dr. H.A., Jenkins Dr. A. & Brooks, M. 2011. Avian Wind Farm Sensitivity Map for South Africa: Criteria and Procedures Used.

[2] Harrison, J.A., Allan, D.G., Underhill, L.G., Herremans, M., Tree, A.J., Parker, V & Brown, C.J. (eds). 1997. *The atlas of southern African birds*. Vol. 1&2. BirdLife South Africa: Johannesburg.

				<table border="1"> <tr> <td></td> <td>3124CC - 16</td> </tr> </table> <p>[Note: Report rates are essentially percentages of the number of times a species was recorded in the square, divided by the number of times that square was counted. It is important to note that these species were recorded in the entire quarter degree square in each case and may not actually have been recorded on the proposed site for this study.]</p> <p>Table 8.3 of the Draft Scoping Report presents the SABAP-1 data for the grid site. The SABAP-1 data was collected in quarter degrees grid squares (QGS), with the Grid Connection Site covering the following squares: 3123DB, 3123DD, 3123DA, 3123DC, 3123CB, and 3123CD. Table 8.3: Raptors and Priority species[3]recorded in the quarter degree squares covering the Grid Connection Site[4].</p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>Species</td> <td>Crane, Blue</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Status *</td> <td>V [Vulnerable]</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Report rate (%) **</td> <td>3123DB 3123DD – 20 3123DA 3123DC</td> </tr> </table>		3124CC - 16	Species	Crane, Blue	Status *	V [Vulnerable]	Report rate (%) **	3123DB 3123DD – 20 3123DA 3123DC
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				<table border="1"> <tr> <td>3123CB</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3123CD - 9</td> </tr> </table> <p>** Report rates are essentially percentages of the number of times a species was recorded in the square, divided by the number of times that square was counted. It is important to note that these species were recorded in the entire quarter degree square in each case and may not actually have been recorded on the proposed site for this study.</p> <p>Blue Crane is a species being considered in the avifauna assessment. It is wholly acknowledged that avifauna, including Blue Crane are susceptible to impacts from overhead powerlines and collisions with turbines. For this reason the scope i.e. how the EIA will be performed, includes the modelling and assessment of the potential impacts on Blue Crane and other susceptible species using international best practice. Birdlife South Africa's position on renewable energy is stated: At BirdLife South Africa we acknowledge the predicted shortfall of energy supply versus demand. We also recognise the need to include more renewable energy in our energy mix if the threat of climate change is to be reduced. BirdLife South Africa therefore supports the responsible development of a renewable energy industry in South Africa.</p> <p>Unfortunately, if poorly planned, renewable energy facilities can have negative impacts on birds and the environment. BirdLife South Africa is helping to minimise these impacts.</p> <p>1 Retief, E.F, Diamond, M., Anderson, M.D., Smit, Dr. H.A., Jenkins Dr. A. & Brooks, M.</p>	3123CB	3123CD - 9
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				<p>2011. Avian Wind Farm Sensitivity Map for South Africa: Criteria and Procedures Used.</p> <p>2 Harrison, J.A., Allan, D.G., Underhill, L.G., Herremans, M., Tree, A.J., Parker, V & Brown, C.J. (eds). 1997. The atlas of southern African birds. Vol. 1&2. BirdLife South Africa: Johannesburg.</p> <p>3 Retief, E.F, Diamond, M., Anderson, M.D., Smit, Dr. H.A., Jenkins Dr. A. & Brooks, M. 2011. Avian Wind Farm Sensitivity Map for South Africa: Criteria and Procedures Used.</p> <p>4 Harrison, J.A., Allan, D.G., Underhill, L.G., Herremans, M., Tree, A.J., Parker, V & Brown, C.J. (eds). 1997. The atlas of southern African birds. Vol. 1&2. BirdLife South Africa: Johannesburg.</p> <p>[Available online at: http://www.birdlife.org.za/conservation/terrestrial-bird-conservation/birds-and-renewable-energy (accessed 13th July 2014)].</p> <p>This is also a similar position of international avifauna institutions such as the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds whose statement is: Climate change poses the single greatest long-term threat to birds and other wildlife, and the RSPB recognises the essential role of renewable energy in addressing this problem. [Available online at: https://www.rspb.org.uk/ourwork/policy/windfarms/ (Accessed 13th July 2014)].</p> <p>Wind energy facilities assist in combating climate change which is a recognised threat to avifauna. However careful planning and assessment of impacts of each development in its own right is required and this is being</p>
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				<p>undertaken through the EIA process. South Africa has the obligation to protect these species, and no self-proclaimed "saviours of the planet" have the right to place itself above international and our world-class conservation laws. On a West Coast wind farm of Windlab it is anticipated that up to 200 blue cranes will be killed in its life expectancy.</p> <p>Windlab was involved in the West Coast One project with Moyeng Energy (the developer). Windlab assisted Moyeng with the wind resource, energy assessment and development design aspects of the project, but was not involved in the development approvals and environmental assessment. The final bird impact and mitigation report has been requested from Moyeng Energy so that the project team can review the information presented, but it is not clear how your comment relates to the Umsinde Emoyeni project.</p> <p>The bird surveys at the site will be performed for 12 months in line with the EWT and Birdlife best practice guidelines (Jenkins A.R., van Rooyen. C.S, Smallie. J.J, Anderson. M.D & Smit.H.A, 2011. Available online at http://www.ewt.org.za/programmes/WEP/pdf/B AWESG_Monitoring%20guidelines_Version%201_04042011.pdf (Accessed 13th July 2014). The scoping stage has started as inputs from both this and the 12 months bat survey on site are collating data to enable the process to begin as per the EIA timeline. The design of this survey has been performed in line with international best practice to feed into collision risk modelling so that the potential for bird impacts can in fact be modelled in a quantifiable manner.</p>	
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The project description for the EIA provides the MAXIMUM parameters for the project. The maximum number of turbines for each phase of the proposed Umsinde Emoyeni project is 98 turbines each, and the neighbouring proposed Ishwati Emoyeni project is for up to a maximum of 80 turbines (giving a total (maximum) of 276 turbines for the three projects when combined). This is the method by which EIA is performed. It is not correct however to present the case that there will be 360 turbines of 180 m in height. The table below presents two example potential scenarios for each phase of the Umsinde Emoyeni development (which has 2 phases).

By reviewing this table you can see that the EIA project description is assessing a worst case scenario which is in actually unrealistic. It is however the approach of EIA to use the worst case.

Parameter	Scenario 1 (GW87 example)	Scenario 2 (AW125 example)	Project Description
WEF Installed Capacity	147 MW	147 MW	Maximum 147 MW
Number of Turbines	98	49	Maximum 98 turbines

				Capacity of Turbine	1.5 MW	3 MW	1.5 - 3.5 MW
				Height of Turbine to Tip (Tip height)	129 m	163 m	Maximum 180 m
				Height of Nacelle (Hub height)	85 m	100 m	Maximum 120 m
				Blade length	44 m	63 m	Maximum 65 m
				<p>EWT are already registered stakeholders on the project however we will ensure Bradley Gibbons is also added to the I&AP database. Can you please provide full contact details including address, telephone and email.</p> <p>5. We are unable to comment on the Ishwati Emoyeni WEF as we are only the EAP on Umsinde Emoyeni. The Umsinde Emoyeni EIA will conduct a cumulative assessment of the Ishwati Emoyeni project along with the 2 phases of the Umsinde Emoyeni WEF. The Final Environmental Impact Report for Ishwati Emoyeni has already been published and the comment period completed, however, if you wish to contact the EAP for this project please contact:</p> <p>Samantha Naidoo – CSIR Project Manager Tel: 031 242 2397 Fax: 031 261 2509</p>			

				<p>Email:snaidoo5@csir.co.za and Ismail Banoo – CSIR Project Leader Tel: 031 242 2378 Fax: 031 261 2509 Email: ibanoo@csir.co.za</p> <p>The EIA team are aware of this prosecution from 2013 and agree with the application of the legislation applicable in the locality of the project which has been introduced for the safeguarding of the environment. We would however draw your attention to the statement:</p> <p>Duke Energy Renewables Inc. failed to make all reasonable efforts to build the projects in a way that would avoid the risk of avian deaths by collision with turbine blade.</p> <p>As stated above the EIA team consists of South African and International specialists in regard to avifauna. We are conducting an avifauna survey of the site in line with the South African guidelines (Jenkins et al.) and giving regard to international best practice. The findings of this study will feed into the wind facility design process and it is envisaged collision risk modelling, in line with international best practice, will be undertaken to assist in the design process. Please provide a reference to the peer-reviewed academic article which proves wind turbine syndrome to be a recognised clinical condition.</p> <p>6. To our knowledge to date, Wind Turbine Syndrome is an alleged condition suffered by people living close to turbines. It was described in a self-published book by paediatrician Dr Nina Point based on a sample size of 23 people who responded specifically to an advert specifically for people that attributed their health problems to wind farms. It has not been properly peer-reviewed or published in any credible journal and has largely been</p>	
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				<p>discredited based on evidence we have reviewed.</p> <p>A 2009 expert panel review examined the possible adverse health effects of those living close to wind turbines. Their report concluded that wind turbines do not directly make people ill but that "A small minority of those exposed report annoyance and stress associated with noise perception... [however] annoyance is not a disease." [http://www.canwea.ca/pdf/talkwind/Wind_Turbine_Sound_and_Health_Effects.pdf]; Accessed 14th July 2014]</p> <p>In July 2010, Australia's National Health and Medical Research Council reported that "there is no published scientific evidence to support adverse effects of wind turbines on health". [https://www.nhmrc.gov.au/_files_nhmrc/publications/attachments/new0048_public_statement_wind%20turbines_and_health.pdf]; Accessed 14th July 2014].</p> <p>Please provide reference to credible research stating this to be the case. We attach photographs taken by the ecological team of the EAP company Arcus. These have been taken ad hoc through the course of our field work at operational wind energy facilities. No evidence has been seen of the effect described by you by any of our team of specialists in the field and we are unaware of any academic evidence from elsewhere of this issue. As a company Arcus have worked on over 200 wind energy developments and to date are yet to experience any issues relating to harm to grazing farm animals</p>	
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				grazing or being housed near to wind energy facilities	
Ida Cloete – Community member	2014/06/19	Email	I would like to be involved in the Windfarms in the Karoo!	This was noted by EIMS and included as part of the database.	Registration
Ida Cloete – Community member	2015/02/20	Email	<p>TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN</p> <p>I would like to inform you that our farms are very suitable area is for the following reasons:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The farms has no agricultural value. 2. Hectares of hard rock plates. 3. High ground where the wind blows regularly – look at Google – Windpoort is located on the farm. 4. The farm is in line of site from Three Sisters wind farm. 5. If you are really interested in the area as indicated - will you be able to investigate these areas! <p>Waiting to hear from you.</p>	<p>Good Day,</p> <p>Thank you for your comment relating to the Umsinde Emoyeni Project. The property for the proposed development has already been selected; the development will proceed on this chosen area.</p> <p>Your email was forwarded to the project applicant, Windlab for future consideration.</p>	General
A. Marais – Landowner	2014/05/16	Telephone	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. EIMS received a phone call from Dr. Marais stating that he was unable to access the Background Information Document (BID) on the EIMS website. 2. Dr. Marais provided EIMS with his email address in order for EIMS to send him a brief description of the instructions required in order to access the project documents on the EIMS website. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. EIMS informed Dr. Marais that they would check the EIMS website to make sure that the website was not off-line. EIMS asked Dr. Marais for his email address in order to provide him with instructions required in order to access the project documents on the EIMS website. 2. EIMS thanked Dr. Marais for responding to the project notification and provided him with brief instructions in order to access the project documentation. EIMS asked Dr. Marais to let them know should he have any further problems accessing the documentation or require assistance. 	Request for Information

Oscar Bans – Community member	2014/05/20	Telephone	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Mr. Oscar Bans phoned EIMS and he let them know that he saw the initial notification for the project and wanted to know how a company that would like to be involved for construction can take part. Mr. Bans also wanted to know if the registration dates (16th June 2014) deadline was for anyone who would like to be involved in construction. 2. Mr Bans provided EIMS with his email and telephone number for EIMS to contact him regarding his enquiry about the process of registering for construction services for this project 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. EIMS thanked Mr. Bans for responding to the initial notification and informed Mr. Bans that the deadline (16th June 2014) is for registering to be involved in the PPP for the Environmental Impact Assessment Process as part of the application for Environmental Authorisation (EA). EIMS let Mr. Bans know that this is the process that will determine if the project is approved by the Competent Authority (the Department of Environmental Affairs). Construction will take place only if the application for EA is approved. 2. EIMS informed Mr. Bans that they are not responsible or involved in the allocation of construction contracts and that this will be done by the EA Applicant. EIMS let Mr. Bans know that they will ask the Applicant on the process of registering on their construction service provider database. 3. Furthermore, EIMS let Mr. Bans know that this enquiry falls outside of the EIMS scope, however, they provided Mr. Bans with the contact details of the Applicant, Windlab to find out how to register to be included on their service providers database 	Request for Information
Lincoln Seoloane - Ministry of Water and Environmental Affairs	2014/05/20	Email	Mr. Lincoln Seoloane requested the location plan for the proposed project.	EIMS provided Mr. Seoloane with two location plans indicating the Wind Energy Facility (WEF) application study area and the Grid Connection study area.	Request for Information
Andrew September - Heritage Western Cape	2014/05/20	Email	Heritage Western Cape requires a Notification of Intent to Develop (NID) to be submitted for the proposed Umsinde Emoyeni Wind Energy Plant in Murraysburg, as required by Section 38 of the National Heritage Resource Act (Act 25	EIMS let Mr. Andrew September know that the Heritage team for the project is in the process of completing the Notification of Intent to Develop	Request for Information

Department of Cultural Affairs and Sports			of 1999). If this form has not already been submitted, please complete and submit the attached NID form and checklist, and send through one hardcopy and one digital copy (on a CD) along with any associated documentation to the HWC offices.	(NID) form which will be submitted to Heritage Western Cape.	
Bernice Labuschagne - Personal Assistant to Head of Ministry Mr. M du Randt Ministry of Local Government, Environmental Affairs and Development Planning	2014/06/04	Email	Ms. Bernice Labuschagne acknowledged receipt of the initial notification and she let EIMS know that the correspondence has been forwarded to the Department of Environmental Affairs and Development Planning.	EIMS thanked Ms. Bernice Labuschagne for responding to the project initial notification and for forwarding the information to the relevant Department. EIMS let Ms. Labuschagne know that comment was received from the Western Cape Department of Environmental Affairs and Development Planning.	Request for Information
Linda Biggs - Landowner	2014/06/08	Facsimile	Mrs. Linda Biggs requested 5 copies of the BID to be posted to her postal address that she provided.	EIMS informed Mrs. Biggs that her colleague (Mr. GP Kriel) would be passing through Murraysburg on the 14 th of June and that he will leave the requested BIDs at the Murraysburg Vleis Boere Co-Operative for Mrs. Biggs attention.	Request for Information
Linda Biggs - Landowner	2014/06/26	Telephone	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> EIMS phoned Mrs. Linda Biggs to follow up regarding the BID delivered to the Murraysburg Farmers Co-operative as requested by Mrs Biggs. The BIDs were delivered by EIMS to the farmers' Co-operative on Saturday (14 May 2014). EIMS told Mrs. Biggs that they would contact her the next day to verify that if she received the delivered BIDs. EIMS further asked Mrs. Biggs if she could assist with insight as a resident in the vicinity of the proposed study area, with suggestions regarding the best time to conduct public 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Mrs Biggs informed EIMS that she is still in Graaf Reinet but will be going to Murraysburg later today to collect the BIDs from the Farmers Co-operative. Mrs. Biggs asked for some time to think it over and discuss with some other community and farmers Association members and she will get back to EIMS. 	General

			meetings at the Murraysburg Town Hall. EIMS would like to accommodate the public as much as possible and arrange the public meeting on a day and time that suits most of the surrounding I&APs.		
Mrs. Biggs - Landowner	2014/06/26	Email	<p>It seems a good time to get people together for a meeting is 3pm.</p> <p>Adri Smit is the Secretary of the Murraysburg Farmers Association adri@doenit.net and she is a good contact for most things, especially letting people know about meetings, circulating, etc.</p> <p>Please let me know if I can help in any other way.</p>	EIMS thanked Mrs. Biggs for the information regarding a good meeting time, and requested that Mrs. Biggs and Adri advice on a suitable day to hold a meeting.	General
William and Linda Biggs - Landowners	2014/06/12	Email	<p>1. Mr. and Mrs. Biggs were unable to read the BID because the print was small, had poor quality and thus making it almost difficult to read. In addition, Mr. and Mrs. Biggs were concerned that they were not given time to comment on the project, with the relevant information at their disposal to fully consider the implications of this project.</p>	<p>1. EIMS apologised to Mr. and Mrs Biggs that they found the booklet of the BID difficult to read. EIMS enclosed a new copy where the font size was increased.</p> <p>In addition, EIMS let Mr. and Mrs. Biggs know that the 30 day registration period for I&APs was for the initial registration. The EIA process will be ongoing for many months and the public would have many opportunities to comment on the proposed development when further information is available. EIMS advised Mr. and Mrs. Biggs that as registered I&APs on this project, they will be kept informed of the project progress and that comments on the proposed development are welcome.</p>	General
William and Linda Biggs - Landowners	2014/06/12	Email	Mr. and Mrs. Biggs's concerns at the stage of the project relate to visual impact, noise and ecological impact. Mr. and Mrs. Biggs noted that these concerns may change once they are more informed about the project.	EIMS let Mr. and Mrs Biggs know that their comments regarding visual, noise and ecological impacts were noted. EIMS informed Mr. and Mrs. Biggs that an Environmental Assessment practitioner (EAP), Jennifer Slack of Arcus Consulting, has been appointed to complete an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) for the	Noise Pollution

				<p>proposed project which will include consideration of the impacts noted.</p> <p>EIMS added that at present, a scoping report is being prepared to state what will be covered in the EIA process. This report will be made available to the public to comment and will provide further information on the impacts to be considered. Following this an EIA will be prepared to assess these impacts. The scoping and the EIA will be made available for public review and will provide further information on the impacts of the project.</p> <p>Furthermore, EIMS informed Mr. and Mrs. Biggs that all I&APs will be notified when these reports are available for preview and comment.</p>	
William and Linda Biggs - Landowners	2014/06/12	Email	Please include us in the group (Karoo Boerdery/ Karoo News Group) communications.	EIMS acknowledged receipt of Mr. and Mrs. Biggs' request to be included in all the Karoo News Group communications.	Communication
William and Linda Biggs - Landowners	2016/02/04	Public meeting	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Mrs Linda Biggs asked who undertakes the EIA process and by who are they paid 2. Mrs Linda Biggs then stated that independence is questionable when the EAP is paid by Windlab. 	1. Mr Ben Brimble from Windlab explained that an independent EAP, which is Arcus for this project, undertakes the EIA process and they are paid by Windlab.	EIA process.
William and Linda Biggs - Landowners	2016/02/04	Public meeting	Mrs Linda Biggs raised her concern regarding tourism and particularly agri-tourism which has the potential to develop in rural areas, and that no impact assessment of the proposed development on tourism/ agri-tourism was undertaken. Mrs Biggs also wanted to know if any assessment was done regarding the impact of the proposed development on the land prices/ value of affected and surrounding farms.	Ms Ashlin Bodasing from Arcus (the EAP) answered that the impact on tourism was assessed and is included in the Draft EIA Reports. Ms Bodasing also stated that the impact of the proposed development on land values was assessed during the scoping phase of the project and based on the findings of that assessment was not assessed further during the EIA phase. She added, that based on the Scoping phase assessment the competent authority did not ask for a further assessment to be undertaken.	Toursim; Land value

William and Linda Biggs - Landowners	2016/02/04	Public meeting	Mrs Linda Biggs stated that the short term benefits of the proposed development do not warrant long term price from the project.	This was noted by the EAP.	Benefits.
Linda Biggs Landowner	2016/02/23	Email	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Dear Ms Hughes, Would it be possible for you to email me the summary of the EIA as presented at the Murraysburg meeting on 4 February? Many thanks. 2. Dear Nobhule, The meeting was held on 4 Feb – a public meeting in the Murraysburg Town Hall. I would like the summary of the EIA as presented at that meeting. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. EIMS response: Good Morning Linda, Thank you for contacting us regarding the project. Please may you confirm if you are referring to the presentations from the recent public meeting, and if you would like both the presentation by the Applicant as well as the content on the EIA by the Environmental Assessment Practitioner. 2. Please find attached the presentation from the public meeting held on the 4th February 2016 at the Murraysburg Town Hall as requested. Please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any further queries or concerns. 	Request for Information
Linda Biggs Landowner	2016/02/24	Email	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Nobuhle I have not received anything from you as yet. Are you struggling to send it to this email?? Please try the following address linda.p@mweb.co.za. 2. Many thanks Nobuhle. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. EIMS response: Hi Linda, Please find attached the four executive summaries. Please let me know if you have received all five attachments (comment sheet, two wind energy facility executive summaries, and two grid connection executive summaries). Should you have any problems, I will be happy to assist. Have a good evening. 2. You are very welcome. This also serves to confirm receipt of your submitted comments and comment sheet, these have been forwarded to the Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP) for their response 	Request for Information.
Linda Biggs Landowner	2016/03/07	Email and Attachment	<p>Dear Nobuhle</p> <p>Attached please find my feedback.</p> <p>Thank you for sending all those documents.</p>	<p>EIMS response: Dear Linda,</p> <p>Thank you once again for yours submitted comments on the draft EIA reports for the Umsinde Emoyeni Wind Energy Facilities and associated Grid Connections Project. Please find attached the</p>	<p>Ecology'</p> <p>Employment</p> <p>Ground water</p>

		<p><i>Attachment:</i></p> <p>Umsinde Emoyeni Wind Energy Facility EIA</p> <p>Categorised Issues of Concern (selected issues only)</p> <p>Ecology What effect will the wind farm have on the bees? There is growing international (and national) concern over decreasing bee populations and it is possible that their sophisticated navigation system would be affected by the turbines.</p> <p>Employment It would seem that employment will be offered to unskilled labour (the main need in Murraysburg) for the few years of the development phase. However, no significant employment will be offered for the 25 year life-span of the project. The wind farm will decrease the eco/agri-tourism potential of the area - this is a significant price to pay for a few years of employment for unemployed Murraysburgers who would derive greater benefit from the long-term potential of tourism in the area.</p> <p>Groundwater Groundwater is the only constant source of water in this arid region (annual average rainfall 250mm). Have any tests been done to see if there is sufficient water, of adequate quality, available to build the wind farm? What impact will the use of groundwater have on the current use of water for stock water and irrigation?</p> <p>Need for the Project</p>	<p>responses from the project team to your comments (in bold).</p> <p>Ecology</p> <p>There has been concern raised about the potential impact of wind turbines on bees and other invertebrates. Such impact could potentially result from the noise and low frequency vibrations generated by turbines as well as the 'strobing' effect which occurs in the mornings and evenings when sunlight passes through turning turbine blades. In addition, as with all electrical infrastructure, the turbines and associated power lines would generate an electromagnetic field (EMF), which some people have speculated may impact fauna.</p> <p>However, there have are no published scientific studies that have documented a negative impact of noise, flicker or electromagnetic fields from wind turbines on bees or any other invertebrates. Although there is a lot of anecdotal reporting on the internet around the negative impacts of wind turbines, scientists have not been able to verify the majority of negative impacts that have been reported on fauna or human health. However, that is not to say that wind turbines have no impact on invertebrates. It has been documented (Long et al. 2011) that wind turbines attract certain insects apparently as a result of them being attracted to the turbines as a potential food source or due to the thermal qualities of the blades (for example insects may be attracted to dark colours in the winter when they are seeking warm sites).</p> <p>This in turn may be one of the reasons that both birds and bats are attracted to wind turbines as they encounter greater numbers of insects in</p>	<p>Need for the project</p> <p>Property value</p> <p>Safety and Security</p> <p>Visual</p>
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		<p>The following factors would mitigate against the need more power generation in SA, and hence the need for wind farms:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✍ improved efficiency of Eskom; ✍ a halt on the export of electricity from SA; ✍ the introduction of a system whereby small-time power producers would be able to feed electricity into the grid from their own solar panels or wind turbines, as happens in Europe; a concerted effort to cut wasteful electricity use through both education, and ✍ financial and legal incentives. <p>Property values What will the effect of a wind farm be on the property values of those farms that 'look onto' the facility?</p> <p>Safety and Security Will the development of the wind farm, and the numbers of labourers employed, have any effect on the safety and security of those living on surrounding farms. This is of concern in a time where the number of 'farm attacks' has increased significantly.</p> <p>Visual Impact The visual impact will be high in this, an area known for its unspoilt beauty and wilderness appeal. Development of wind farms, with their high visual impact, should be confined to areas of the country that are already developed in some way. It is tragic to put up such a facility in a beautiful, unspoilt area.</p> <p>Enjoy this:</p>	<p>their vicinity. The severity and extent of this impact is not known. However, it is likely that this impact would operate at a local level and would be extremely unlikely to cause broad-scale impacts on invertebrate populations. Although bees can become highly aggressive when noise is generated near to their hive, they also become habituated to noise and it is not uncommon to find bees living in noisy environments, so noise on its own is not likely to generate significant impacts on bees.</p> <p>Employment There are many benefits of the proposed development, such as the creation of a Community Trust as well as significant investments in social and economic initiatives in the area, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creation of jobs during both the construction and operation phases; • Support for and provision of basic health services; • Education, training and skills development; • Enterprise development support for SMMEs and women-owned vendors. <p>Groundwater If a project is awarded preferred bidder status a Water Use License Application ("WULA") would need to be obtained from the Department of Water and Sanitation before construction can begin. This application will take into account water use requirements for the site. The construction of a wind farm project requires</p>
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			<p>https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Tr__rRGWVgl</p> <p>I said Don't it always seem to go That you don't know what you've got 'Til it's gone They paved paradise And put up a parking lot</p> <p>They paved paradise And put up a parking lot They paved paradise And put up a parking lot</p> <p>"Big Yellow Taxi" by Joni Mitchell</p>	<p>relatively small amounts of water and almost no water during the operation period.</p> <p>Need for the Project</p> <p>Thank you for this. This will be included in the Issues and Response Report to be submitted to the Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA) for their consideration.</p> <p>Property values</p> <p>The Final Scoping Report (FSR) submitted to the DEA included the following:</p> <p>"Following on from the comments raised by the I&APs, a literature review was conducted by Arcus to investigate if the scope of the EIA should be expanded to include such an assessment. Only information from published academic reports, books and peer reviewed journals, was used (no newspapers, websites, etc.). The findings of the literature review are presented in Appendix 12.2 of this FSR and PSEIA and have been provided to I&APs where relevant in response to their query. Note that the literature review is not an impact assessment; it is a presentation of factual information available on an academic research level worldwide. No relevant literature is available for South Africa as there is no long term data available on the impacts of wind energy facilities on property values in South Africa.</p> <p>As such data was used from studies taken in other wind energy markets where wind energy facilities have been installed and their impacts studied over time. 19 sources of information were studied. Mixed findings were reported. The majority of the studies identified no long</p>	
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				<p>term negative trend in relation to wind energy development and property values. 4 reports did identify some negative impacts, however these were inconclusive in that there were many other factors to consider and identified impacts were highly localised. Additionally, where changes were noted, these were short in duration with property prices often recovering once the facility was operation, and impacts were associated with close proximity to the wind turbines (generally less than 5 miles (8 km)). A quantified, causative relationship between WEF development and a decrease in property values was not identified from the study.”</p> <p>Safety and Security</p> <p>This potential impact was assessed in the social impact assessment, and mitigation measures are provided. These include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✎ The proponent should enter into an agreement with the local farmers in the area whereby damages to farm property etc. during the construction phase proven to be associated with the construction activities for the WEF will be compensated for. The agreement should be signed before the construction phase commences; ✎ The contractors appointed by the proponent should provide daily transport for low and semi-skilled workers to and from the site. This would reduce the potential risk of trespassing on the remainder of the farm and adjacent properties; ✎ The proponent should establish a MF (see above) that includes local farmers and develop a Code of Conduct for construction workers. This committee 	
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				<p>should be established prior to commencement of the construction phase. The Code of Conduct should be signed by the proponent and the contractors before the contractors move onto site;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ The proponent should hold contractors liable for compensating farmers in full for any stock losses and/or damage to farm infrastructure that can be linked to construction workers. This should be contained in the Code of Conduct to be signed between the proponent, the contractors and neighbouring landowners. The agreement should also cover losses and costs associated with fires caused by construction workers or construction related activities (see below); ✓ The Environmental Management Programme (EMP) should outline procedures for managing and storing waste on site, specifically plastic waste that poses a threat to livestock if ingested; ✓ The contractors appointed by the proponent must ensure that all workers are informed at the outset of the construction phase of the conditions contained on the Code of Conduct, specifically consequences of stock theft and trespassing on adjacent farms. ✓ The contractors appointed by the proponent must ensure that construction workers who are found guilty of trespassing, stealing livestock and/or damaging farm infrastructure are dismissed and charged. This should be contained in the Code of Conduct. All dismissals must be in accordance with South African labour legislation; 	
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				<p>✎ The housing of construction workers on the site should be strictly limited to security personnel.</p> <p>Visual Impact</p> <p>The Visual Impact Assessment states:</p> <p>“Wind energy facilities of this nature are difficult to mitigate visually, the most important measures being the elimination or relocation, as well as micro-siting, of certain wind turbines.</p> <p>The 38km transmission powerline in Phase 1 also resulted in a high visual impact significance rating, but this could potentially be mitigated to medium significance by means of careful alignment to avoid scenic features and sensitive receptors.</p> <p>The construction phase of the WEF project, being short-term, was considered to have a low visual impact significance, but still requires the implementation of a number of mitigation measures.</p> <p>The conclusion of the Visual Assessment Report is that the visual impacts relating to the project could be mitigated to some extent by making adjustments to the layout plans for both Phases 1 and 2. To this end the mitigations in Tables 8 and 9, and the recommended buffers in Table 1 should be used as a guide. Furthermore, careful alignment of the 132kV transmission powerline is required to avoid scenic resources and sensitive receptors.”</p> <p>The Social Impact Assessment states:</p> <p>“Based on the findings of the SIA it is the opinion of the author that careful placement of</p>	
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				<p>the wind turbines in the western section of the site that borders onto Badsfontein would reduce the potential visual impact of the proposed WEF on the farm. In this regard it is recommended that the placement of wind turbines should be done so as to ensure that no wind turbines are visible from Badsfontein. This would also eliminate the visual impact associated with the red civil aviation safety lights at night. If this is done then the potential visual impact of the proposed WEF on Badsfontein will be effectively addressed. The proposed WEF may also attract visitors to the area. However, the significance of this positive impact is also likely to be minor.”</p>	
David Booyesen - Booyesen and Skuza Transport	2014/06/10	Facsimile	Mr. David Booyesen wanted to know of business opportunities that might arise of this project and he provided EIMS with his contact details to send information regarding the possible business opportunities.	<p>EIMS thanked Mr. Booyesen for his interest in the Umsinde Emoyeni Wind Energy Facility and associated grid infrastructure</p> <p>EIMS informed Mr. Booyesen that the project is currently in its very early stages of development. Opportunities for involvement in the project in terms of employment and procurement of services and goods will be investigated in detail by the project team when an economic development plan is drafted. However, this will only happen much later in the project development process once the EIA is complete and there is more certainty that the project is likely to proceed.</p> <p>EIMS let Mr. Booyesen know that they have passed on his contact details to the project proponents who will deal with all procurement at the appropriate stage in the project.</p>	Request for Information
David Booyesen - Booyesen and Skuza Transport	2014/08/04	Email	Can u please tell what time the project will begin? Do u have an estimated time. I'm in the transport business and will love to do business with u. I sent you an e- mail before but haven't received any feedback. Please we are very	<p>EIMS response: Thank you for your enquiry regarding the Umsinde Emoyeni project. At present we are conducting the first phase of the environmental impact assessment (EIA) process. From here we will proceed to the full EIA stage</p>	Job Opportunities

			excited about the project and the job opportunities.	<p>following which an application will be lodged with the Department of Environmental Affairs. If approved is received the project would then be bid to the Department of Energy. It is only after this stage that further information on the timeline will be available.</p> <p>We have logged your contact details as a registered Interested and Affected Party and these will be passed onto the development team.</p>	
Marius Booyesen	2014/06/11	Email	Mr. Marius Booyesen stated that Murraysburg is a small town and has scarce resources. By engaging in this project, he will be able to plough back to his community to alleviate poverty and create jobs opportunities for those in need.	This was noted by EIMS and included in the issues trail..	General
Ralph Skhuza – Community member	2014/06/10	Facsimile	Mr. Ralph Skhuza wanted to know of business opportunities that might arise of this project and he provided EIMS with his contact details to send information regarding any possible business opportunities.	EIMS informed Mr. Skhuza that opportunities for involvement in the project in terms of employment and procurement of services and goods will be investigated in detail by the project team when an economic development plan is drafted. However, this will only happen much later in the project development process once the EIA is complete and there is more certainty that the project is likely to proceed.	Request for Information
Jean Retief - J.P. Retief and Partners	2014/06/12	Email	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Mr. Jean Retief stated that animal life will be in danger. 2. Mr. Jean Retief stated that the proposed project will not generate extra employment in the long term. 3. Mr. Jean Retief stated that the added traffic on roads during the construction phase will lead to more crime. 4. Mr. Jean Retief is concerned that the Karoo landscape will never be the same 	<p>EIMS thanked Mr. Retief for completing the comment form in relation to the Umsinde Emoyeni Wind Energy Facility and associated grid infrastructure.</p> <p>EIMS noted that Mr. Retief's farm is located close to the project site and that he has concerns regarding the environmental impacts including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✎ Noise; ✎ Archaeology and palaeontology in a fossil rich area; 	<p>Ecology</p> <p>Employment</p> <p>Safety and Security</p> <p>Visual Impact</p> <p>Access Roads</p>

			<p>5. Mr. Jean Retief is concerned that roads all over the Karoo veld will be damaged during the construction phase of the proposed project.</p> <p>6. Mr. Jean Retief stated that the proposed study area is very rich in fossil resources.</p> <p>7. Mr. Jean Retief is concerned that the land value is likely to fall as a direct consequence of this proposed project.</p> <p>8. Mr. Jean Retief is concerned about the noise pollution that will be generated by the proposed project.</p> <p>9. Mr. Jean Retief is concerned that the property values are likely to fall as a direct consequence of this proposed project.</p> <p>10. Mr. Jean Retief has a farm close to the proposed study area and he is concerned about the environmental impacts that a project of this nature (a wind energy facility project) causes.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Compensation related to land value prices; ✓ Ecology due to danger to animals; ✓ Employment due to lack of long terms employment opportunities; ✓ Groundwater; ✓ Infrastructure associated with damage to roads in the locality; ✓ Land-use and planning in particular associated with project access tracks; ✓ Property values will decrease; ✓ Safety and security associated with more crime; ✓ Visual impacts on the Karoo landscape; and ✓ Waste management. <p>EIMS let Mr. Retief know that at present the project is in the early stages of conducting an environmental impact assessment (EIA) in terms of the National Environmental Management Act 1998 (NEMA). Through this process a team of specialist environmental professional have been formed, who will be responsible for identifying and assessing the potential environmental impact of the proposed project. The first stage in this process is "scoping". The scoping stage is when we identify the potential likely environmental impacts which may result from the proposed wind energy facility (WEF) and its associated grid infrastructure, and how we intend to assess these in the full EIA. In order to do this the EIA team, who are experienced in the local area and with this type of development, are consulted along with key stakeholders and the public. The Draft Scoping Report is currently being finalised and will be provided for public comment. As a registered Interested and Affected Party (I&AP) you will be notified of the issue of the Draft Scoping Report, and where copies can be located for you to view and how you can comment. These comments</p>	<p>Archaeology and Palaeontology</p> <p>Compensation</p> <p>Noise Pollution</p> <p>Property Value</p> <p>General</p>
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				<p>will then be taken into account in preparing the Final Scoping Report which will be submitted to the Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA) for consideration.</p> <p>The Draft Scoping Report will contain information on the existing baseline environment at the project site, and will outline the topics which will be considered in the EIA. The following list identifies these topics, their appropriate references in the Draft Scoping Report and the environmental specialist who will be compiling the study.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✎ Bird Impact Assessment and Monitoring: Arcus Consulting – Andrew Pearson /Chapter 8 of the Draft Scoping Report; ✎ Bat Impact Assessment and Monitoring: NSS Environmental – Kate McEwan/ Chapter 6 of the Draft Scoping Report; ✎ Terrestrial Ecological Impact Assessment (Flora and Fauna): Anchor Environmental – Simon Todd/ Chapter 5of the Draft Scoping Report; ✎ Archaeology and Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment: ACO Associates – Tim Hart / Chapter 10 of the Draft Scoping Report; ✎ Palaeontology Assessment: via ACO Associates – John Almond / Chapter 10 of the Draft Scoping Report; ✎ Aquatic/ Wetland Assessment: Scherman Colloty and Associates – Brian Colloty / Chapter 7 of the Draft Scoping Report; 	
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				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✎ Noise Impact Assessment: Enviro-Acoustic Research – Morne de Jager / Chapter 11 of the Draft Scoping Report; ✎ Visual Assessment Bernard Oberholzer Landscape Architects & Meirelles Lawson Burger Architects - Bernard Oberholzer and Quinton Lawson / Chapter 4 of the Draft Scoping Report; ✎ Soil and Agriculture: Terrasoils – Johan van de Waals / Chapter 9 of the Draft Scoping Report; and ✎ Social Impact Assessment: Tony Barbour Environmental Consulting and Research – Tony Barbour/ Chapter 12 of the Draft Scoping Report. <p>The Draft Scoping Report will be available for review for a period of 40 days, during which time EIMS will also be holding a number of public and focus group meetings in the area surrounding the project site. As a registered I&AP Mr. Retief will be notified of the location and timings of the public meetings and EIMS would gladly meet with Mr. Retief at this time to discuss any concerns that Mr. Retief may have on any of the topics raised.</p> <p>Following completion of the scoping phase, the EIA phase will be undertaken which will include the design of the facility within the project site, and the assessment of impacts. The findings of this stage will be presented in the Draft EIA Report. This will similarly be available for public comment prior to the development of the Final EIA Report. Once the</p>	
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				<p>Final EIA Report is completed this will be provided to the DEA for a decision to be made whether to grant Environmental Authorisation for the project. Comment on the Final EIA Report can also be made to the DEA directly.</p> <p>With regard to his specific areas of concern there are several issues which are not specifically referred to in the Draft Scoping Report and as such EIMS provided further information below. These are:</p> <p>1. Compensation:</p> <p>Landowners that are involved in the project receive compensation according to the lease agreements agreed with the proponent.</p> <p>The project will be submitted to the Department of Energy Renewable Energy Independent Power Producers Procurement Programme (REIPPPP). As a part of the REIPPPP, local communities are required to have a stake in the ownership of the project, which is either funded by financier or by the other equity shareholder (which is known as a 'free carry'). Community ownership of an operating wind farm is generally conducted via a broad-based community trust, with the surrounding communities as beneficiaries of the dividends paid to shareholders in the project company. The dividend revenue will be invested in community development initiatives which would be outlined in the community trust deeds. In addition, successful REIPPPP projects are required to invest a percentage of gross revenue in socio economic development and enterprise development, primarily in the surrounding local communities (currently defined in the REIPPPP as located within a 50 km radius of the wind farm's operational site). If the wind farm is constructed, a number of</p>
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				<p>critical community development programmes would be established that would have the potential to positively impact the communities near the wind facilities.</p> <p>2. Employment opportunities will not be provided in the long term:</p> <p>Wind energy can provide technical skills to South Africans and thus improve the technical skills profile of the country and the regions where wind energy facilities are located. Through the REIPPPP, developers' own initiatives and through support from international donor agencies, a number of young South Africans are being trained on various aspects of wind farm construction and operation.</p> <p>In addition, projects are required to indicate skills transfer and training initiatives as part of the economic development commitments of projects that are submitted under the REIPPPP.</p> <p>3. Groundwater</p> <p>The project applied for is a Wind Energy Facility (WEF) and its associated grid infrastructure. Water will be required during the construction phase for normal construction activities such as mixing concrete, and washing equipment; and during operation limited amounts of water will be required for servicing the on-site office facilities and for limited maintenance activities such as cleaning equipment. This water may be sourced from the local municipality or may utilise existing or new boreholes. A Water Use License Application (WULA) will be made to the Department of Water Affairs if necessary to permit the use of water for the project.</p>	
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				<p>more certainty that the project is likely to proceed.</p> <p>6. Safety and Security Safety and security will also be a consideration in the social impact assessment. Information available to date relating to this process is provided in Chapter 12 of the forthcoming Draft Scoping Report. 24 hours security will be provided on the site during construction and CCTV systems may also be installed.</p> <p>7. Waste management Whilst not a specific topic in the EIA this will be included for in the environmental management plan (EMP) which will be developed through the EIA process. Best practice construction techniques including the management of waste will be a requirement of the EMP which, if Environmental Authorisation is granted, will become legally binding.</p> <p>EIMS informed Mr. Retief that further comments and queries on the content of the Draft Scoping Report and subsequent reports to follow which you will be notified of as a registered I&AP.</p>	
Andrew Wallis – Landowner, Manager and Trustee/ Beneficiary	2014/06/14	Email	<p>Mr. Andrew Wallis stated that apart from the construction phase of the proposed project where dust will be of concern, he does not foresee any change in air the quality. Mr. Wallis stated that stakeholders who will be affected by this proposed development will be well compensated. Mr. Wallis stated that due to the fact this project will be undertaken by a responsible green company, he feels that the ecology will be carefully considered. Mr. Wallis stated the local economy will be uplifted significantly by this proposed development. Mr. Wallis conceded that the geology of the study</p>	<p>EIMS response: Thank you for completing the comment form in relation to the Umsinde Emoyeni Wind Energy Facility and associated grid infrastructure.</p> <p>We note you are currently living on the site and have registered your positive opinions on the proposed project. Windlab is a developer with extensive local and international experience, and is committed to developing environmentally sensitive wind energy projects. We would like to also inform you of the forthcoming publication of the Draft Scoping Report which is currently underway as an</p>	<p>Air Quality</p> <p>Compensation</p> <p>Ecology</p> <p>Economy</p> <p>Geology</p> <p>Ground-water</p>

		<p>area is well researched. Mr. Wallis stated that the proposed development will not negatively affect ground water.</p> <p>Mr. Wallis is concerned that the proposed development will open the doors to more intrusive and polluting industries. Mr. Wallis stated that the Umsinde Emoyeni WEF is a good idea and that it will bring a positive transformation to their community. Not just counting the short and long term employment directly involved in the construction and maintenance of the windfarm and its infrastructure, the spin off from the added income for farmers involved means more employment for fencers, builders, farm workers and earth moving operators as the farms improve and this will rebuild badly neglected infrastructure.</p> <p>Mr. Wallis further stated that South Africa desperately needs power and the town of Murraysburg needs jobs and investment. Mr Wallis stated that the proposed project will result in noise irritation during the construction phase. Mr. Wallis stated that since he lives on the proposed site, he feels that nuisance will be minimal and well compensated. Mr. Wallis stated that the proposed location of the development should not affect the value of the surrounding properties. However, the value of farms within the proposed site should increase.</p> <p>Mr. Wallis stated that the quality of life will be improved from the income that will be generated by employed workers on site. There will however be noise irritation and disturbance during the construction phase of the proposed development. Mr. Wallis stated that safety and security of the proposed study area will be vastly improved by 24 hour security that will be</p>	<p>initial stage of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) being undertaken for the project under the National Environmental Management Act 1998 (NEMA). As a registered Interested and Affected Party (I&AP) you will be notified of where and when this document is available for review and invited to provide further comment on its content should you wish.</p> <p>We understand you live in the area and have expressed interest in the community involvement and compensation. By means of further information the project will be submitted to the Department of Energy Renewable Energy Independent Power Producers Procurement Programme (REIPPPP). As a part of the REIPPPP, local communities are required to have a stake in the ownership of the project, which is either funded by financier or by the other equity shareholder (which is known as a 'free carry'). Community ownership of an operating wind farm is generally conducted via a broad-based community trust, with the surrounding communities as beneficiaries of the dividends paid to shareholders in the project company. The dividend revenue will be invested in community development initiatives which would be outlined in the community trust deeds. In addition, successful REIPPPP projects are required to invest a percentage of gross revenue in socio economic development and enterprise development, primarily in the surrounding local communities (currently defined in the REIPPPP as located within a 50 km radius of the wind farm's operational site). If the wind farm is constructed, a number of critical community development programmes would be established that would have the potential to positively impact the communities near the wind facilities.</p>	<p>Land-use and Planning</p> <p>Need for the Project</p> <p>Noise Pollution</p> <p>Nuisance</p> <p>Property Value</p> <p>Quality of Life</p> <p>Safety and Security</p> <p>Other Social Impacts</p> <p>Surface Water</p> <p>Visual Impact</p> <p>Waste Management</p> <p>General</p> <p>Green Energy</p>
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			<p>on site. Bursaries, improved sport and health facilities</p> <p>Mr. Wallis stated that surface water will not be affected by the proposed development. Mr. Wallis stated that vision will be affected as it will take getting used to the turbines but he does love the look of turbines. All the waste material that will be generated during the construction phase will be removed by the company. Mr. Wallis stated that the community trust promises to bring millions of rand for much needed community projects, schools, hospital, clinics, sport facilities, etc.</p> <p>As a landowner, Mr Wallis has found the company involved (Windlab) to be very open to all their concerns and have answered their queries. Mr. Wallis found Windlab's willingness to go an extra mile and avoid negative environmental consequences and to do their best to rehabilitate disturbed area very commendable. The added security for all living near the facility was also very reassuring as the farm will have security team and CCTV.</p>	<p>We note your comment with regard to potential concern relating to construction dust and noise. This will be included in the environmental management plan (EMP) which will be developed through the EIA process. Best practice construction techniques including the management of waste will be a requirement of the EMP which, if Environmental Authorisation is granted, will become legally binding.</p> <p>In addition we acknowledged your comment regarding concern about the project opening the door for other industries. The requirements of the NEMA strictly can only grant permission for the project applied for, and assessed through the EIA process. The project has been described on the Background Information Document, the application forms submitted to the Department of Environmental Affairs, and in Chapter 2 of the forthcoming Draft Scoping Report. The project is for the construction and operation of a wind energy facility and its associated grid infrastructure. There is no mechanism in the NEMA for this to be extended to other industries under this application.</p> <p>We will also be holding public meetings in the Murraysburg areas as part of the consultation on the Draft Scoping Report and similarly you will be notified of these meetings so should you have any further queries you can attend to meet with the project team.</p>	
Mr. Andrew Wallis - Landowner, Manager and Trustee/ Beneficiary	2016/01/28	Telephone	EIMS phoned Mr. Wallis regarding making arrangements for a focus group meeting with the land occupiers.	<p>EIMS response: Good Morning Mr Wallis,</p> <p>As per your telephonic conversation with my colleague Simone earlier this week, we are preparing to travel to Murraysburg next week for the scheduled public meeting on the 4th February 2016 (from 3pm to 5pm). We would like to arrange a</p>	Focus Group Meeting Arrangements.

				<p>focus group meeting at your property with your land occupiers/workers as they will not be able to attend the scheduled public meeting.</p> <p>We will be available for a focus group meeting at your farm De Hoop on Wednesday 3rd February 2016 from 17h00 to 17h30. We will be having several meetings on the day and travelling to various farms and thus the proposed times may vary slightly on the day. Please may you confirm that you are happy with the proposed time by 4pm tomorrow if possible so that we may finalise travel arrangements. We look forward to hearing from you as well as to see you next work to discuss the proposed project.</p>	
Marina Beal - Nama Karoo Foundation	2014/06/14	Email	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Who is doing the Archaeology and Palaeontology EIA? Wind Energy Facilities (WEFs) are now proven to alter climate and rainfall The Blue Crane cannot be sacrificed. How will you compensate every person who sees and hears it?. How can you consider doing a wind farm in the summer breeding grounds of the Blue Crane, our National bird? There are less Blue Cranes left in the world than Rhino's Who is doing the surveys for the flora and fauna? This is not far from a new centre for plant endemism Don't pretend they will help the local economy – we know they won't/don't. 	<p>EIMS response: Dear Ms Beal</p> <p>Thank you for completing the comment form in relation to the Umsinde Emoyeni Wind Energy Facility and associated grid infrastructure. You have now been registered as an Interested and Affected Party (I&AP) and will be notified for the issue of documentation and consultation events associated with the proposed project.</p> <p>We understand you have concerns associated with the proposed project regarding the environmental impacts including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✎ Air quality, specifically noise and the alteration of climate and rainfall; ✎ Archaeology and palaeontology noting the Zeekoe Valley Archaeological Project (ZVAP) team should be consulted; ✎ Compensation related to impacts on Blue Crane; 	<p>Air Quality</p> <p>Compensation</p> <p>Ecology</p> <p>Economy</p> <p>Geology</p> <p>Groundwater</p> <p>Land-use and Planning</p> <p>Need for the Project</p> <p>Noise Pollution</p> <p>Nuisance</p> <p>Property Values</p> <p>Quality of Life</p>

			<p>7. What employment will there be once the construction is complete? 3 security guards?</p> <p>8. Murraysburg is known for a shallower soil than Richmond.</p> <p>9. You can't do this in a catchment area.</p> <p>10. We have seen what roads look like after a WEF is constructed.</p> <p>11. What a stupid place to try to put a WEF. Unless you are planning on fracking?</p> <p>12. Why on the escarpment in a pristine area? Project must move to somewhere that already has a footprint.</p> <p>13. Noise pollution will result.</p> <p>14. Besides the people who will see it and hear it WEFs are known to impact wildlife.</p> <p>15. You will destroy property values and no one believes this is not about heating frack water. Fact: we know other landowners who now cannot sell their properties due to wind farms.</p> <p>16. No one wants to see or hear a WEF.</p> <p>17. People and animals suffer from wind turbine disease.</p> <p>18. 93 000 hectares now at risk for other minerals and energy mining activity.</p> <p>19. WEF's bring instability to communities.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Ecology requesting details of the specialists for flora and fauna and noting concerns on endemic flora; ✓ Employment associated with concern this will not benefit the local economy and long terms employment post construction; ✓ Geology noting the soil quality; ✓ Groundwater referring to a catchment area; ✓ Infrastructure associated with damage to roads; ✓ Land-use and planning referring to potential fracking; ✓ Need for the project referring to landscape footprint and choice of the site; ✓ Nuisance related to noise and visual impacts on human and ecological receptors; ✓ Property values associated with wind energy facilities; ✓ Quality of life relating to the view of human receptors of wind energy facilities and wind turbine disease; ✓ Safety and security associated with the project making the area at risk to mineral and energy mining activities; ✓ Social Impacts concerned with instability in the community; ✓ Surface water associated with water consumption and the requirement to heat water; ✓ Technical queries noted to support a smaller facility for the community; ✓ Visual impact on residents and visitors to the Karoo; and 	<p>Safety and Security</p> <p>Other Social Impacts</p> <p>Surface Water</p> <p>Visual Impact</p> <p>Waste Management</p> <p>General</p>
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			<p>20. How much water does a WEF require or is this only later when you start heating it?</p> <p>21. You will ruin the Karoo view that all who live and visit love</p> <p>22. Over 500 000 tons of concrete will be used, a toxic substance. Don't say you plan to recycle it after 20 years!</p> <p>23. Ms. Marina Beal wanted to know if the Umsinde Emoyeni project is a separate project from the Ishwati Emoyeni project, given the similar sounding names.</p> <p>24. Ms. Marina Beal enquired if the size of the study area is indeed 90 000 square hectares or if this was type error.</p> <p>25. Ms. Marina Beal was concerned that EIMS gave the public less than 1 month to comment on this project. Ms. Beal stated that many I&APs do not receive the Graaff-Reinet newspaper (one of the three newspapers used to advertise this project) nor have email address. Ms. Beal asked how else EIMS was notifying the public about the proposed project.</p>	<p>Waste management associated with the use of concrete.</p> <p>At present we are in the early stages of conducting an environmental impact assessment (EIA) in terms of the National Environmental Management Act 1998 (NEMA). Through this process a team of specialist environmental professional have been formed, who will be responsible for identifying and assessing the potential environmental impact of the proposed project. The first stage in this process is "scoping". The scoping stage is when we identify the potential likely environmental impacts which may result from the proposed wind energy facility (WEF) and its associated grid infrastructure, and how we intend to assess these in the full EIA. In order to do this the EIA team, who are experienced in the local area and with this type of development, are consulted along with key stakeholders and the public. The Draft Scoping Report is currently being finalised and will be provided for public comment. As a registered Interested and Affected Party (I&AP) you will be notified of the issue of the Draft Scoping Report, and where copies can be located for you to view and how you can comment. These comments will then be taken into account in preparing the Final Scoping Report which will be submitted to the Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA) for consideration.</p> <p>The Draft Scoping Report will contain information on the existing baseline environment at the project site, and will outline the topics which will be considered in the EIA The following list identifies these topics, their appropriate references in the Draft Scoping Report and the environmental specialist who will be compiling the study.</p>	
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				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✎ Bird Impact Assessment and Monitoring: Arcus Consulting – Andrew Pearson /Chapter 8 of the Draft Scoping Report; ✎ Bat Impact Assessment and Monitoring: NSS Environmental – Kate McEwan/ Chapter 6 of the Draft Scoping Report; ✎ Terrestrial Ecological Impact Assessment (Flora and Fauna): Anchor Environmental – Simon Todd/ Chapter 5of the Draft Scoping Report; ✎ Archaeology and Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment: ACO Associates – Tim Hart / Chapter 10 of the Draft Scoping Report; ✎ Palaeontology Assessment: via ACO Associates – John Almond / Chapter 10 of the Draft Scoping Report; ✎ Aquatic/ Wetland Assessment: Scherman Colloty and Associates – Brian Colloty / Chapter 7 of the Draft Scoping Report; ✎ Noise Impact Assessment: Enviro-Acoustic Research – Morne de Jager / Chapter 11 of the Draft Scoping Report; ✎ Visual Assessment Bernard Oberholzer Landscape Architects & Meirelles Lawson Burger Architects - Bernard Oberholzer and Quinton Lawson / Chapter 4 of the Draft Scoping Report; ✎ Soil and Agriculture: Terrasoils – Johan van de Waals / Chapter 9 of the Draft Scoping Report; and
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				<p>↘ Social Impact Assessment: Tony Barbour Environmental Consulting and Research – Tony Barbour/ Chapter 12 of the Draft Scoping Report.</p> <p>Following completion of the scoping phase, the EIA phase will be undertaken which will include the design of the facility within the project site, and the assessment of impacts. The findings of this stage will be presented in the Draft EIA Report. This will similarly be available for public comment prior to the development of the Final EIA Report. Once the Final EIA Report is completed this will be provided to the DEA for a decision to be made whether to grant Environmental Authorisation for the project. Comment on the Final EIA Report can also be made to the DEA directly.</p> <p>With regard to your specific areas of concern we provide some further specific responses below:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Air quality, specifically noise and the alteration of climate and rainfall. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>With regard to noise, a noise impact assessment is proposed to be completed as detailed in Chapter 11 of the Draft Scoping Report.</i> <i>With regard to climate and rainfall there have been various academic research papers investigating the effect of wind energy facilities on climate and rainfall. To date no micro-climate impacts of wind turbines have been completed in South Africa, however based on studies from locations such as the United States of America, in other arid and semi-arid environments, there is currently no evidence to suggest there will be a significant impact on climate or precipitation from the proposed project</i>
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				<p><i>and as such this is not currently included in the scope of the EIA. To provide further information for this basis we present below a short summary of two key papers in relation to these concerns.</i></p> <p><i>A paper was published in the Proceeding of the National Academy of Sciences of the United States of America (Roy et al, 2010²) which discussed the effects of wind farms on surface air temperatures. The study utilised a 25 years of climate information for an operational wind farm in California. The findings of the paper were not however in relation to changes in climate, but in localised surface air temperatures. The effects were found to be limited spatially around the turbines and did not reveal climatic scale changes. It is worth noting the installation of renewable energy facilities is however key factor in the strategy against climate change through the replacement of energy generation from less sustainable sources.</i></p> <p><i>A study was conducted with regard to climate, including precipitation (Fielder et al, 2011³) entitled The effect of a giant wind farm on precipitation in a regional climate model that modelled the effect of a theoretical 0.457 terra watt (TW) wind farm. The facility would have consisted of 228,375 turbines. By comparison the proposed project is a maximum of 294 mega watts (MW) (2 x 147 MW) with a maximum of 196 turbines (2 x 98)). The</i></p>
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² Roy, S.B, and Traiteur, J.J. 2010. Impacts of wind farms on surface air temperatures. Published in Proceedings of National Academy of Sciences of the United States of America

³ Fielder, B.H, and Bukovsky, M.S. 2011. The effect of a giant wind farm on precipitation in a regional climate model. IOB Publishing Environmental Research Letters.

				<p><i>study found that there was a statistically significant 1% enhancement in precipitation as an output of this model. As such there is no evidence to suggest that a development of the scale being proposed would have a noticeable impact on precipitation.</i></p> <p><i>To date, we are not aware of any recorded data or studies which demonstrate a significant effect on either climate or precipitation of a wind energy facility at the scale of the proposed project. However we would welcome the submission on further information on this point for consideration in the scoping of the EIA.</i></p> <p>2. Archaeology and palaeontology noting the Zeekoe Valley Archaeological Project (ZVAP) team should be consulted;</p> <p><i>As noted in the above table the archaeology assessment is being completed by Tim Hart of ACO Associates who was a member of the ZVAP team. The available information to date will be presented in Chapter 10 of the forthcoming Draft Scoping Report.</i></p> <p>3. Compensation related to impacts on Blue Crane;</p> <p><i>At present a 12 month survey of the birds in and around the proposed project area is currently underway and the findings to date will be available for review in Chapter 8 of the Draft Scoping Report. Although impacts on bird can occur from wind energy facilities, appropriately sited and designed wind farms can have little or no impact on bird communities. Impacts on birds vary from species to species.</i></p>
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				<p><i>Information on species recorded on the site is presented in Chapter 8 of the Draft Scoping Report as well as desk based information on the locality from available resources. The assessment will take into consideration potential impacts on Priority species which include Blue Crane and all eagles in the EIA process.</i></p> <p><i>The potential impacts of the birds recorded and their locations within the site will be assessed by an Avifaunal Specialist registered with the South African Council for Natural Scientific Persons (SACNASP). The findings of this study will be fed into the design and management of the facility so as to as far as possible reduce impacts on birds. The impact assessment will conclude if these measures are sufficient to reduce the potential impact to acceptable levels.</i></p> <p>4. Ecology requesting details of the specialists for flora and fauna and noting concerns on endemic flora;</p> <p><i>The flora and fauna assessment is being completed by Simon Todd via Anchor Consulting. Chapter 5 of the Draft Scoping Report provides an initial assessment of the project site with regard to flora including sensitive flora communities. There is potential for some localised impacts to flora as some land will have to be cleared for constructing the facility, but that the footprint of the project will only occupy a small amount of the total site and protected species and species of conservation concern will be considered in the impact assessment and design of the facility so as to minimise potential impacts.</i></p>
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				<p>5. Employment associated with concern - this will not benefit the local economy and long term employment post construction;</p> <p><i>The project will be developed under the Department of Energy's Renewable Energy Independent Power Producers Procurement Program (REIPPPP). As explanation of the REIPPPP and its requirements can be found in Chapter 3 of the forthcoming Draft Scoping Report.</i></p> <p><i>As a part of the REIPPPP, local communities are required to have a stake in the ownership of the project, which is either funded by financier or by the other equity shareholder (which is known as a 'free carry'). Community ownership of an operating wind farm is generally conducted via a broad-based community trust, with the surrounding communities as beneficiaries of the dividends paid to shareholders in the project company. The dividend revenue will be invested in community development initiatives which would be outlined in the community trust deeds. In addition, successful REIPPPP projects are required to invest a percentage of gross revenue in socio economic development and enterprise development, primarily in the surrounding local communities (currently defined in the REIPPPP as located within a 50 km radius of the wind farm's operational site). If the wind farm is constructed, a number of critical community development programmes would be established that would have the potential to positively impact the communities near the wind facilities.</i></p>	
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				<p><i>Wind energy can provide technical skills to South Africans and thus improve the technical skills profile of the country and the regions where wind energy facilities are located. Through the REIPPPP, developers' own initiatives and through support from international donor agencies, a number of young South Africans are being trained on various aspects of wind farm construction and operation.</i></p> <p><i>In addition, projects are required to indicate skills transfer and training initiatives as part of the economic development commitments of projects that are submitted under the REIPPPP.</i></p> <p><i>During the operation and maintenance phase, a number of employment opportunities will be created. These opportunities may include site management, environmental management, facility operation and maintenance, community liaison, administration, monitoring, reporting, catering, cleaning and security. The exact number of jobs during operation (and construction) is not yet known, but will be defined in detail in the later stages of project development.</i></p> <p>6. Geology noting the soil quality; <i>An assessment of Soils, Agriculture and Land Use will be conducted as part of the EIA. Information available to date can be found in Chapter 9 of the forthcoming Draft Scoping Report;</i></p> <p>7. Groundwater referring to a catchment area;</p>
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				<p>8. <i>The project applied for is a Wind Energy Facility (WEF) and its associated grid infrastructure. Water will be required during the construction phase for normal construction activities such as mixing concrete, and washing equipment; and during operation limited amounts of water will be required for servicing the on-site office facilities and for limited maintenance activities such as cleaning equipment. This water may be sourced from the local municipality or may utilise existing or new boreholes. A Water Use License Application (WULA) will be made to the Department of Water Affairs if necessary to permit the use of water for the project.</i></p> <p>9. <i>The project does not require any structures to be placed into the ground to a depth which would interact with the groundwater resource. The management of this water would be contained with the Environmental management Plan (EMP) which would stipulate compliance with any Water Use License.</i></p> <p><i>An assessment of the surface water impacts will be included in the EIA, and information on this will be presented in Chapter 7 of the Draft Scoping Report;</i></p> <p>10. Infrastructure associated with damage to roads</p> <p><i>Any on-site roads that are created or upgraded for the purpose of the project will be maintained during construction and operation by the construction and wind farm operation contractors. All the</i></p>
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				<p><i>national (National Road Traffic Act (Act 93 of 1996)) and provincial required permits (Western Cape Provincial Road Traffic Administration Act, 2012, (Act 6 of 2012); Western Cape Transport Infrastructure Act, 2013 (Act 1 of 2013)) will be applied for when required much later in the project development process once the EIA is complete and there is more certainty that the project is likely to proceed;</i></p> <p>11. Land-use and planning referring to potential fracking;</p> <p><i>The project applied for is a wind energy facility and associated grid infrastructure. The requirements of the NEMA strictly can only grant permission for the project applied for, and assessed through the EIA process. The project has been described on the Background Information Document (a copy of which is attached), the application forms submitted to the Department of Environmental Affairs, and in Chapter 2 of the forthcoming Draft Scoping Report. The project does not relate to fracking.</i></p> <p><i>The project proponent, Windlab Developments South Africa Pty Ltd (WDSA) are a specialist company developing wind energy facilities across South Africa. WDSA has been involved with a number of wind energy developments in South Africa both independently as well as in partnerships with other wind energy developers. Examples include two wind energy projects which were awarded preferred bidder status in Round 2 of the REIPPPP. The first is the 91 MW West Coast One project proposed near Vredenburg in the</i></p>
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				<p>Western Cape, and the second is the 138 MW Amakhala Emoyeni Phase 1 project proposed near Bedford in the Eastern Cape.</p> <p>Through a Special Project Vehicle (SPV) Special Energy Project (Pty) Ltd, WDSA is also the proponent for the Ishwati Emoyeni WEF and associated grid infrastructure, the development boundary for which overlaps with and is adjacent to this Umsinde Emoyeni Proposed Development Site. WDSA has no interest in energy generation through other means such as fracking.</p> <p>12. Need for the project referring to landscape footprint and choice of the site;</p> <p><i>The Need for the project and overview of the site selection process will be presented in Section 2.7 of the forthcoming Draft Scoping Report. The site has been chosen based on its excellent wind resources, vicinity to the national grid and suitable site access. A preliminary ecological assessment did not identify any fatal flaws and the EIA process will continue in further detail to assess and understand any potential environmental impacts, which will first be avoided, then mitigated if necessary. Environmental sensitivities will be considered in the design and siting of the site infrastructure.</i></p> <p>13. Nuisance related to noise and visual impacts on human and ecological receptors;</p> <p><i>Information on the proposed noise impacts of the project will be undertaken in accordance with the method set out in</i></p>
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				<p><i>Chapter 11 of the Draft Scoping Report, and Chapter 4 in relation to visual impacts.</i></p> <p>14. Property values associated with wind energy facilities;</p> <p><i>Globally, there is little evidence of property values in the surrounding areas decreasing due to wind farms. On the contrary, international research has found no impact or even a positive impact on property values near wind farms. Articles are available online at:</i> http://newscenter.lbl.gov/news-releases/2013/08/27/no-evidence-of-residential-property-value-impacts-near-u-s-wind-turbines-a-new-berkeley-lab-study-finds/ http://blog.ucsus.org/effect-of-wind-turbines-on-property-values-384</p> <p>15. Quality of life relating to the view of human receptors of wind energy facilities and wind turbine disease;</p> <p><i>As introduced above a full visual impact assessment study is underway and information to date will be provided in Chapter 4 of the Draft Scoping Report. Chapter 12 of the Draft Scoping Report will include the approach to be taken to potential social impacts including quality of life.</i></p> <p><i>To date we are not aware of any credible evidence demonstrating the suffering of people or animals from a "wind turbines disease" however should Ms Beal wish to supply some research from a credible source we would be happy to respond to this.</i></p>
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				<p>16. Safety and security associated with the project making the area at risk to mineral and energy mining activities;</p> <p><i>Safety and security will also be a consideration in the social impact assessment information available to date relating to this process is provided in Chapter 12 of the forthcoming Draft Scoping Report. 24 hours security will be provided on the site during construction and may include the installation of CCTV systems.</i></p> <p><i>With regard to other development types as noted above the requirements of the NEMA are strict in any Environmental Authorisation only permitting the activities specified in the application and resulting assessment to be authorised.</i></p> <p><i>As stated on the Background Information Document and the Application Forms, Depending on the final Wind Energy Facility design and layout, there may be a requirement for the following additional permits/authorisations: Mining permits as required by the Minerals and Petroleum Resources Development Act (MPRDA) (Act 28 of 2002).</i></p> <p><i>Windlab would like to confirm that Windlab exclusively develops wind farm projects for the purpose of electricity generation. Windlab is not a mining company.</i></p> <p><i>As part of the wind farm development process, Windlab will be required to comply with the conditions of the MPRDA.</i></p> <p><i>In order to prevent any conflicts between mining or prospecting rights on the land and</i></p>
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				<p><i>potential renewable energy developments, renewable energy developers are required to submit an application to the Department of Mineral Resources (DMR) for ministerial approval in terms of section 53 of the MPRDA before starting construction.</i></p> <p><i>This includes applying for exemption from the requirements of the MPRDA to allow for the use of the surface of land for the purpose of developing, operating and later decommissioning a renewable energy project. This exemption is required because the use of the surface area of the land for this purpose is considered contrary to the objects of the MPRDA (i.e. the establishment of a wind farm may not be compatible with the exploration or extraction of sub-surface mineral resources).</i></p> <p>17. Social Impacts concerned with instability in the community; <i>A social impact assessment will be undertaken. Information available to date will be presented in Chapter 12 of the forthcoming Draft scoping Report.</i></p> <p>18. Surface water associated with water consumption and the requirement to heat water; <i>An assessment of surface water will be conducted as part of the EIA process. Information available to date will be provided in Chapter 7 of the forthcoming Draft Scoping Report. With regard to water consumption wind energy facilities require very low levels of water. This will primarily be during the construction phase. No heating of water is required for the proposed development.</i></p>	
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				<p>19. Technical queries noted to support a smaller facility for the community; <i>At present there is no mechanism in the REIPPPP for the development of small scale facilities which directly supply the local community as oppose to connecting into the existing National Grid. In terms of the local community benefits however the REIPPPP requires that the main economic development beneficiaries of approved projects are currently communities living within a 50 km radius of renewable energy facilities and this will be a requirement for this project.</i></p> <p>20. Visual impact on residents and visitors to the Karoo; <i>A visual impact assessment will be conducted as part of the EIA process. Information available to date will be presented in Chapter 4 of the forthcoming Draft Scoping Report. This includes the identification of sensitive visual receptors, including residents and visitors, and identifies a series of sensitive viewpoints which will be used in the assessment process. These include residential properties as well as guesthouses and transport routes used by visitors.</i></p> <p>21. Waste management; <i>Whilst not a specific topic in the EIA this will be included in the environmental management plan (EMP) which will be developed through the EIA process. Best practice construction techniques including the management of waste will be a requirement of the EMP which, if</i></p>
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				<p><i>Environmental Authorisation is granted, will become legally binding.</i></p> <p>The Draft Scoping Report will be available for review in the near future for a period of 40 days, during which time we will also be holding a number of public and focus group meetings in the area of the project site. As a registered I&AP you will be notified of the location and timings of the public meetings and we would gladly meet with you at this time to discuss any concerns you may have on any of the topics raised as we appreciate there is a lot of information available.</p> <p>We welcome further comments and queries on the content of the Draft Scoping Report and subsequent reports to follow which you will be notified of as a registered I&AP.</p>	
Marina Beal - Nama Karoo Foundation	2014/06/14	Email	Dr Bruce Rubidge and David Morris or the ZVAP need to be consulted.	Note from EIMS: Unfortunately Ms Beal was not available to clarify who these individuals are, and their likely relevance to the project. However based on past experience with EIA's in this area, it is suspected that these are Paleontological and Archaeological specialists respectively. EIMS has requested that Ms Beal confirm this, so that they can be invited to participate on the EIA.	General
Nama Karoo Foundation	2014/08/17 (12:42)	Email	Dear Arcus, EIMS & Windlab, Please find some of our comments regarding the Draft Scoping Report For the full submission of comments on the Draft Scoping Report, please see Appendix R (Correspondence with I&APs).	EIMS response: Please note that in order to capture and respond effectively to multiple comments and questions from this stakeholder group, the comments submitted by Mr Andre van der Spuy have been responded to in a separate document. Please see this document (Appendix R) for the responses.	Flora and Fauna Link between WEF Development and Frocking Biodiversity/ Sense of place Heritage

					Community and Local Economy Public Participation Process Property Value Noise Pollution Cumulative Impacts Monitoring Climate Change Compensation
Nama Karoo Foundation	2014/11/17	Email	<p>Dear EIMS, Arcus and Windlab,</p> <p>We have just received your email dated Thu 2014/11/13 10:04 AM (4 days ago) in response to our Draft Scoping Report comments sent to you 17 August 2014 12:42 PM (3 months ago).</p> <p>On the one you say your submission of the Scoping Report is imminent to the DEA but you have not given the date for which you plan to submit. When is that? The NKF obviously needs time to consider your report on our comments about the Draft Scoping Report.</p> <p>On the other hand you have asked for a lot of information to be supplied by the NKF in order to fulfil your obligations of taking a risk averse approach towards assessing the need for an industrial wind farm development in such an ecologically pristine wilderness area.</p>	<p>EIMS response: Dear Nama Karoo Foundation,</p> <p>Thank you for your further comment on the Umsinde Emoyeni project. The comment period on the Draft Scoping Report is closed and all comments have been responded to. Taking into account the findings of the public consultation period, the Final Scoping Report is being prepared and will be submitted to the Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA) in due course. All comments and response made in relation to the public consultation period on the Draft Scoping Report will be included in the Final Scoping Report.</p> <p>Once submitted you are welcome to submit your comments direct to the Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA). As a registered Interested and Affected Party (I&AP) you will be informed of the submission of the Final Scoping Report which is expected to be submitted before the end of 2014.</p>	Other

				In our response provided on 13 th November 2014 the NAMA Karoo Foundation have been invited to submit further information should they have this available. Any information submitted will be considered in the EIA phase if received in a timely manner. We suggest any further information be submitted before the end of January 2015 to ensure it can be considered in the EIA report for the Project.	
Nama Karoo Foundation	2014/11/25	Email	Dear Eims, Arcus and Windlab We disagree with your response. We maintain our views and reserve our right in this matter.	This was noted by EIMS.	General
Nama Karoo Foundation	2015/01/15	Email	Dear Eims, It is noted you have submitted the Final Scoping Report which is open for comment for 30 days despite indicating that comments could still be submitted in the FSR by end of January. Therefore, any additional comments can only be supplied to the DEA, along with copies of I&AP forms from farmers which you did not acknowledge. We do not agree that you can scope out land value and land potential from the EIA phase, nor do we agree that your appointed consultants were not aware of the right experts to speak to regarding the impacts. This needed to be done in the scoping phase.	This was noted by EIMS.	General.
Nama Karoo Foundation	2016/03/07	Email and Attachment letter	<i>Attachment:</i> Dear EAP and EIMS	EIMS response: Dear Nama Karoo, Thank you for your comments on the Umsinde Emoyeni Project. Please see below responses to your concerns. Please note that the comment	Presence of important birds species and habitat within the

		<p>Throughout the process of your Public Participation and EIA procedures we have found and highlighted numerous issues which to this day remain unaddressed by you.</p> <p>The greater area including the area proposed is home to the world's last great remaining population of Blue Cranes found in natural habitat and clearly a critical raptor breeding area.</p> <p>There is no successful mitigation that can take place to prevent large numbers of Blue Cranes and other TOPS species from dying in the turbines and new Eskom infrastructure (power lines) the project requires. We dismiss the avian consultant's claim they can effectively mitigate the site.</p> <p>The seasonal monitoring excluded summer migratory birds.</p> <p>As mentioned previously, the Southern Great Escarpment is the necessary flyway for resident and migratory birds, the last hideaway to many endangered species and, most importantly, the summer breeding and winter congregation place for the world's largest population of Blue Cranes in their natural habitat.</p> <p>As mentioned previously, the experiments and observations conducted since 2003 in partnership with Eskom in the vicinity of the project area show that the only way to preserve this last sanctuary for our national bird is to</p>	<p>period has now closed, and any comments received from today onwards will be included in the Issues and Response Reports, and responded to in the Report accordingly. I&APs will be informed of the submission of the Final EIA Reports to the DEA, and all comments from then can be submitted directly to the DEA.</p> <p>It is our understanding that we have responded to Interested and Affected Parties' submitted comments to date.</p> <p>The Avifauna Specialist is aware of the importance of the greater area for Blue Cranes. While it is understood that the Karoo population is the largest found in 'natural habitats' it is noted that the largest population in South Africa is in the Overberg region. For reference, the Overberg Crane Group⁴ reports that "<i>Today the largest numbers of blue cranes can be found in the [Overberg Region of the] Western Cape (± 12 000 birds), with a smaller population in the Northern/Eastern Cape (± 5 000 birds) (the Karoo region in the vicinity of the Umsinde Emoyeni Project) and the rest (± 5 000 birds) occurring in the remainder of its current distribution range</i>". They also report the Karoo population to currently be stable, with the Mpumalanga population in decline and the Western Cape population currently increasing. Furthermore, the WEF site itself (which by no means encompasses the entire Karoo or Southern Great Escarpment), was found to have relatively low activity of Blue Cranes.</p> <p>Blue Cranes were addressed in the report (particularly the potential presence of large flocks),</p>	<p>development study; Comment review period</p>
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⁴ http://www.bluecrane.org.za/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=53&Itemid=65

			<p>remove power lines in the Sneeuberg (as Eskom has recently done), not to create 60 kilometers of Eskom infrastructure linking hundreds of industrial wind turbines.</p> <p>Insufficient time was given to review and comment on the DEIR and the report itself was not accessible within reasonable timeframes. It could not be downloaded. The DEIR is therefore rejected.</p> <p>The process has not been fair, has been risky and not in the interests of a sustainable future for the area.</p>	<p>and considered in the rating of impacts. The report states "<i>Flat open areas of the WEF site were utilised by relatively high numbers of large terrestrial species such as Blue Crane, Southern Black Korhaan, Karoo Korhaan and Ludwig's Bustard. Blue Crane accounted for 17.8% of the total number of incidental observations and 39% of the total number of incidentally recorded individuals</i>" and "<i>Cultivated lands – the majority of large flocks of Blue Crane were recorded in cultivated lands (Figure 5). A 200 m buffer was applied to afford this species protection from disturbance, as well as when arriving or departing.</i>" Furthermore it said "<i>Blue Cranes are known to use farm dams as roost sites. Several farm dams occur in the area</i>" and "<i>The Karoo population of Blue Crane is the only strong population remaining on natural vegetation in southern Africa</i>". This species was also occasionally recorded from vantage point monitoring, accounting for 6.5% of observed flights of target species.</p> <p>The report also stated that "<i>Blue Crane was also regularly recorded (incidentally) and accounted for 17.8 % of incidental records. As this species often congregates in flocks, a large number of individuals (318) were recorded during 54 observations, but it must be noted that multiple observations may have been made of the same individuals at different times</i>" and "<i>The largest flock made up of 43 individuals was recorded during the winter survey.</i>" Furthermore the avifaunal specialist, while conducting the Arcus cliff survey, observed a flock of approximately 60 Blue Cranes off the site, approximately 4 km from the WEF site boundary. The possible presence of such large flocks on the WEF site was therefore noted.</p>	
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			<p>We do not state that there will be no mortality of Blue Cranes or other important species. Based on all the data considered in the EIA report, we do not believe that there will be 'large' numbers killed particularly of Blue Cranes. Blue Crane flight activity was moderate to low, with 6.5% of observed flights at Vantage Points being Blue Crane flights.</p> <p>We do not state that the buffers will be 100% effective in preventing all Eagle mortalities. These buffers were provided based on various considerations including: the recommendations given by Dr. Andrew Jenkin's in his nest survey report (appended to the specialist report); buffers proposed at other WEFs; observed flight activity; recorded flight behaviour of Verreaux's Eagles in the Cedarberg (pers. Com. Megan Murgatroyd and Dr. Andrew Jenkins); and consideration of the draft Verreaux's Eagle guidelines by Birdlife SA.</p> <p><i>These draft guidelines state: "There have been few empirical studies disturbance distances for Verreaux's Eagles and to date, specialists in South Africa have relied on expert opinion when recommending buffers. For Verreaux's Eagles proposed buffers have ranged from 800m up to 2.5km (mean = 1.45km). Few specialist reports have provided empirical justification for the extent, although an analysis of activity around eagle nests in the Karoo found that activity was generally higher within 1km of the nest sites, marginally higher between 1 and 1.5km, with no clear pattern beyond that (Percival 2013). BirdLife South Africa recommends a non-negotiable no-go buffer of a minimum of 1km, in order to minimise risk of disturbing breeding birds and to reduce the risk of juveniles colliding with turbines. An additional precautionary buffer of 3 km is recommended</i></p>
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				<p><i>around nests to reduce the risk of collisions and displacement. This precautionary buffer may be reduced (or increased) should the results of monitoring indicate that this is desirable. In the event that a change in the extent of the precautionary buffer is contemplated, it must be clearly demonstrated that there is a low risk of collisions. In order to protect areas around alternate nests and reduce any incentive to disrupt nesting and/or breeding, these buffers should be applied to all inactive nests. It is important to be aware that a nest buffer alone is unlikely to be adequate to mitigate potential impacts on Verreaux's Eagles. Bird may move great distances away from the nest and may regularly use habitat kilometres away. It is therefore important to consider the spatial extent and relative use of the territory."</i> We believe that the spatial extent and relative use of the territory has been considered in the almost 900 hours of VP observations, which in turn created a sensitivity map which has advised turbine placement.</p> <p>We believe that if all recommendations are carried out, and mitigations are implemented, and a maximum number of 98 turbines (the maximum hypothetical ceiling in terms of turbines numbers and most likely to be less) are constructed (as per the specialist report) based on current information and analysis the number of mortalities may be sufficiently low to not severely impact the regional populations of Blue Cranes and other TOPS species.</p> <p>No birds were excluded from the monitoring programme. All birds seen and/or heard were recorded. The summer seasonal survey was conducted on site in mid-summer (between 10 and</p>
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			<p>18 January), ideally timed to record the majority of summer migrants potentially present.</p> <p>The specialist report identified potential endangered species, and attempted to describe their abundance on the WEF site. It is our understanding that by the "Southern Great Escarpment" you are referring to the "Great Escarpment" which edges the central southern African plateau, and is a major geological formation in Africa. We do not deny that this is an important area for avifauna, however the turbine areas take up a very small area of the "Southern Great Escarpment".</p> <p>We are indeed aware of the potential collision impacts that power lines may pose on Blue Cranes as well as other larger species such as Bustards and Flamingos. Correct routing and placement of the line is one of the most useful ways of preventing or reducing collisions. Further mitigation that is recommended is the use of bird flight diverters (BFD) or "bird flappers". In this regard it was recommended that the specialist conducts a micro-siting walkthrough of all above ground power line routings (both on the WEF site and the Grid Connection) prior to construction to determine if, and where, bird flight diverters (BFDs) are required (and what type of BFDs should be fitted and how). The Endangered Wildlife Trust is currently investigating the effectiveness of a new Light Emitting Diode (LED) solar flapper, which illuminates at night and may be effective in reducing collisions of crepuscular flyers such as Flamingos and Blue Cranes. If appropriate, Arcus may consider the use of such a device on overhead power lines.</p>
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				The DEIR's were made available at seven public venues and the project website from the 15 th January 2016, when notification regarding the availability of the reports was distributed. However, no correspondence was received from the Nama Karoo Foundation regarding having trouble accessing the Reports or requesting an extension of the commenting period prior to this current comment.	
Mr. P.F. de Klerk – Community member	2014/06/12	Email	<p>Mr. P.F. de Klerk's concerns relate to the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. economic impact this project will have on a rural town such as Murraysburg; 2. social and economic impacts (including employment opportunities) on the residents and the community; 3. how the project will affect property prices in the district and the town; and 4. ecology concerns over disturbance to nature and wildlife 	<p>EIMS response: Dear Mr De Klerk</p> <p>Thank you for completing the comment form in relation to the Umsinde Emoyeni Wind Energy Facility and associated grid infrastructure. You have been registered as an Interested and Affected Party (I&AP) for the project and will be kept informed of key project dates and information.</p> <p>At present we are in the early stages of conducting an environmental impact assessment (EIA) in terms of the National Environmental Management Act 1998 (NEMA). Through this process a team of specialist environmental professional have been formed, who will be responsible for identifying and assessing the potential environmental impact of the proposed project. The first stage in this process is "scoping". The scoping stage is when we identify the potential likely environmental impacts which may result from the proposed wind energy facility (WEF) and its associated grid infrastructure, and how we intend to assess these in the full EIA. In order to do this the EIA team, who are experienced in the local area and with this type of development, are consulted along with key stakeholders and the public. The Draft Scoping Report is currently being</p>	<p>Employment</p> <p>Social Impacts</p> <p>Economic Impacts</p> <p>Property Values</p>

				<p>finalised and will be provided for public comment. As a registered Interested and Affected Party (I&AP) you will be notified of the issue of the Draft Scoping Report, and where copies can be located for you to view and how you can comment. These comments will then be taken into account in preparing the Final Scoping Report which will be submitted to the Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA) for consideration.</p> <p>The Draft Scoping Report will contain information on the existing baseline environment at the project site, and will outline the topics which will be considered in the EIA. The following list identifies these topics, their appropriate references in the Draft Scoping Report and the environmental specialist who will be compiling the study.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✎ Bird Impact Assessment and Monitoring: Arcus Consulting – Andrew Pearson /Chapter 8 of the Draft Scoping Report; ✎ Bat Impact Assessment and Monitoring: NSS Environmental – Kate McEwan/ Chapter 6 of the Draft Scoping Report; ✎ Terrestrial Ecological Impact Assessment (Flora and Fauna): Anchor Environmental – Simon Todd/ Chapter 5of the Draft Scoping Report; ✎ Archaeology and Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment: ACO Associates – Tim Hart / Chapter 10 of the Draft Scoping Report; ✎ Palaeontology Assessment: via ACO Associates – John Almond / Chapter 10 of the Draft Scoping Report; 	
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				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Aquatic/ Wetland Assessment: Scherman Colloty and Associates – Brian Colloty / Chapter 7 of the Draft Scoping Report; ➤ Noise Impact Assessment: Enviro-Acoustic Research – Morne de Jager / Chapter 11 of the Draft Scoping Report; ➤ Visual Assessment Bernard Oberholzer Landscape Architects & Meirelles Lawson Burger Architects - Bernard Oberholzer and Quinton Lawson / Chapter 4 of the Draft Scoping Report; ➤ Soil and Agriculture: Terrasoils – Johan van de Waals / Chapter 9 of the Draft Scoping Report; and ➤ Social Impact Assessment: Tony Barbour Environmental Consulting and Research – Tony Barbour/ Chapter 12 of the Draft Scoping Report. <p>The Draft Scoping Report will be available for review for a period of 40 days, during which time we will also be holding a number of public and focus group meetings in the area of the project site. As a registered I&AP you will be notified of the location and timings of the public meetings and we would gladly meet with you at this time to discuss any concerns you may have on any of the topics raised.</p> <p>Following completion of the scoping phase, the EIA phase will be undertaken which will include the design of the facility within the project site, and the assessment of impacts. The findings of this stage will be presented in the Draft EIA Report. This will</p>	
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				<p>similarly be available for public comment prior to the development of the Final EIA Report. Once the Final EIA Report is completed this will be provided to the DEA for a decision to be made whether to grant Environmental Authorisation for the project. Comment on the Final EIA Report can also be made to the DEA directly.</p> <p>We understand you have the following queries regarding the proposed project and have provided some specific information in response to these below:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Economic impact on the town of Murraysburg including employment: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>The project will be developed under the Department of Energy's Renewable Energy Independent Power Producers Procurement Program (REIPPPP). As explanation of the REIPPPP and its requirements can be found in Chapter 3 of the forthcoming Draft Scoping Report.</i> <i>As a part of the REIPPPP, local communities are required to have a stake in the ownership of the project, which is either funded by financier or by the other equity shareholder (which is known as a 'free carry'). Community ownership of an operating wind farm is generally conducted via a broad-based community trust, with the surrounding communities as beneficiaries of the dividends paid to shareholders in the project company. The dividend revenue will be invested in community development initiatives which</i> 	
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				<p>would be outlined in the community trust deeds In addition, successful REIPPPP projects are required to invest a percentage of gross revenue in socio economic development and enterprise development, primarily in the surrounding local communities (currently defined in the REIPPPP as located within a 50 km radius of the wind farm's operational site). If the wind farm is constructed, a number of critical community development programmes would be established that would have the potential to positively impact the communities near the wind facilities.</p> <p>Wind energy can provide technical skills to South Africans and thus improve the technical skills profile of the country and the regions where wind energy facilities are located. Through the REIPPPP, developers' own initiatives and through support from international donor agencies, a number of young South Africans are being trained on various aspects of wind farm construction and operation.</p> <p>In addition, projects are required to indicate skills transfer and training initiatives as part of the economic development commitments of projects that are submitted under the REIPPPP. During the operation and maintenance phase, a number of employment opportunities will be created. These opportunities may include site</p>	
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				<p><i>management, environmental management, facility operation and maintenance, community liaison, administration, monitoring, reporting, catering, cleaning and security. The exact number of jobs during operation (and construction) is not yet known, but will be defined in detail in the later stages of project development.</i></p> <p>2. Social impacts on residents and community: <i>A social impact assessment will be undertaken for the project which will include residents and the local community. Information available to date will be presented in Chapter 12 of the forthcoming Draft Scoping Report</i></p> <p>3. How will the project impact on property prices? <i>Globally, there is little evidence of property values in the surrounding areas decreasing due to wind farms. On the contrary, international research has found no impact or even a positive impact on property values near wind farms. Articles are available online at: http://newscenter.lbl.gov/news-releases/2013/08/27/no-evidence-of-residential-property-value-impacts-near-u-s-wind-turbines-a-new-berkeley-lab-study-finds/ http://blog.ucsf.edu/effect-of-wind-turbines-on-property-values-384</i></p>	
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				<p>4. Ecology concerns over disturbance to nature and wildlife: <i>The Draft Scoping Report will include information at this stage in the process on ecology (Chapter 5), birds (Chapter 8) and bat (Chapter 6). These potential impacts will be taken in account throughout the EIA process and further information will be made available throughout the process.</i></p> <p>We hope this provides some further information related to your areas of concern, and we welcome further comments and queries on the content of the Draft Scoping Report and subsequent reports to follow which you will be notified of as a registered I&AP.</p>	
Morne Koen - Department of Mineral Resources			Mr. Morne Koen phoned EIMS to enquire if the Applicant has applied for Section 53 of the Mineral and Petroleum Resources Development Act (MPRDA). Mr. Koen informed EIMS that the Murraysburg area has Mining Rights applications about to be finalised, therefore the Umsinde Emoyeni WEF may be within such a mining area. As such an application under Section 53 of the MPRDA will be required. Mr. Koen also mentioned that the Mining Right owners will need to be included in the PPP for this project but the information will only be available upon the receipt of a list of affected properties for the Umsinde Emoyeni WEF project.	EIMS asked Mr. Koen to send this request via email so that it can be forwarded to the Applicant.	Geology
Morne Koen - Department of Mineral Resources	2014/05/27	Email	As per telephone conversation dated 2014/05/27. The Applicant must apply for a Section 53.	EIMS let Mr. Koen know that the Applicant is aware of this requirement (Section 53) in relation to the study site and is planning to apply in due course as part of the development process. EIMS informed Mr. Koen that the application for Section 53 of the	Geology

				MPRDA is likely to be lodged in the 3 rd quarter of 2014.	
Gabriel Cupido – Community member	2014/06/13	Email	<p>Mr. Gabriel Cupido is concerned about groundwater in the area.</p> <p>Mr. Gabriel Cupido stated that Murraysburg is a rural area and it will be good to be part of the infrastructure development of the town.</p>	<p>EIMS response: Dear Mr Cupido</p> <p>Thank you for completing the comment form in relation to the Umsinde Emoyeni Wind Energy Facility and associated grid infrastructure. You have been registered as an Interested and Affected Party (I&AP) for the project and will be kept informed of key project dates and information.</p> <p>At present we are in the early stages of conducting an environmental impact assessment (EIA) in terms of the National Environmental Management Act 1998 (NEMA). Through this process a team of specialist environmental professional have been formed, who will be responsible for identifying and assessing the potential environmental impact of the proposed project. The first stage in this process is “scoping”. The scoping stage is when we identify the potential likely environmental impacts which may result from the proposed wind energy facility (WEF) and its associated grid infrastructure, and how we intend to assess these in the full EIA. In order to do this the EIA team, who are experienced in the local area and with this type of development, are consulted along with key stakeholders and the public. The Draft Scoping Report is currently being finalised and will be provided for public comment. As a registered Interested and Affected Party (I&AP) you will be notified of the issue of the Draft Scoping Report, and where copies can be located for you to view and how you can comment. These comments will then be taken into account in preparing the Final Scoping Report which will be</p>	Groundwater Infrastructure

				<p>submitted to the Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA) for consideration.</p> <p>The Draft Scoping Report will contain information on the existing baseline environment at the project site, and will outline the topics which will be considered in the EIA. The following list identifies these topics, their appropriate references in the Draft Scoping Report and the environmental specialist who will be compiling the study.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✎ Bird Impact Assessment and Monitoring: Arcus Consulting – Andrew Pearson /Chapter 8 of the Draft Scoping Report; ✎ Bat Impact Assessment and Monitoring: NSS Environmental – Kate McEwan/ Chapter 6 of the Draft Scoping Report; ✎ Terrestrial Ecological Impact Assessment (Flora and Fauna): Anchor Environmental – Simon Todd/ Chapter 5of the Draft Scoping Report; ✎ Archaeology and Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment: ACO Associates – Tim Hart / ✎ Palaeontology Assessment: via ACO Associates – John Almond / Chapter 10 of the Draft Scoping Report; ✎ Aquatic/ Wetland Assessment: Scherman Colloty and Associates – Brian Colloty / Chapter 7 of the Draft Scoping Report; 	
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				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✎ Noise Impact Assessment: Enviro-Acoustic Research – Morne de Jager / Chapter 11 of the Draft Scoping Report; ✎ Visual Assessment Bernard Oberholzer Landscape Architects & Meirelles Lawson Burger Architects - Bernard Oberholzer and Quinton Lawson / Chapter 4 of the Draft Scoping Report; ✎ Soil and Agriculture: Terrasoils – Johan van de Waals / Chapter 9 of the Draft Scoping Report; and ✎ Social Impact Assessment: Tony Barbour Environmental Consulting and Research – Tony Barbour/ Chapter 12 of the Draft Scoping Report. <p>The Draft Scoping Report will be available for review for a period of 40 days, during which time we will also be holding a number of public and focus group meetings in the area of the project site. As a registered I&AP you will be notified of the location and timings of the public meetings and we would gladly meet with you at this time to discuss any concerns you may have on any of the topics raised.</p> <p>Following completion of the scoping phase, the EIA phase will be undertaken which will include the design of the facility within the project site, and the assessment of impacts. The findings of this stage will be presented in the Draft EIA Report. This will similarly be available for public comment prior to the development of the Final EIA Report. Once the</p>
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				<p>Final EIA Report is completed this will be provided to the DEA for a decision to be made whether to grant Environmental Authorisation for the project. Comment on the Final EIA Report can also be made to the DEA directly.</p> <p>We note your specific concern regarding groundwater.</p> <p><i>The project applied for is a Wind Energy Facility (WEF) and its associated grid infrastructure. Water will be required during the construction phase for normal construction activities such as mixing concrete, and washing equipment; and during operation limited amounts of water will be required for servicing the on-site office facilities and for limited maintenance activities such as cleaning equipment. This water may be sourced from the local municipality or may utilise existing or new boreholes. A Water Use License Application (WULA) will be made to the Department of Water Affairs if necessary to permit the use of water for the project.</i></p> <p><i>The project does not require any structures to be placed into the ground to a depth which would interact with the groundwater resource. The management of this water would be contained with the Environmental management Plan (EMP) which would stipulate compliance with any Water Use License.</i></p> <p><i>An assessment of the surface water impacts will be included in the EIA, and information on this will be presented in Chapter 7 of the Draft Scoping Report.</i></p>	
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				We hope this provides some further information related to your areas of concern, and we welcome further comments and queries on the content of the Draft Scoping Report and subsequent reports to follow which you will be notified of as a registered I&AP.	
Gabriel Cupido – Community member	2014/07/17	Public Meeting	<p>My interests in the project relates to groundwater, as this can help the town or community.</p> <p>It can be advantages to the community as long as we are part of the Affected Parties. I see this as a benefit to the community.</p>	<p>EIMS response: Thank you for your interest in the Umsinde Emoyeni project.</p> <p>The Project will be developed under the Department of Energy's Renewable Energy Independent Power Producers Procurement Program (REIPPPP). An explanation of the REIPPPP and its requirements can be found in Chapter 3 of the Draft Scoping Report.</p> <p><u>Information on the REIPPPP from Windlab:</u></p> <p>As a part of the REIPPPP, local communities are required to have a stake in the ownership of the project, which is either funded by financier or by the other equity shareholder (which is known as a 'free carry'). Community ownership of an operating wind farm is generally conducted via a broad-based community trust, with the surrounding communities as beneficiaries of the dividends paid to shareholders in the project company. The dividend revenue will be invested in community development initiatives which would be outlined in the community trust deeds.</p> <p>In addition, successful REIPPPP projects are required to invest a percentage of gross revenue in socio economic development and enterprise development, primarily in the surrounding local communities (currently defined in the REIPPPP as located within a 50 km radius of the wind farm's operational site). If the wind farm is constructed, a</p>	Groundwater Benefit for the community

				<p>number of critical community development programmes would be established that would have the potential to positively impact the communities near the wind facilities. More info can be found in section 2.7.5 of the DSR.</p> <p>Wind energy can provide technical skills to South Africans and thus improve the technical skills profile of the country and the regions where wind energy facilities are located.</p> <p>Under the REIPPPP, bidders are incentivised to maximise the job creation potential of the project and additional points are available for employment opportunities created for members of the local communities surrounding the proposed projects. During the operation and maintenance phase of a successful REIPPPP project, a number of employment opportunities will be created. These opportunities may include site management, environmental management, facility operation and maintenance, community liaison, administration, monitoring, reporting, catering, cleaning and security. The exact number of jobs during operation (and construction) is not yet known, but will be defined in detail in the later stages of project development.</p> <p>As a registered I&AP you will be kept informed as the consultation period progresses.</p> <p>The impacts of the Project on water resources will be assessed as described in Section 7 of the DSR. With specific regard to groundwater, the assessment does not propose to include a full assessment of groundwater as the project infrastructure is mainly surface mounted and hence is not proposed to have a significant impact on groundwater. A Water Use License Application will be logged at the Department of Water Affairs</p>	
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				further down the development process and outside the EIA process.	
Colin Baadjies – Community member	2014/06/13	Email	<p>Mr. Colin Baadjies stated that the town of Murraysburg is a rural town and the percentage of poverty skills, development of the town needs development with the skill that he can obtain in this project. Mr. Baadjies also stated that this project can make a huge difference in the town in-terms of development and employment opportunity.</p> <p>Furthermore, Mr. Baadjies concluded that Murraysburg is the preferable location for this project because it can make a difference to the town.</p>	<p>EIMS response: Dear Mr Baadjies</p> <p>Thank you for completing the comment form in relation to the Umsinde Emoyeni Wind Energy Facility and associated grid infrastructure. You have now been registered as an Interested and Affected Party (I&AP) and will be notified for the issue of documentation and consultation events associated with the proposed project.</p> <p>We note your positive comments in regard to potential economic and employment benefits and provide the following further information.</p> <p>The project will be developed under the Department of Energy's Renewable Energy Independent Power Producers Procurement Program (REIPPPP). As explanation of the REIPPPP and its requirements can be found in Chapter 3 of the forthcoming Draft Scoping Report.</p> <p>As a part of the REIPPPP, local communities are required to have a stake in the ownership of the project, which is either funded by financier or by the other equity shareholder (which is known as a 'free carry'). Community ownership of an operating wind farm is generally conducted via a broad-based community trust, with the surrounding communities as beneficiaries of the dividends paid to shareholders in the project company. The dividend revenue will be invested in community development initiatives which would be outlined in the community trust deeds. In addition, successful REIPPPP projects are required to invest a percentage of gross revenue in socio economic development and enterprise development, primarily in the surrounding local communities (currently defined in the REIPPPP as located within</p>	Need for the Project

				<p>a 50 km radius of the wind farm's operational site). If the wind farm is constructed, a number of critical community development programmes would be established that would have the potential to positively impact the communities near the wind facilities.</p> <p>Wind energy can provide technical skills to South Africans and thus improve the technical skills profile of the country and the regions where wind energy facilities are located. Through the REIPPPP, developers' own initiatives and through support from international donor agencies, a number of young South Africans are being trained on various aspects of wind farm construction and operation.</p> <p>In addition, projects are required to indicate skills transfer and training initiatives as part of the economic development commitments of projects that are submitted under the REIPPPP.</p> <p>During the operation and maintenance phase, a number of employment opportunities will be created. These opportunities may include site management, environmental management, facility operation and maintenance, community liaison, administration, monitoring, reporting, catering, cleaning and security. The exact number of jobs during operation (and construction) is not yet known, but will be defined in detail in the later stages of project development.</p> <p>At present we are in the early stages of conducting an environmental impact assessment (EIA) in terms of the National Environmental Management Act 1998 (NEMA). Through this process a team of specialist environmental professional have been formed, who will be responsible for identifying and assessing the potential environmental impact of the proposed project. The first stage in this process is "scoping". The scoping stage is when we identify</p>	
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				<p>the potential likely environmental impacts which may result from the proposed wind energy facility (WEF) and its associated grid infrastructure, and how we intend to assess these in the full EIA. In order to do this the EIA team, who are experienced in the local area and with this type of development, are consulted along with key stakeholders and the public. The Draft Scoping Report is currently being finalised and will be provided for public comment. As a registered Interested and Affected Party (I&AP) you will be notified of the issue of the Draft Scoping Report, and where copies can be located for you to view and how you can comment. These comments will then be taken into account in preparing the Final Scoping Report which will be submitted to the Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA) for consideration.</p> <p>The Draft Scoping Report will contain information on the existing baseline environment at the project site, and will outline the topics which will be considered in the EIA. The following list identifies these topics, their appropriate references in the Draft Scoping Report and the environmental specialist who will be compiling the study.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✎ Bird Impact Assessment and Monitoring: Arcus Consulting – Andrew Pearson /Chapter 8 of the Draft Scoping Report; ✎ Bat Impact Assessment and Monitoring: NSS Environmental – Kate McEwan/ Chapter 6 of the Draft Scoping Report; ✎ Terrestrial Ecological Impact Assessment (Flora and Fauna): Anchor Environmental – Simon Todd/ Chapter 5of the Draft Scoping Report; 	
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				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✎ Archaeology and Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment: ACO Associates – Tim Hart / Chapter 10 of the Draft Scoping Report; ✎ Palaeontology Assessment: via ACO Associates – John Almond / Chapter 10 of the Draft Scoping Report; ✎ Aquatic/ Wetland Assessment: Scherman Colloty and Associates – Brian Colloty / Chapter 7 of the Draft Scoping Report; ✎ Noise Impact Assessment: Enviro-Acoustic Research – Morne de Jager / Chapter 11 of the Draft Scoping Report; ✎ Visual Assessment Bernard Oberholzer Landscape Architects & Meirelles Lawson Burger Architects - Bernard Oberholzer and Quinton Lawson / Chapter 4 of the Draft Scoping Report; ✎ Soil and Agriculture: Terrasoils – Johan van de Waals / Chapter 9 of the Draft Scoping Report; and ✎ Social Impact Assessment: Tony Barbour Environmental Consulting and Research – Tony Barbour/ Chapter 12 of the Draft Scoping Report. <p>The Draft Scoping Report will be available for review for a period of 40 days, during which time we will also be holding a number of public and focus group meetings in the area of the project site. As a registered I&AP you will be notified of the location and timings of the public meetings and we would gladly meet with you at this time to discuss any concerns you may have on any of the topics raised.</p>	
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				<p>Following completion of the scoping phase, the EIA phase will be undertaken which will include the design of the facility within the project site, and the assessment of impacts. The findings of this stage will be presented in the Draft EIA Report. This will similarly be available for public comment prior to the development of the Final EIA Report. Once the Final EIA Report is completed this will be provided to the DEA for a decision to be made whether to grant Environmental Authorisation for the project. Comment on the Final EIA Report can also be made to the DEA directly.</p> <p>Should you have any further queries please contact us and/or attend one of the public meetings to be held where you can meet the project team and ask any questions you may have related to the project.</p>	
Adrian Tiplady - Square Kilometre Array (SKA)	2014/06/16	Email and letter	<p>This letter is in response to your email request to provide an assessment on the potential development of the Umsinde Emoyeni wind electricity generation facility, and the risk it may pose of the Square Kilometre Array (SKA) Project.</p> <p>A high level risk assessment has been conducted at the South African SKA Project office to determine the potential impact such facilities on the SKA. This letter serves to confirm the outcomes of the risk assessment, and proposals for any future investigations associated with this facility.</p> <p>i. The approximate location of the proposed facility has been provided in the BID available on the EIMS website. The nearest SKA station is Rem-Opt-6, located at a distance of approximately 14 km from the proposed wind farm location.</p> <p>ii. Based on the distance to the nearest SKA station, integrated risk associated</p>	<p>EIMS response: Thank you for responding to the initial notification regarding this project. The Applicant, Windlab, have been in contact with SKA and another consultancy company MESA (Stellenbosch) regarding the Electro Magnetic Interference (EMI). EIMS and Arcus is in the process of determining the nature and extent of the impact this proposed project could have on the SKA project, and how the Applicant can address these at this stage in the development layout or the turbine type. In response to the specific points raised in your attached letter please see below:</p> <p>i. Please can SKA supply EIMS with a GIS boundary for your development. It should be noted that the current site outline provides the land boundary for the WEF, the turbines will be located at specific positions (still to be determined) within this boundary and will not occupy the whole study area. The design and layout of the WEF will be determined during the EIA process and in consultation with SKA and other I&APs.</p>	SKA specific issues

			<p>with multiple wind farms located in proximity and the information currently available on the detailed design of the installation, the wind energy facility poses a high risk of detrimental impact on the SKA.</p> <p>iii. Any transmitters that are to be established, at the site for the purposes of voice and data communication will be required to comply with the relevant AGA regulations concerning the restriction of use of the radio frequency spectrum that applies in the area concerned.</p> <p>iv. As a result of the high risk associated with the Umsinde Emoyeni wind energy facility, significant mitigation measures and more detailed studies will be required. Should environment authorisation be considered for this project, it should be made a condition of the authorisation that all the necessary protection for the SKA, as required and assessed by the South African SKA Project office, be compiled with prior to any operation.</p> <p>v. The South African SKA project office would like to be kept informed of progress with this project, and reserves the right to further risk assessments at a later stage.</p>	<p>There has to date not been any detailed design information provided for the Umsinde Emoyeni development as the project is still in its early stages. With reference to your preliminary risk assessment, please could you provide specific details on specific concerns you have, including stand-off distances from the SKA facility. The Applicant has advised that they would be happy to schedule a focus group meeting with the SKA representatives to discuss the potential project design and your concerns, in an effort to ensure that these are considered in the project design process. It is understood that the selection of the type of turbine and electric infrastructure may also be of concern to SKA and will continue to liaise with SKA on these points.</p> <p>This point is noted and has been raised to the developer, Windlab Developments. At this stage no transmitter are intended to be established.</p> <p>A full EIA process is being conducted in order to seek environmental authorisation. The project team (Applicant and the EIA team) would welcome the opportunity to engage with SKA to understand the specific concerns and consequently determine design considerations that should be taken into account.</p> <p>SKA have been added to the I&AP database and will be kept informed as the EIA process progresses.</p> <p>Please do not hesitate to contact us should you have any further queries or concerns regarding this project.</p>	
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Ronny Klink – Community member	2014/05/27	Email	EIMS met Mr. Ronny Klink on site while putting up site notices and posters.	<p>EIMS response Thank you once again for meeting two weeks ago in your office at such short notice regarding the WEF EIA project. Please find attached the initial notification letter (similar to the hard copies we left with you) in case you would like to distribute it electronically. The BID with more details on the project is available on our website (www.eims.co.za) as well as the Comment Sheet and Locality Map for the proposed site is. Please be advised that you will need to register on our website prior to being able to access the information (under Reports).</p> <p>You have been registered as an I&AP for the project, ad will thus receive further notification regarding any available reports on upcoming public meetings. Please do not hesitate to contact EIMS should you have any queries on concerns.</p>	General
Adri Smit – Secretary for Murraysburg Farmers Association	2014/05/27	Email	EIMS met Ms. Adri Smit on site while putting up site notices and posters	<p>EIMS response: Good Afternoon Adri,</p> <p>We met almost two weeks ago when we were putting up site notices next to the road for the WEF project. Please find attached the project initial notification letter for your additional information. The BID with more details is available on our website (www.eims.co.za) as well as the Comment Sheet and Locality Map for the proposed study area. Please be advised you will need to register prior to being able to access the information (under Reports).</p> <p>You have been registered and added to our database as an I&AP. Your comments regarding the impact on tourism as well as on bees have been noted. An Ecology specialist has been appointed and will consider your concern. As an I&AP, you will be notified when any reports are available for review and comment as well as any scheduled public meetings.</p>	General

Sanchia Ramparsad - Western Cape Provincial Department of Transport and Public Works	2014/06/05	Email	Mr. Sanchia Ramparsad was unable to gain access to the BID and Locality Map on the EIMS website.	EIMS forwarded Mr. Ramparsad with a brief details and instructions of how to log on to the EIMS website in order for him to access the BID and the two Locality Maps for the project.	General
Duval Johnson - Murraysburg Development Council of Stake Holders	2014/06/18	Email	<p>Mr. Duval Johnson apologised for responding to the initial notification after the commenting period had ended and he explained that he was on leave and he that he came back to work on the 18th of June 2014.</p> <p>Mr. Johnson stated that he the chairperson of the Murraysburg Development Council of Stake Holders responsible for the comprehensive rural development program (CRDP) in Murraysburg. They are responsible to see that the development in the Murraysburg area takes place in partnership with all levels of government departments and private sector.</p> <p>Mr. Johnson wanted to know if he could distribute notification documents (comment sheets) to the public so they could give input on this project even though the end of the commenting period and then send comments to EIMS. He stated that he knows of community members that would still like to register for involvement in the project process.</p> <p>Mr. Johnson stated that EIMS is welcome to send correspondence regarding the project to him and he will distribute to his community.</p> <p>Mr. Johnson said he would send the contact details to use when sending information for distribution via email to EIMS.</p>	<p>EIMS phoned Mr. Johnson and they let him know that he could still distribute project information and send comments back to EIMS even though the advertised initial notification period lapsed.</p> <p>EIMS confirmed to Mr. Johnson that the registration for the project will continue throughout the EIA process and therefore he may distribute the registration form to his community members that are interested in the project.</p> <p>EIMS thanked Mr. Johnson for his offer and agreed that any available additional notifications or documents would be sent to him (contact details) for wider distribution.</p>	General

Duval Johnson - Murraysburg Development Council of Stake Holders	2014/07/11	Email	Thanks I did receive the post (regarding additional consultation opportunities in the form of open sessions) and had already started to handout invite to stakeholders and the community	EIMS thanked Mr Johnson for his assistance in distributing the information regarding the various public events.	General
Duval Johnson - Murraysburg Development Council of Stake Holders	2014/07/23	Email	Thanks, it is a pleasure to do it .Anything for community development is what the NGO Murraysburg Development Council of Stakeholders are available for. We are busy with a list for petition of support for the renewable energy (programme) projects (Ishwati Emoyeni and Umsinde Emoyeni) for the public to sign so that we can send it to Windlab and the Departments of Energy and Environmental Affairs. We will keep you updated on the progress.	This was noted by EIMS.	General
Mr. Falata – Pixley ka Seme District Municipality (De Aar)	2014/06/26	Telephone	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Mr. Falata phoned EIMS as mandated by the mayor to enquire which areas are to be affected by the proposed project. 2. Mr. confirmed receipt of the letter with BID. 3. Mr. Falata said he would do so. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. EIMS asked Mr. Falata if he received the letter including the BID. 2. EIMS let Mr. Falata know that the map in the BID shows the areas that are likely to be affected by the proposed project (the red area for the wind energy facility and the blue area for the associated grid connection). EIMS further informed Mr. Falata that maps showing the proposed study area for both the wind turbines and the infrastructure to connect to the national electricity grid (grid connection) are available on the EIMS website (www.eims.co.za) under Reports. 3. EIMS asked that he contact them again should he encounter any problems or have queries or concerns. 	Study area; General

<p>Ms. Jessica Christie - Land Management</p> <p>Western Cape Department of Environmental Affairs and Development Planning</p>	2014/06/05	Facsimile	<p>This letter serves as acknowledgement of receipt of the afore-mentioned information by this Department and to notify you of whom the case officer is for the commenting authority. Kindly quote the above-mentioned reference number in any future correspondence in respect of this application</p> <p>Based on limited information in the BID, this Directorate has the following notes and considerations that need to be taken into account with regard to the site layout and what impacts this will have on the receiving environment and what limitations the receiving environment will have on the proposed layout of the development.</p> <p>Biophysical Impacts:</p> <p>Potential impacts on surface water resources that occur in close proximity to the site and possible riparian zones</p> <p>Potential impacts of increased surface water run-off associated with the establishment of hard surfaces and vegetation clearing (mainly during the construction phase)</p> <p>Potential impacts on ground and surface water quality due to hydrocarbon spillages from vehicles during the construction phase of the development</p> <p>Potential impacts on soils due to hydrocarbon spillages from vehicles during the construction and operational phase of the development.</p>	This was noted by EIMS.	<p>Receipt/Acknowledgement of notification;</p> <p>Ground water</p>
<p>Ms. Jessica Christie - Land Management</p>	2014/07/31	Email	<p>1. The above mentioned matter and the Draft Scoping Report (DSR) sent to this Directorate on 3 July 2014 refer:</p>	<p>1. EIMS thanked Ms. Christie for responding and acknowledging receipt of our latest submission to the Directorate. Her comments were noted.</p>	Receipt/Acknowledgement

Western Cape Department of Environmental Affairs and Development Planning			<p>This letter serves as acknowledgement of receipt of the above mentioned document by this Directorate.</p> <p>This Directorate's previous comments on this application dated 5 June 2014 (Ref no. 16/3/1/6/6/C3/13/0093/14) remains valid.</p> <p>This Directorate now awaits the Final Scoping Impact Report for further comment.</p> <p>The Directorate reserves the right to revise initial comments and request further information from you based on any or revised information received.</p>	<p>2. EIMS communicated that the Final Scoping Report will be submitted to the Directorate for review and comment.</p>	ent Notification of
<p>Ms. Jessica Christie - Land Management</p> <p>Western Cape Department of Environmental Affairs and Development Planning</p>	2015/03/02	Facsimile	<p>RE: PROPOSED UMSINDE EMOYENI WIND ENERGY FACILITY AND ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE, MURRAYSBURG, WESTERN CAPE PROVINCE</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The abovementioned matter and the Final Scoping Report ("FSR") sent to this Directorate on 6 January 2015 refers. 2. This letter serves as an acknowledgement of receipt of the abovementioned document by this Directorate. 3. This Directorate has no further comment on the Scoping report. 4. This Directorate now awaits the Draft Environmental Impact Report ("DEIR) for further comment. 5. The Directorate reserves the right to revise initial comments and request further information from you based on any new or revised information received. 	<p>Dear Head of Department,</p> <p>We acknowledge receipt of your fax (dated 2 March 2015) regarding the Umsinde Emoyeni Final Scoping Report. We will continue to update you with the issue of future reports.</p>	Acknowledgement of receipt of the FSR

<p>Francois Naudé - Environmental Impact Management Service, Directorate Development Management (Region 3)</p> <p>Western Cape Department of Environmental Affairs and Development Planning</p>	2016/02/24	Email and attached letter	<p>Dear Nobuhle Hughes,</p> <p>With reference to the above, please find attached a copy of the correspondence which was faxed to you on 24 February 2016.</p> <p>Attachment:</p> <p>DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT REPORTS FOR PHASE 1 & PHASE 2 OF THE PROPOSED UMSINDE EMOYENI WIND ENERGY FACILITY AND ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE, MURRAYSBURG, WESTERN CAPE PROVINCE</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The abovementioned proposal and the combined draft Environmental Impact Assessment Reports (DEIAR) (DEA Ref: 14/12/16/3/3/2/686 and 14/12/16/3/3/2/685) received by this Department on 31 January 2016 refer. 2. Based on the information contained in the Draft Environmental Impact Assessment Reports, this Directorate has reviewed the large set of documents within the time available and provide the following comments and considerations that need to be taken into account with regard to the site layout and what impact this will have on the receiving environment and what impact this will have on the receiving environment and what limitations the receiving environment will have on the proposed layout of the development: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2.1 Areas that have been identified or considered to have a very high sensitivity must be excluded from the development footprint. The proposed turbines in these areas must be removed from the layout. 	<p>EIMS response (add date): Good Morning Mr Naude,</p> <p>Thank you very much for the correspondence below and attached, as well as the faxed version. The Department's comments have been forwarded to the Environmental Assessment Practitioner for their attention and response.</p> <p>RE. DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT REPORTS FOR PHASE 1 & PHASE 2 OF THE PROPOSED UMSINDE EMOYENI WIND ENERGY FACILITY AND ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE, MURRAYSBURG, WESTERN CAPE PROVINCE:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The above mentioned proposal and the combined draft Environmental Impact Assessment Reports ("DEIAR") (DEA ref. 14/12/16/3/3/2/686 and 14/12/16/3/3/2/685) received by this Department on 13 January 2016 refer. 2. Based on information contained in the Draft Environmental Impact Assessment Reports, this Directorate has reviewed the large set of documents within the time available and provide the following comments and considerations that need to be taken into account with regard to the site layout and what impact this will have on the receiving environment and what limitations the receiving environment will have on the proposed layout of the development: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2.1 Areas that have been identified or considered to have a very high sensitivity must be excluded from the development footprint. The proposed turbines in these areas must be removed from the layout. 	<p>Relocation of turbines in highly sensitive areas;</p> <p>Department's Guideline for the Management of Development on Mountains, Hills and Ridges of the Western Cape;</p> <p>Social impact assessment;</p> <p>Cumulative impacts;</p> <p>General.</p>
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			<p>2.2 Furthermore, this Directorate is of the opinion that all the turbines located within the ridgeline that is considered as highly sensitive must be relocated or alternatively, be removed from the layout. In this regard, please take note of this Department's "Guidelines for the management of Development on Mountains, Hills and Ridges of the Western Cape". It is not clear how this guideline has been applied to the assessment.</p> <p>2.3 In terms of mitigation hierarchy, biodiversity offsets are to be used as "the last resort" and this Directorate is of the opinion that offsets are not appropriate for this development. The assessment of alternative sites must be fully exhausted if to allow the consideration of having biodiversity offsets and must be included in the EIA process from inception to determine the feasibility thereof. In light of the aforementioned, this Directorate objects to the utilisation of a biodiversity offset as mitigation measure</p> <p>2.4 Please take note of this Department's Guidelines For Involving Social Assessment Specialists in EIA processes, 2007" which has not been referenced in the EIAR, specifically the specialist report for Social Impact Assessment (SIA).</p> <p>Issues from the SIA</p> <p>2.4.1 It is noted that the study area is limited to the Western Cape Province, however, it is reasonable to expect that the proximity of</p>	<p>2.2 Furthermore, this Directorate is of the opinion that all the turbines located within the ridgeline that is considered as highly sensitive must be relocated or alternatively, be removed from the layout.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✎ Our VIA report includes maps with visual informants (Figures 11 and 12) which indicate visually sensitive landforms. Figure 13 indicates those turbines for which mitigation is recommended by means of relocating or micro-siting certain wind turbines. Mitigations relating to ridges are mainly indicated for Phase 2 of the proposed development, and could be achieved through refinement of the proposed layout, through micro siting. No turbines are placed on highly sensitive areas, as identified by the specialists. ✎ We are aware of the 'Guideline for the Management of Development on Mountains, Hills and Ridges' (2002) by the WCPG. This guideline was prepared before the advent of wind energy facilities locally, which often requires that turbines occupy elevated positions in the landscape to optimise the wind resource. We therefore tend to use the more recent guidelines contained in the 'Strategic Initiative to Introduce Commercial Land based Wind Energy Development to the WC, (2006)', also by the WCPG. ✎ One would have to consider what has been permitted for other wind farms, including those in proximity to 	
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			<p>these projects (including the number of similar projects in the vicinity) will likely have an influence on nearby towns such as Graaf Reinet and Aberdeen have not been included in the study area</p> <p>2.4.2 The assessment of impact of the presence of construction workers in the area on local communities must place a greater emphasis on the social and health related risks associated with such a development. It is noted from the SIA that a trust will be established for the benefit of the local community development, it is however unclear what the trust will be utilised for. The proponent must ensure that a financial provision is made available regarding the remediation of any negative impact or latent or residual environmental impacts which become known in the future. This may include social impacts too.</p> <p>2.4.3 It is acknowledged that this application is for two phases of a project, however the cumulative social impact of the various projects mentioned in the EIAR highlights the potential risks associated with such projects.</p> <p>2.4.4 The potential health impacts described in this report do not clearly expand on the potential health impacts associated with the construction phase.</p> <p>2.5 Cumulative impacts – This Directorate must register a concern regarding the description of the potential cumulative</p>	<p>Umsinde, and not see Umsinde in isolation, in order to understand the norm for managing wind farms.</p> <p>In this regard, please take note of this Department's " Guideline for the Management of Development on Mountains, Hills and Ridges of the Western Cape". It is not clear how this guideline has been applied to the assessment.</p> <p>The aim of the above-mentioned Guideline is to provide a decision-making framework with regard to developments which include listed activities in terms of National Environmental Management Act Regulations, and which are proposed in an environment which is characterised by mountains, hills and ridges.</p> <p>The Guideline notes that mountains, hills and ridges are subject to a range of development pressures. A guiding framework is therefore needed to control development in these areas. Key reasons listed are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide catchment areas for valuable water resources; • Often characterized by unique and sensitive ecosystems; • Have aesthetic / scenic value; and • Provide "wilderness" experience opportunities. <p>The Guideline defines a mountain, hill or ridge as "a physical feature that is elevated above the surrounding landscape".</p>	
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			<p>impacts associated with the development of the proposal. Although it is mentioned, this proposal will form part of a larger development at the local area/region and the cumulative impacts associated with the larger are are not adequately addressed. With due consideration of the cumulative impacts and risks identified in the various sections of the EIAR and mitigation measures that are proposed and how these relate to the impact to the impact hierarchy and avoidance principle, it must be highlighted that a comparative assessment between the alternative renewable energy generation opportunities (i.e. wind energy and solar) should form part of the assessment process. The renewable energy development zones for these renewable energy types appear to overlap or nearly overlap in this area..</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. Kindly quote the following reference number (16/3/1/6/6/C3/13/0093/14 in any future correspondence with this Department in respect of the application. 4. The Department reserves the right to revise initial comments and request further information from you based on any new or revised information received. 	<p>The Guideline is divided into 2 sections. The second deals with key decision-making criteria which need to be taken into account when adjudicating the suitability of developments in such areas. Key criteria which are of specific relevance to the proposed WEF include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Development on the crest of a mountain, hill or ridge should be strongly discouraged; 2. Preserve landform features through ensuring that the siting of facilities is related to environmental resilience and visual screening capabilities of the landscape; 3. Adopt the precautionary principle to decision making; 4. The criteria used to assess developments in these areas include, amongst others, density of the development, aesthetics, location, value in terms of "sense of place", character of adjacent land use, character of the general area, and cumulative impacts which may arise from other existing and planned developments in the area. <p>The proposed WEF site is located in a landscape characterised by scenic vistas in an agricultural setting. However, it should be noted that the Guidelines were developed in 2002 and do not take into account the locational requirements of WEFs.</p> <p>It should be noted that the heritage and the visual specialists have assessed the potential impact of the proposed development on the sense of place, the impact on sense of place was further assessed in the social impact</p>	
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				<p>assessment. A high ridgeline exists outside the eastern boundary of the proposed development site which would provide a physical visual barrier for the areas to the east of the proposed development. Other smaller ridges and koppies within the proposed development site would also provide some visual screening.</p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>Social Sense of place – No Mitigation</td> <td>High</td> <td>Probable</td> <td>High</td> <td>-ve High</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Social Sense of place – With Mitigation</td> <td>Medium</td> <td>Probable</td> <td style="background-color: yellow;">Medium</td> <td>-ve High</td> </tr> </table> <p>2.3. In terms of mitigation hierarchy, biodiversity offsets are to be used as the “last resort” and this Directorate is of the opinion that offsets are not appropriate for this development. The assessment of alternative sites must be fully exhausted if to allow the consideration of having biodiversity offsets and must be included in the EIA process from inception to determine the feasibility thereof. In light of aforementioned, this Directorate objects to the utilisation of a biodiversity offset as mitigation measure.</p> <p>The above concerns have been noted, however no offsets have been included as mitigation measures for this project.</p> <p>2.4. Please take note of this Department's "Guideline For Involving Social Assessment Specialists In EIA Processes. 2007" which has not</p>	Social Sense of place – No Mitigation	High	Probable	High	-ve High	Social Sense of place – With Mitigation	Medium	Probable	Medium	-ve High
Social Sense of place – No Mitigation	High	Probable	High	-ve High										
Social Sense of place – With Mitigation	Medium	Probable	Medium	-ve High										

				<p>been referenced in the EIAR, specifically the specialist report for Social Impact Assessment (SIA).</p> <p>Issues from the SIA:</p> <p>2.4.1. It is noted that the study area is limited to the Western Cape Province. However, it is reasonable to expect that the proximity of these projects (including the number of similar projects in the vicinity) will likely have an influence on nearby towns in the Eastern Cape Province. It is unclear why towns such as Graaff-Reinet and Aberdeen have not been included in the study area.</p> <p>2.4.2. The assessment of impact of the presence of construction workers in the area on local communities must place a greater emphasis on the social and health related risks associated with such a development. It is noted from the SIA that a trust will be established for the benefit of the local community development, it is however unclear what the trust will be utilised for. The proponent must ensure that a financial provision is made available regarding the remediation of any negative impact or latent or residual environmental impacts which become known in the future. This may include social impacts too.</p> <p>2.4.3. It is acknowledged that this application is for two phases of a project. However, the cumulative social impact of the various projects mentioned in the EIAR highlights the potential risks associated with such projects.</p>	
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			<p>2.4.4. The potential health impacts described in this report do not clearly expand on the potential health impacts associated with the construction phase.</p> <p>Please separate attachment with responses regarding the social impact points raised above.</p> <p>2.5. Cumulative impacts:</p> <p>This Directorate must register a concern regarding the description of the potential cumulative impacts associated with the development of the proposal. Although it is mentioned, this proposal will form part of a larger development of the local area/region and the cumulative impacts associated with the larger area are not adequately addressed.</p> <p>The proposed development of the Umsinde Emoyeni WEF (Phase 1 and Phase 2) will not form part of any other larger development. All specialists assessed the cumulative impact on Wind Energy Facilities, as well as their associated grid connections, within a defined radius for each aspect. These we believe have been adequately assessed, with the information currently available regarding wind facilities in South Africa.</p> <p>With due consideration of the cumulative impacts and risks identified in the various sections of the EIAR and mitigation measures that are proposed and how these relate to the impact hierarchy and avoidance principle, it must be highlighted that a comparative assessment between the alternative renewable energy generation opportunities (i.e. wind energy and solar) should form part of the assessment process. The renewable energy</p>
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				<p>development zones for these renewable energy types appear to overlap or nearly overlap in this area.</p> <p>The applicant is a Wind Developer only, and therefore only wind energy was taken into consideration for the proposed project.</p> <p>3. Kindly quote the following reference number 16/3/1/6/6/C3/13/0093/14 in any future correspondence with this Department in respect of the application.</p> <p>4. The Department reserves the right to revise initial comments and request further information from you based on any new or revised information received.</p>	
ML Watters – For Executive Manager: Road and Transport Management	2014/07/01	Email and attached Letter	<p>Umsinde Emoyeni Wind Farm Project (Pty) Ltd is proposing to establish a commercial wind energy facility of up to 280 MW on various farms located approximately 30km north of Murraysburg.</p> <p>This Branch would like to register as an Interested and Affected Party.</p> <p>The proposal affects Provincial Roads Trunk Road 16/9, Main Road 606, Divisional Road 2404, and Minor Roads 9245, 9246, 9251, 9252 and 9153.</p> <p>This Branch offers the following initial comment on the proposed project and will provide further comment on the LUPO application. In terms of Act 21 of 1940 and Ordinance 19 of 1976, the following apply:</p>	EIMS thanked Mr. Watters for responding to the notification regarding the proposed project and let him know that he has been registered as an I&AP for this project. Furthermore, EIMS let Mr. Watters know that his comments have been noted.	Registration

			<p>1.1 A building restriction line of 95m is applicable along trunk, main and divisional roads and is measured from the centreline of the road reserve;</p> <p>1.2 A building restriction line of 500m is applicable from the centreline of intersecting trunk, main, and divisional roads, and where these roads intersect other roads;</p> <p>1.3 No advertising of any nature is allowed on the turbine structures;</p> <p>1.4 Turbines should be located a distance equal to or greater than their topping distance plus 5m from the road reserve boundary;</p> <p>1.5 Turbines shall be located for enough from the road reserve boundary so that they do not present a distraction to motorists, and the Branch may require the applicant to engage the services of a traffic engineer to assess such impact once the location of the wind turbines have been determined and</p> <p>1.6 A 5m building line is applicable.</p> <p>1.7 A Traffic Impact Assessment (TIA) will be required when the LUPO application is made. Amongst the usual items that the TIA addresses it should also consider the impact on road infrastructure what maintenance measures may be required during construction and decommissioning of the facility.</p>		
Barbara Brown – Central Karoo District Municipality	2014/07/11	Email	<p>I trust this e-mail finds you well.</p> <p>Can I request that you send a copy of the draft scoping report directly to the Central Karoo District Municipality for comments please. This</p>	EIMS and Arcus made arrangements for the delivery of a hard copy to Ms Brown at the Central Karoo District Municipality offices in Beaufort West.	General

			will make things much easier for us, then getting a copy from the Library at Beaufort West Municipality or viewing it there. Hope you find everything in order.	This was collected by courier on 23 rd July 2014.	
Rene De Kock – Statutory Control National Roads Agency	2014/07/07	Email	Please forward me the Draft Scoping Report for comment please.	EIMS response: Please follow the link http://www.eims.co.za/view/104/43/ towards accessing the Draft Scoping Report and associated appendices for the above mentioned project. Please advice if you have trouble accessing the information. Furthermore, if you would like us to send you an electronic copy (in the form of a CD) please let us know and we will make the arrangements.	Request for Documentation
Bradley Gibbons	2014/07/07 (11:51)	Email	Please can you register me as an Interested and Affected Party for the Umsinde Emoyeni Wind Energy Facility.	EIMS response: Thank you for responding to the latest project correspondence. As requested, you have been registered as an Interested and Affected party for this project. If possible, please may you provide us with a postal address and/or fax number as back up means of contact ensuring you receive communication regarding the project.	Registration
Bradley Gibbons	2014/07/07 (12:16)	Email	Thanks for the email. My postal number is P.O. Box 8800, Newcastle, 2940 and my fax is 088 0334 3129302 (fax to email)	EIMS registered Mr. Gibbons in the I&AP database for this project using the contact emails provided.	Registration
Mark Anderson – Chief Executive Officer Birdlife South Africa	2014/07/08	Email	This email address "director@birdlife.org.za" has been discontinued, so please use "ceo@birdlife.org.za". Note that email addresses are not auto-forwarded to this new email address.	EIMS response: Thank you for the information. We have removed the discontinued email address (director@birdlife.org.za) and updated the database with the provided email address (ceo@birdlife).	Registration
Mark Anderson – Chief Executive Officer	2016/02/14	Email	Can you please urgently send me the attendance register of the public meeting which was held in Murraysburg on 4 February.	EIMS response: Good Morning Mark, Please find attached a copy of the attendance register from the recently held public meeting in Murraysburg as requested. The register along with	Request for Documentation

Birdlife South Africa				the minutes of the meeting will form part of the Final EIA Report to be submitted to the competent authority, the Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA). Registered Interested and Affected Parties will be notified about the availability of Final EIA Report and its appendices. Please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any further queries.	
Megan Diamond - Endangered Wildlife Trust	2014/07/08	Email	I am no longer working for EWT and request that you contact the WEP manager, Mrs. Stephanie Aken on Stephanie@ewt.org.za .	EIMS response: Thank you for the feedback. I will contact Mrs. Stephanie Aken.	Registration
Andrew Pearson - Endangered Wildlife Trust. (since January 2014 appointed by Arcus as Avifauna Specialist)	2014/07/08	Email	To contact Wildlife and Energy Program send an email to wep@ewt.org.za	This was noted by EIMS	Registration
Martina Benade - AGRI-SA	2014/07/08	Email	I will be away from the office but will reply to your email when I return on the 21 st of July.	This was noted by EIMS.	General
Benjamin Walton - Scientist (Land Use Advice) Scientific Services Cape Nature	2014/07/14	Email and attached Letter	Cape Nature has received your BID notification letters on the 27th of May 2014 and the 6th of June 2014, and has received your notification of the availability of the draft Scoping Report for review on the 7th of July 2014; as well as various fax2mail messages of the same. Please submit a hardcopy of the main report as well as any specialist inputs, as well as all documentation included on compact disc.	EIMS response: Thank you very much for contacting us, we are in the process of preparing hard and electronic (CD) copies of the Draft Scoping Report for submission to Cape Nature as requested. We have updated the Interested and Affected Party (I&AP) database with your details as a contact person at Cape Nature for this project.	Request for Information

			<p>I have attached our standard requirements for submission to CapeNature (please refer to Appendix O for the Attachment); and will submit comment once in receipt of the abovementioned documentation.</p> <p>Please note that I am the relevant contact person at CapeNature for this project.</p>		
Benjamin Walton – Scientist (Land Use Advice) Scientific Services Cape Nature	2014/07/25	Email	<p>This office has not yet received any form of documentation to date from you.</p> <p>Please comply with the requirements to submit the application for consideration.</p>	The EAP couriered the requested copies of the Draft Scoping report to Mr. Walton. Confirmation of receipt of the package was received from Ms Lue Ann on the 1st August 2014.	Request for information
Benjamin Walton – Scientist (Land Use Advice) Scientific Services Cape Nature	2015/12/04	Email and attached document	<p>Hello Nobuhle Hughes</p> <p>Unfortunately due to previous staff capacity constraints CapeNature has not yet provided comment on this application.</p> <p>Cape Nature will provide comment upon receipt of the draft EIAR.</p> <p>Please ensure that the relevant biophysical studies have been conducted including baseline vegetation and freshwater surveys; faunal and avifaunal surveys; palaeontological and archaeological; as well as visual assessments.</p> <p>I have attached our standard requirements in that regard (please refer to Appendix U for the attachment).</p>	<p>EIMS response: Hi Benjamin,</p> <p>Thank you very much for the correspondence and attached document, it has been noted by the project team. We will await your input on the Draft EIA Report. Your continued involvement in this project is much appreciated.</p>	General.
Benjamin Walton – Scientist (Land Use Advice)	2015/12/07	Email	Please note that I will be on leave until Wednesday the 9th of December 2015.	This was noted by EIMS.	General.

Scientific Services Cape Nature					
Benjamin Walton – Scientist (Land Use Advice) Scientific Services Cape Nature	2016/03/07	Email	<p>Hello to whom it may concern:</p> <p>Cape Nature requires shapefiles of the project domains (Phase 1 & 2/ Grid Phase 1& 2) with a list of affected properties and all Wind Turbine positions (both alternatives) as well as all associated road networks for ease of reference, for:</p> <p>The Umsinde Emoyeni project.</p> <p>Please note I received a CD only for the draft EIAR for Umsinde Emoyeni project (_684 to_687); and actually required hardcopies of all specialist reports with A3 maps.</p>	<p>EIMS response: Good Day Mr Walton,</p> <p>Thank you for your correspondence below, please find attached requested information for the Umsinde project for your review.</p> <p>Should you have any queries or concerns regarding the above and attached information, please do not hesitate to contact me.</p>	Request for Information and Documentation.
Benjamin Walton – Scientist (Land Use Advice) Scientific Services Cape Nature	2016/03/08	Email	<p>Many thanks for this Nobuhle Hughes</p> <p>Please note I received on 16 January 2016 a digital copy only of the Umsinde Emoyeni project (which I needed) I also required a hardcopy of the Umsinde Emoyeni project main and specialist reports.</p>	<p>This was noted by EIMS. Mr. Walton was fine with the CD and happy that the final reports be sent as a hard copy to him.</p>	General.
Bradley Gibbons	2014/07/15	Email	<p>Please can you send me a comment sheet in MS-Word format for the proposed wind energy facility.</p>	<p>EIMS sent Mr Gibbons the requested comment sheet in the required format (MS-Word).</p>	Request for information
Bradley Gibbons	2014/07/23	Email	<p>Thanks for the fax received on 10 July 2014. My fax number changed this week, so please note that my fax number is now: 086 517 8872.</p> <p>If there are more faxes in the future, please send it to the new number.</p>	<p>EIMS response: Thank you very much for responding to our previous notifications and for updating us with regards to changes to your contact details. We have updated your fax number accordingly, as per the latest notification regarding the extension of the public comment period for the Draft Scoping Report.</p>	Change of contact details

			<p>Thank you for the requested MS word format comment sheet.</p> <p>Thanks for the email, as well as the fax, I received both.</p>	<p>Thank you for confirming receipt of both the latest email and fax notifications.</p>	
<p>Cobri Vermeulen – Area Manager Forestry (Western Cape Forestry management, Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries)</p>	2014/07/15	Email	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. As a Government Department of Agriculture Forestry and Fisheries, mandated under the National Forests Act to regulate the protection of trees and forests and all aspects of the National Veld and Forest Fire Act, we are not an interested and affected party, but part of the cooperative governance process to grant or refuse approvals for the development / certain aspects of the development. 2. Please send all documentation regarding the application to me in future. It would be appreciated if I can receive a CD with the information. 3. Much appreciated. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. EIMS thanked Mrs Vermeulen for her input regarding the role of the Department of Agriculture Forestry and Fisheries, and confirmed that all future documentation on the project will be sent to her. 2. EIMS sent a CD copy of the Draft Scoping Report to Mrs Vermeulen via courier on the 31st July 2014. 	Request for Information
<p>Cobri Vermeulen – Area Manager Forestry (Western Cape Forestry management, Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries)</p>	2016/02/01	Email	<p>Dear Nobuhle Hughes</p> <p>Please find attach comments from DAFF.</p> <p>Attachment:</p> <p><u>RE: DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT REPORT – UMSINDE EMOYENI WIND ENERGY FACILITY EIA</u></p> <p>DAFF would like to thank you for the opportunity to review and comment on the draft Environmental Impact Assessment report; Umsinde Emoyeni Wind Energy Facility EIA received 14 January 2016</p>	<p>EIMS response: Dear Cobri,</p> <p>Thank you very much for the correspondence below and the attached comments from DAFF. They have been forwarded to the project team.</p>	General.


			<p>1. DAFF has studied the supporting documents for the abovementioned and the following points related to DAFF's mandate i.e. the implementation of the National Forest Act, Act 84 of 1998 as amended (NFA) and the National Veld and Forest Fire Act, Act 101 of 1998 (NVFFA) are applicable.</p> <p>a. This office has no comment to make regarding the NFA as per documentation provided; no Protected Trees as per section 15 or Indigenous Forest as per section 7 of the NFA are involved.</p> <p>b. The provisions of the NVFFA do not apply to this application.</p> <p>DAFF has no objection to the proposed development.</p>		
Deon Swart	2014/07/16	Email	Please do include myself. I would like to be updated with all communications concerning this project, ref.0009.	EIMS thanked Mr Swart for his response and confirmed that he will be updated with all communications concerning the project.	Registration/ Request for Information
Lourens Leeuwner – Renewable Energy Project Manager (EWT)	2014/07/16	Email	Thank you for all the correspondence regarding this issue (First Africa group email). Although I am receiving many emails, can you please confirm that EWT is officially registered as an I&AP and possible could you confirm who registered the organisation? I have recently taken up the position at EWT and would like the process to be organised properly.	EIMS confirmed to Mr Leeuwner that four representatives of the EWT are registered I&APs. Two members were pre-identified as I&APs at the commencement of the project, and an additional two were registered after the initial notification.	Registration
Lourens Leeuwner – Renewable Energy Project Manager (EWT)	2015/11/26	Email	Good day Just wanted to check if the EWT is still registered as an I&AP for this multiple phase windfarm development application from Windlab?	EIMS response: Dear Lourens, Thank you for your inquiry below. This serves to confirm that you (as a representative of EWT) are still a registered Interested and Affected Party (I&AP) for the Umsinde Emoyeni Wind Energy Facilities development project. Environmental	Registration.

			Things have been a bit quiet so just wondering where we are in the process. Thanks	Impact Assessment (EIA) phase has been underway with various specialist studies being undertaken. The Draft EIA Report will be made available in January 2016. Notification in this regard will be distributed to all registered I&APs. We appreciate your continued interest in the project.	
Lourens Leeuwner – Renewable Energy Project Manager (EWT)	2015/11/30	Email	Much appreciated thanks.	This was noted by EIMS.	General.
Lourens Leeuwner – Renewable Energy Project Manager (EWT)	2016/03/10	Email	Good day It has come under my attention that comments have been submitted to EIMS by a person claiming to be employed by the EWT. Please note that although Lucia Rodrigues does provide data to the EWT on her work, she is not on the EWT payroll and in this instance has commented on behalf of the EWT without anyone's knowledge. Please view these as her personal comments, rather than comments representative of the EWT. We are aware that Ronelle Visagie has commented on this project. Ronelle is an employee of the EWT and is authorized to comment in her area of expertise. Please contact me should you require any clarity.	EIMS response: Dear Mr Leeuwner, Thank you very much for your comment and clarification. We will record Ms Lucia Rodrigues's comments on an individual basis and are in the process of finalising responses to Ms. Ronelle Visagie's submitted comments.	General.
Richard Weppelmann – RWBE	2014/07/16	Email	Came across your information regarding the Umsinde Wind Facility. I would like to register	EIMS thanked Mr Weppelmann for his request to be registered, and confirmed with him that he has	Registration

Geotechnical Drilling De Rust Farm (Graaff Reinet)			as an I&AP. Could you direct me to someone who I can help please. I would like to get into contact with the Geotechnical Consultants who will be overseeing the project. Could you please forward me their contact details.	been registered as an Interested and Affected Party (I&AP) for the project.	Specialist studies
Richard Weppelmann – RWBE Geotechnical Drilling De Rust Farm (Graaff Reinet)	2014/07/29	Email	I have asked on numerous occasions now who the geotech consultants are for this project. I still have not received a reply. I cannot submit my comment on the Drafting Scoping Report without this information. Please respond with info asap.	EIMS response: Once again thank you for contacting us, and we apologise for any delay in responding we are receiving quite a large volume of comments. In this feasibility phase of the project's development, whereby the layout and design of the project is not yet identified, the applicant has not yet appointed a Geotechnical Consultant to do a complete geotechnical study. No fatal flaws were identified during a pre-feasibility assessment that included a geotechnical desktop and walkover inspection and details the site access, regional geological and hydrological conditions and any potential initial geotechnical problems that may be evident. A Preliminary Geotechnical Study will be completed at a later stage of project development, most likely after the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) has been completed. A Full Geotechnical Study (including drilling at all turbine locations) will be completed prior to the start of construction. Should you have any information that can assist with outlining the scope and approach for geotechnical studies for the Project, please feel free to share this with the Project Developer (Windlab). Also if you have any information on the geological aspects of the environment (that may be useful in the EIA process) it would be greatly	Request for information

				appreciated if you could share this with the EIA team.		
Karoo Group	News	2014/07/16	Email	<p>Dear Windlab, Arcus, Eims</p> <p>Karoo News Group is a registered I&AP and this response is to various emails. Your comments and email various headers are in bold</p> <p>1. A cumulative assessment of the Ishwati Emoyeni development will be included in the Umsinde Emoyeni EIA process as we progress to that stage. The cumulative impact is not adequately dealt with in the Scoping Report by the specialist studies in both WEF. The baseline monitoring study and data is inaccurate and based on incomplete data recorded from an ineffective pre-construction monitoring programme. As we understand the process for Base Line Monitoring should substantially inform the AIA report, and be the basis upon which the RoD is issued by DEA. So if the base line data is insufficient, and Ishwati never did a cumulative study and never once referred to the adjacent Umsinde in its reports, how can a cumulative assessment be undertaken if the baseline data for the Umsinde Scoping Report inaccurate as well as some of the baseline studies for Ishwati. The Scoping Phase is supposed to highlight potentially likely impacts. These are supposed to be identified in a complete desk top study and complete pre-construction monitoring program – You say The Draft Scoping Report contains information on the existing baseline environment at the project site - we dispute that</p>	<p>EIMS Response:</p> <p>1. Thank you once again for the continued engagement on the Umsinde Emoyeni Wind Energy Facility project.</p> <p>The Draft Scoping Report for Umsinde Emoyeni states in both the EIA methodology section and in the specialists studies that cumulative impacts will be dealt with as part of the EIA. This will include the following scenarios: Umsinde Emoyeni Phase 1 Umsinde Emoyeni Phase 2 Umsinde Emoyeni Phase 1 and 2; and Umsinde Emoyeni Phase 1 and 2 plus Ishwati.</p> <p>Furthermore where appropriate other development may also be considered for inclusion as per specialists subject. We would like to reiterate that to date no impact is being assessed as we are only in the scoping phase, this will be done during the EIA phase. Please review the attached process flow chart of the EIA process.</p> <p>It is not clear from your comments above where you are referring to the Ishwati Emoyeni project and where you are referring to Umsinde Emoyeni. As noted previously we cannot comment on the Ishwati Emoyeni project and will respond to comments on Umsinde Emoyeni.</p> <p>We do not believe the baseline data to be inaccurate. The baseline data has been collated in accordance with the relevant</p>	<p>Cumulative impacts; Fracking; Land Value; Green energy</p>

			<p>sufficient baseline information is available let alone on the cumulative effects, We reject the use of any Ishwati baseline studies to do a cumulative effect analysis for Umsinde. You have done no post construction monitoring on any similar WEF is SA when you clearly have the opportunity to do this. Further there is very limited research data available for the Great Escarpment and much of it lies with locals who have been in the region for generations. No attempt was made by the specialists to tap into this which is compounded by the fact that these specialists admit research data for the area is very limited. We will show that research and monitoring data as incomplete.</p> <p>2. Overlap with Proposed Fracking Areas. In your and the Developers letter to concerned members dated 27/06/2014 whereby it is said "Mr Light is also of the opinion that the proposed wind farms may serve as a deterrent to fracking in the area." We reject this statement. <u>Please explain this as it does not make any sense.</u> The section 53 exemption is really questionable. In the Shell EIA documentation they clearly show a proposed Shell fracking site is in the vicinity of the 2xWEF. We know the Fracking Process consumes huge amounts of energy. We also know that you with your WEF applications are changing the land use to that of energy and have a creeping strategy. We also know that some of your directors or shareholders have or had interests with Shell or gas. We thank you for your</p>	<p>publically available datasets, site based information and guidelines requirements. We are however in the consultation period for the Draft Scoping Report, and should further baseline information be provided from appropriate sources we will pass this onto the specialists for consideration in accordance with the relevant guidelines and legislation. If you have concerns regarding the sources of the baseline information in the Draft Scoping Report please provide some specific references so we can assist in clarifying the source and reason for the inclusion of the data.</p> <p>2. We are unclear as to what your specific query is from this statement. As per our previous responses we reiterate Windlab is a wind energy company, and the project applied for is as described in the project description in the Draft Scoping Report and the associated Listed Activities. The NEMA regulations as previously stated do not allow for other types of development under an environmental authorisation, the only permitted activities are those as per the project description and assessed in the EIA.</p> <p>Please note that in addition to the Environmental Approval applied for, if the application for Consent Land Use would be granted by the municipality, this will only be applicable for agriculture and renewable energy.</p> <p>With regard to the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA), you are correct in saying this is an ongoing process which has not yet been concluded or been brought into law. The SEA utilises some publically available mapping datasets and some of these are used in the EIA process to define the existing</p>
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		<p>answers to this but the fact remains . We also know that your negotiations and agreements with stakeholders are and have been secretive. We also know that there are 600 WEF applications to DEA. We also know that the legislative framework is not in place and the Renewable Energy Developments Zones (REDZ) are not yet finalised and you have used available data from the SEA process to target certain areas. We also know the recent announcement by Minerals and Energy Minister Mrs Pieterse of the GUMP (Gas Master Plan) shows intent to Frack in the Karoo. Shortly after this announcement Shell executives request meeting with Minister to see how they can fast track there Karoo Fracking applications. Looking at the overlay of all mining and energy applications for the Karoo you will understand the concern and the non-acceptance of your statement and the WEF. Gauging public sentiment all that is being achieved by pursuing these WEF further is creating a serious negative public sentiment to WEF in general particularly in under researched pristine natural areas. In response to your inadequate answer we therefore request and suggest that a INTEGRATED EIA be undertaken on all the mining and energy applications in the Karoo be done and that a Moratorium be placed on all applications until an integrated analysis is undertaken. This has been requested to the relevant authorities and we would appreciate you do the same in the best interests of the Karoo and its communities.</p>	<p>baseline environment. These datasets were not developed by the SEA, they are used by it and are publically available for use and recommended for use by guidelines in the renewable energy and other industries.</p> <p>The development process of a WEF includes a Prospecting/Securement and Pre-feasibility phase that amongst other includes a high level assessment of environmental or technical fatal flaws and wind measurements on site. Only after this Pre-feasibility phase the Developer can decide to proceed, based on the information gathered, with the Project development and start the Feasibility phase that includes the EIA process with public participation. Please note that not all Projects identified in the Prospecting and Pre-feasibility phase evolve to the Feasibility phase. This Project has advanced to Feasibility stage (which includes the EIA process) as it has been identified as suitable for continued investigation and development.</p>  <p>3. As stated in Chapter 12: Socio-Economic Impacts of the Draft Scoping Report, the Socio-economic Impact Assessment as part of the EIA phase will assess factors such as way of life and personal and property rights. We note your concern and request for more information in this regard. We propose to provide more information in the Final Scoping Report for inclusion in the EIA phase. A full list</p>
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			<p>3. The issue of the impact of a wind energy facility on land values (and all other concerns raised by I&APs as part of the Public Participation Process) will be addressed as part of the specialist studies for the EIA. In your summary of Specialist Studies there is no specialist mentioned to study this. In the I&RR (Interest and Responses Report) you answer the issue raised in the registration phase by saying there is no proof of a negative impact and direct I&AP to some random links of studies done in the US. However a quick Google search shows many peer reviewed publications saying the opposite. This issue was not addressed in the Ishwati report adequately either so any reference to Ishwati baseline studies will not be acceptable. We ask again who is the appointed specialist as we know that an industrial WEF in natural rural environment will have a negative land value impact. This is particularly pertinent in the Karoo as the landscape that gives it its unique and valuable Sense of Place has been unchanged for 250 million years. Why does the developer and specialists think otherwise when it is this development that will have this negative impact. The Karoo as a Sense of Place that is very valuable and important as are the red data species that the Karoo's people have protected and are now part of the economy. An example is tours to the Karoo and this area being stimulated by the International Crane Foundations hosted tours. The growing appreciation of the value of the Karoo as it is both locally</p>	<p>of all appointed specialists is provided in the Draft Scoping Report in Section 1.4.2. If you have sourced information you would like to submit to us for further consideration in the process then please do so. This is the purpose of the consultation process for engagement of the I&APs where further information can be submitted for consideration.</p> <p>Sense of place is specifically referenced Chapter 12 of the Draft Scoping Report.</p> <p>Please submit any further baseline information you have available on these points as a part of this Draft Scoping Report consultation process.</p> <p>4. As noted we are not providing comment on the Ishwati Emoyeni project this is a response to Umsinde Emoyeni.</p> <p>With regard to the critique of the statement regarding project information, in order to assess an impact, the EIA process must consider the worst case scenario of a project. This is correct. However the application forms for the Umsinde Emoyeni projects containing an outline project description and notifying of the project, were not submitted until April 2014. As such our understanding is there was no project information for the Ishwati Emoyeni team to assess cumulatively, which was the reason for the statement regarding the need for appropriate project information being available. We would request further comments on the Ishwati Emoyeni process be addressed to the relevant EIA team so they can be responded to as appropriate as we are not able to provide any further information on</p>	
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			<p>and internationally is undeniable. We would like to show how the WEF will have a negative impact on the stability, sustainability and the future potential and have base line information that will show this. This information is readily available and was mostly not used in any of the reports. The question will be why not.</p> <p>4. With reference to the answers given yesterday to questions. We are starting to get very concerned with the general slant and the versions given. We have made it clear in the PPP we are new to WEF impacts and applications procedures and our ignorance should not be used to this or any communities disadvantage. The answers referred to are those in this statement below. Please note that the responses supplied in text refer to the answers received from Eims yesterday on behalf of Windlab and Arcus. The statement follows</p> <p><i>Please note that various of the responses supplied in the text by whomever are not correct and their implementation, as described, would be non-compliant with NEMA and the EIA Regulations promulgated there under. For instance, there is no provision under law (that I am aware of) which requires "correct level of project information" before a cumulative impact can or must be undertaken. On the contrary, the NEMA EIA Regulations require that the cumulative impact be assessed and same place no limitations on the quality of information. Furthermore, NEMA explicitly requires that a "risk averse" approach" be adopted</i></p>	<p>the approach taken by the Ishwati Emoyeni team.</p> <p>The EAP for the project is a certified EAP through the Interim Certification Board in South Africa and is aware of the NEMA requirements. If there are any other specific legal queries which you would like further clarity on regarding the Umsinde Emoyeni project we would welcome any comments from the author or their legal representatives.</p> <p>5. A response to the First Africa email was issued on 15 July 2014.</p> <p>We would refer you also to the content of that response which provides statement from bird conservation organisations relating to the threat to species from climate change. It is the opinion of the EIA team this is an important factor for consideration in the EIA process. It is appropriate for policy to address the climate change issue (please see Chapter 3 of the Draft Scoping Report). Extracts from this chapter are provided below but we would invite you to undertake a full review of this Chapter of Draft Scoping and submit any queries:</p> <p>National Energy Act (Act No 34 of 2008)</p> <p><i>The National Energy Act was promulgated in 2008 (Act No 34 of 2008). One of the objectives of the Act was to promote diversity of supply of energy and its sources. In this regard, the preamble makes direct reference to renewable resources:</i></p> <p><i>"To ensure that diverse energy resources are available, in sustainable quantities, and at affordable prices, to the South African</i></p>	
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			<p><i>in the EIA process – in my opinion this would require the assessment of the (environmentally) worst case scenario where limited information or certainty exists. It is also not correct for the author to state that the onus rests solely on the Umsinde Emoyeni project to assess the cumulative impact of the Ishwati project and not visa versa. The Ishwati Project does indeed have to consider the cumulative impact of (inter alia) the Umsinde Project since no decision has yet been made on the Ishwati environmental application by DEA. In fact, the likelihood of the Umsinde Project being known (at any time) during the Ishwati EIA should have compelled the EAP / Applicant to have disclosed it during the Ishwati project and to accordingly have assessed it.</i></p> <p>I am not sure who the author of these responses is but it would appear apt to remind the EAP in particular (who must be an individual and natural person who will assume strict liability for conducting the EIA process) of the provisions under EIA Regulation 17 which require that the EAP (and any other appointed specialists and consultants too) to be competent, independent and objective.</p> <p>5. We also await your response as undertaken by you with regard to the email headed Save the Blue Cranes of the Karoo's Great Escarpment from Industrial Wind Farms from First Africa. One of the issues being tabled there is that we as South Africans have a responsibility and an international</p>	<p><i>economy, in support of economic growth and poverty alleviation, taking into account environmental management requirements (...); to provide for (...) increased generation and consumption of renewable energies..." (Preamble).</i></p> <p>White Paper on Renewable Energy</p> <p><i>This White Paper on Renewable Energy (November, 2003) (further referred to as the White Paper) supplements the White Paper on Energy Policy, which recognizes that the medium and long-term potential of renewable energy is significant. This Paper sets out Government's vision, policy principles, strategic goals and objectives for promoting and implementing renewable energy in South Africa.</i></p> <p><i>As signatory to the Kyoto Protocol, Government is determined to make good the country's commitment to reducing greenhouse gas emissions. To this purpose, Government has committed itself to the development of a framework in which a national renewable energy framework can be established and operate.</i></p> <p><i>South Africa is also a signatory of the Copenhagen Accord, a document that delegates at the 15th session of the Conference of Parties (COP 15) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change agreed to "take note of" at the final plenary on 18 December 2009. The accord endorses the continuation of the Kyoto Protocol and confirms that climate change is one of the greatest challenges facing the world. In terms of the accord South Africa</i></p>
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			<p>obligation to our environment and species protection. The developers well-rehearsed sales pitch to stakeholders as to the NEED for the development is totally unacceptable. There are argument is putting the burden of climate change on local communities and at the expense of species extinction and habitat destruction. The climate change argument would be for politicians to address. The Karoo's people are the custodians and have done exceedingly well at ensuring its sustainability. Looking at Windlabs website we see the same jargon being punted now by stakeholders. On a wind farm recently visited there were no signs of long term job creation as there were only 2 non local security guards at the site. We will show in our comments tabled via Karoo News Group that that the NEED is better served researching this under researched area. Specialist studies show that the current land use is in harmony with the Sense of Place and in stark contrast to the WEF impacts. We will also show that the growing interest in the Karoo and the opportunities for rural tourism in all its forms combined with a sustainable agricultural land use is where the sustainable future lies. This opportunity is lost with your WEF and the resultant turbanised landscape. We have made alternative proposals to you in this regard.</p> <p>All these and other comments with supporting information will be lodged as per PPP . As you see we have a huge amount to deal with and again ask that</p>	<p><i>pledged to ensure that the country's greenhouse gas emissions would be reduced from the business-as-usual growth trajectory by around 34 per cent by 2020 and 42 per cent by 2025.</i></p> <p>Your comments have been submitted through the PPP process and this submission and our response will form part of the public participation record. As per our earlier response we have extended the consultation period on the Draft Scoping Report until the 18th August 2014. After this the Final Scoping Report will be prepared including amendments from the public participation process and this consolidated report will be submitted to the Department of Environmental Affairs for approval. We will then move to the EIA stage when we will consider the level of impact in line with the NEMA requirements. We have not yet concluded on the level of impact and will remain objective in this regard to the potential positive and negative impacts of the proposed development as required by the NEMA.</p> <p>The 40 day comment period is for the Draft Scoping Report– this is not the full EIA report, no impacts have been assessed at this stage. The scoping report is 153 pages of A4 in length. Furthermore we have prepared a 15 page executive summary and translated this into Afrikaans for assistance with the review.</p> <p>We have provided 40 days review, which we have now extended by a further 7 days. We have also undertaken public meeting and focus group meetings during this time, as well as an open session for the public to meet us and to talk them through the process and report contents. All of which is above and</p>
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			<p>the date for submissions to the draft Scoping report be delayed till at least the end of September to give everyone a fair chance to absorb and understand all this. As mentioned you have had 5 years to do this. We only have around 60 days and would like to show what we believe is a more accurate version of the negative impacts.</p> <p>This will be the last submission for now to these email groups and all Karoo News Group/ Karoo Nuus Groep (KNG) members and interested parties will be updated by the KNG itself. To everyone on the various email lists some of whom are not KNG members if you don't want to receive the updates from the KNG please reply to this email by requesting OUT</p> <p>Sincerely KNG</p> <p>Please not from August all KNG communication will be powered by Webadz</p>	<p>beyond the requirements for public participation as we do understand the public are an important part of the process. We are doing this to engage with the public and to get their comments at this stage. There will be no further extension of this comment period. The commenting period on the DSR will end on 18th August 2014. This date was also reported in the public events (focus group and public meetings) held on the 17th July 2014 which were attended by approximately 125 I&APs.</p>	
Karoo News Group	2014/07/25	Email	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Our concern expressed thus far has been heightened by further news of the development of the 2 industrial wind farms. New serious concerns are expressed below. 2. Further we have had NO response from you with regard to outstanding points raised and questions asked. You undertook for example to respond to First Africa with the issue raised on Blue Cranes. Some of the feedback we still require is in the email below dated 16 July 2014. 	<p>EIMS response:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. For the ease of reference please find attached our responses to your mail from the 16th July 2014 (with Subject: Open Letter) sent to you on the 1st August 2014. Please assist us by highlighting any questions/concerns that need more input that we have not to date responded to, and where possible rephrase the question to make sure we captured your request in full. 2. As the Applicant confirmed in his last mail sent to you on the 7th of July 2014, formal communications regarding the project will from that date run through the EIA process to 	<p>General; Fracking; Other</p>

		<p>3. We also take note that the Developer Mr Macdonald has not responded since his email of the 7.07.2014 which raised the concern of Wind Farm and Fracking overlap. The developer himself was also not at the public meeting. It would be thought that as he has been engaging stakeholders since 2009 that he would have the courtesy to also engage the I&AP himself as well in the public meeting</p> <p>There is serious concern about the Developer and his appointed team not disclosing information – we feel the public has been misled with serious consequences.</p> <p>4. Of major concern is why was Umsinde not mentioned or included in the Ishwati EIA process. The developer is the same for both.</p> <p>We can only assume that one or the following occurred</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✍ Did the developer (Windlab) via the SPV not disclose there was another application for an adjacent industrial WEF ✍ Did the developer instruct the EAP not to disclose the Umsinde application ✍ Was the EAP aware of the second application and if so why was Umsinde not disclosed ✍ Were the specialists aware of the Umsinde application and if so why did they exclude it in there <p>Another serious concern from us is</p>	<p>promote transparency and open communication within this process as encouraged by the NEMA regulations. The Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP) will respond to all queries and comments made by the public so these can be captured in the Final Scoping and EIA Reports and made public for all Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs).</p> <p>3. The public meeting together with certain focus group meetings and an open house session was held on the 17th of July 2014. Please find attached some pictures (Appendix O) taken on that day. Approximately 125 people of the public were in attendance on the day, in total we have 386 I&APs registered to date. Both the EAP from Arcus (1 person), the public participation facilitators from EIMS (2 people) and the Applicant (3 people, referred to as Windlab on the forms) were in attendance during the whole day. We regret that no one from the Karoo News Group was present at any of these informative meetings.</p> <p>For future reference please find attached a schedule of the EIA process. The start of the EIA process generally marks the start of the public engagement of the Developer of renewable energy projects in South Africa, after finalising a pre-feasibility phase that investigates the high level viability of a project. Only if no preliminary fatal flaws could be identified within this first phase, a Developer will start the EIA process and inform and engage the public.</p> <p>The Background Information Document was sent out to the public from the 13th May 2014. After a first I&AP registration process, the Draft</p>	
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			<p>5. You undertook in response to a question from an I&AP (Mr Koen) to revert with disclosure of other mining applications in the area and have not reverted yet.</p> <p>We have also attached an open letter sent to the SEA EAP</p> <p>We again request feedback on all our outstanding requests some of which are mentioned in the email below.</p>	<p>Scoping Report (DSR) was introduced into the public domain to inform the public of what the EIA process will entail and how the proposed development will be assessed during the EIA phase. Currently we are in the authorized commenting period on this DSR, which was extended with another 7 days until the 18th August 2014. Please note that public engagement will be part of all the phases of the EIA process.</p> <p>4. Arcus is the EAP of the Umsinde Emoyeni project and not the Ishwati Emoyeni project. We can therefore not respond to question regarding this project. Please contact the CSIR, the EAP for the Ishwati Emoyeni project, with your questions regarding the Ishwati Emoyeni project:</p> <p>Rudolph Du Toit - CSIR Project Manager Tel: (021) 888 2538 Fax: (021) 888 2693 Email: RduToit@csir.co.za and Ismail Banoo – CSIR Project Leader Tel: 031 242 2378 Fax: 031 261 2509 Email: ibanoo@csir.co.za</p> <p>We thank you for your continued engagement in the EIA process for this project.</p>	
Karoo News Group	2014/08/12	Email	<p>Dear Eims, Windlab, Arcus (see also attachments)</p> <p>We are coming to an end of the PPP for the Draft Scoping Report and we are still very frustrated by the lack of answers to key questions. We are particularly concerned that the Developer refuses to answer why he/they</p>	<p>EIMS response: Please note that in order to capture and respond effectively to multiple comments and questions from this stakeholder group, the comments submitted by the Karoo News Group (from this date until the end of the Draft Scoping Report public review period) have been responded to in a separate document, the 'Karoo News Group Comments Tracker'.</p>	Other

		<p>never disclosed Umsinde in the Ishwati Process.</p> <p>You continually refer us to the Ishwati EAP. We would like to know from you as the <u>gatekeeper to Windlab</u> why it is not disclosed and why he refuses to answer our questions. This is a matter of Trust and at this stage all we can say is that we cannot Trust the Developer or his team as they refuse to deal with the issue. We have addressed the issue with the Ishwati EAP and still await feedback from them which is not forthcoming. We await the Developers answers via you or direct and please do not refer us to Ishwati EAP. The two are interlinked and we need to deal with this in the Umsinde process as well.</p> <p>We have attached a report of consolidated issues raised and unsatisfactory responses received. We still await satisfactory responses until the 18th as agreed. We reserve the right to comment on all issues raised in the process thus far and responses given.</p> <p>In your email (dated Fri 2014/08/08 09:57 AM) we take note of a change in tone in the first two paragraphs. Possibly as a result of this part of the PPP coming to an end so as to end on a high note and to try and prove the success of the process you are responsible for. We are concerned as to why you have to continually try and prove a favourable result for the developer.</p> <p>All we are doing is asking questions and expressing opinion. To date we feel you have avoided or deferred answering certain questions and have expressed opinion where not requested.</p>	<p>Please see this document (Appendix R) for this response.</p>	
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		<p>Questions have also been answered with further questions from you. The Blue Crane First Africa email has not been answered and the only answer provided was again your climate change argument.</p> <p>Why do you try and put on record that a member of the KNG was not there when you don't know that? We made our apologies on behalf of most members for not being able to attend before the meeting and stated we would continue communication by email.</p> <p>We have requested information on what you based the decision on to state the 'Pre-feasibility has no fatal flaws'. We would like to see what impacts were considered before this statement was made. This is a very bold and unsubstantiated statement as far as we are concerned until proven otherwise.</p> <p>As a result of all this we feel our rights to a free, fair, neutral process are being undermined.</p> <p>See below Point 1 addressed to Windlab/Arcus/Eims.</p> <p>✎ Windlab/Arcus/Eims. We would like to state that we find EIMS responses <u>argumentative</u>, defensive, answers are indirect, avoided, or deferred, and questions are answered with questions etc. As a result conclusions are being drawn which will lead to <u>concerns about bias</u>. We have further concerns about what we can term 'staging'. By this we mean, the Developer, the EAP, and the PPP practitioner and some Specialists appear to have set up a process which favours a result that the developer requires. We also feel the Developer and his appointed team</p>		
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			<p>are or have been trying to marginalise or be divisive towards the Karoo News Group. It seems neither Windlab, Arcus or Specialist mentioned are prepared to respond. We further feel the Development team in their responses are trying to sway public opinion. We would probably like and may insist that all this to be tested by an independent arbitrator.</p> <p>To all KNG Members</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✎ The Karoo News Group Cares. Of the now hundreds of members we have only had 2 unsubscribes. One by a landowner/stakeholder and one by a gentleman who has very limited email access but would like to remain a member. The membership which is now unsolicited is clearly growing very positively. Further we have received unsolicited anti wind farm donations and would like to take the opportunity to thank members and interested parties for the continued input and support. The Karoo News Group, besides saving the Great Karoo Escarpment from a turbanised landscape, endeavours to assist all members to understand the process and ensure their voices are heard. ✎ We support the Nama Karoo Foundation (NKF) in its 11th year the NKF is THE LOCAL CONSERVATION AGENCY dedicated to the Conservation of the Great Karoo and its people, including the Karoo Highlands, the Great Escarpment, and priority species such as Blue Cranes. All funds and donations received via the Karoo News Group will be managed by the Nama Karoo Foundation. Read about some of its 		
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			<p>work http://www.namakaroo.org/preserving-the-karoos-blue-cranes/</p> <p>We also note unconfirmed reports of a Black Eagle nest being destroyed in the vicinity of a proposed Industrial Wind Farm and we are also monitoring reports of the disappearance of a pair of Secretary Birds that have not appeared at their nesting site nearby the up and running Nobelsfontein WEF. We are also monitoring reports of regular blue crane breeding pairs that have not arrived yet in the vicinity.</p>			
Karoo Group	News	2014/08/17	Email	<p>Dear Eims/Arcus/Windlab</p> <p>Attached a provisional submission of comments to the DSR. We have however run out of time and have not been able to complete the comments process. We therefore reserve the right to provide further comments on parts of the DSR we have not yet commented on. Some of the points in the attached may have been commented on previously.</p> <p>In brief we submit that the whole DSR lacks one fundamental pillar of an EIA process. That is CONTEXT. You have failed in your DSR to put the entire development research and feasibility in the appropriate context. Lack of context has been considered to be a Fatal Flaw</p> <p>The appropriate and correct context is:</p> <p>The proposed site is located in the Sneeuberg Complex of Mountains which forms the Southern Great Escarpment. The Southern Great Escarpment is part of the Great African Escarpment which is the 3rd longest mountain range in the world – In this context the Sneeuberg as a complex of</p>	<p>EIMS response: Please note that in order to capture and respond effectively to multiple comments and questions from this stakeholder group, the comments submitted by the Karoo News Group (from this date until the end of the Draft Scoping Report public review period) have been responded to in a separate document, the 'Karoo News Group Comments Tracker'.</p> <p>Please see this document (Appendix R) for this response.</p>	<p>Avifauna</p> <p>Land Value;</p> <p>Climate Change;</p> <p>Ecology;</p> <p>Other</p>

		<p>mountains is a unique and highly sensitive landscape and eco system.</p> <p>Additional to the other impacts mentioned previously by the KNG such as avi faunal/ red data species impacts/micro climates/ecology/sense of place/need/ land values etc. are other issues.</p> <p>An example of other issues is the <u>Phytogeography of the Escarpment which is not even considered in your report</u> – see Dr VR Clarke 2010 who has provided research on this.</p> <p>Attached.</p> <p>Point 2.7 and 2.8 in the DSR. These statements and arguments appear not to be favouring the development</p> <p>a. Concern is expressed about the direction taking of the Scoping Report in their motivations for the</p> <p>NEED FOR A WINDFARM. For example the references to who is at risk is worded that to support the Wind Farm is an obligation to Save the Planet. This is incorrect as how can it be argued that the CLIMATE CHANGE ARGUMENT OVERRIDES ECOLOGIAL, ENVIRONMENTAL AND SPECIES DESTRUCTION> Should this Climate Change argument not also include the negative impact on species and the environment in and around a WEF.</p> <p>b. Argument 2.7 is further motivated in a unfair way in 2.8 of the Scoping Report. All the</p>		
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		<p>motivating factors are generalised and are misleading with regard to the need for a wind farm and the economic benefits. The DSR summary for this says <u>The Proposed Development site was deemed to be suitable</u> – this before any environmental issues have been considered. In other words a site was decided on with zero consideration of the impacts for the environment and ecology. This will be done in the EIA but to date is not a consideration by the developers.</p> <p>c. 2.8 also refers to alternatives. The alternatives presented in the registration period have not been considered. Amongst others these were to find a less sensitive site as this area.</p> <p>d. 3.4 and particularly 3.5 continue with the Climate Change threat and little motivation is given to environmental considerations or the sense of place. 3.5.5 says the following. The PSDF is underpinned by the fundamental assumption that development can only be acceptable and in the public interest if it is environmentally sustainable. 3.5.5.1 PSDF Objective 5: Conserve the Sense of Place of Important Landscapes. The PSDF notes the vital importance of tourism to the provincial economy. The PSDF therefore stipulates that, with regard to the siting and design of future power lines and other visibly substantial infrastructural development, the relevant provincial guidelines should be followed, and proposals should include provision for</p>		
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		<p>environmental, visual and heritage impact assessments. Directive HR27 further provides that "Wind farms should be located where they will cause least visual impact, taking into consideration the viability of the project" (Guiding directive). Having a industrial wind farm in a pristine mountainous region on the Great Escarpment is in contravention to the Western Capes methodology for site selection.</p> <p>Further 3.5.6.2 would also be contravened by the Ishati Wind Farm which support the cause to have this EIA reopened. As it appears the Ishwati Wind Farm process were inadequate clause 3.5.6.1 would be in question.</p> <p>In 3.5.6.3 you take in to consideration you say "The study notes that in the South African context this policy would effectively "penalise" rural areas, compromising wilderness and touristic visual values." So the question and the statement is the choice of this area for a wind energy farm whether it be Ishwati or Emonyeni is again in contravention of Western Cape Site Selection Policy. Has a study been done on whether a WEF could be better suited in a less sensitive area. For example Clause 4.3 confirms No existing overhead power lines were visible from any of the viewpoints with the exception of low voltage lines serving the farms.</p> <p>4.4.1 says further The Proposed Development Site forms part of the Great</p>		
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		<p>Cape provincial Policy. This point is particularly substantiated as the industrial wind farm industry is very new in SA and the world and data is only just starting to come out with regard to certain impacts industrial WEF have. It is requested that the Provincial guidelines summarised above take precedence till enough studies have been done in the REDZ as they ARE sensitive mountain areas. In the SEA the CSIR is conducting not enough information is available on the ecological and other impacts so it is requested this wind farm Emonyeni and the Ishwati Wind Farm be put on hold till more ecological data can be entered into the SEA.</p> <p>3.6.2 says that tourism is equal in job creation in importance in the Central Karoo Spatial Development Framework (SDF) .Surely tourism will be killed of in the general area. It is acknowledged by the developer that there is no real long term job benefit on the windfarms and we know job creation by tourism, farm stays, hunting, Karoo lamb and sheep farming, the wildlife the natural and cultural heritage tourism etc etc are all bigger job creation activities. Why should a wind farm either Ishwati and Emonyeni be allowed d to marginalise these existing opportunities and the LONG TERM job creation potential</p> <p>3.7 The Equator Principles Large scale infrastructure projects have the potential to result in adverse social and environmental</p>		
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		<p>impacts. How high or low does the 2x WEF rate against the Equator Principles.</p> <p>4.5.2 Potential Mitigation Measures. The siting of wind turbines during site design should make use of the visual screening effect of surrounding ridges and koppies as far as possible so as to reduce the impact on the receptors noted above. By making use of Visual Screening you force the turbine into very sensitive areas as highlighted by other specialist studies such as the Avian Study. Setting back pushes for example turbines up against mountains and topographical reliefs that create thermals and flyways. This may be equally true and revealing in the social and cultural and ecological studies that will highlight this SET BACK pushes the turbines into even more sensitive areas. These unobtrusive areas you will find in the set back area are full of micro habits. What studies will you do on each micro habitat in the study area where a individual turbine will be located. The ecology of these micro mountain habitats are critical to specie's survival. A ecological, avian, cultural study needs to be done all the sensitive regions within the broader escarpment</p> <p>4.6. There have now been numerous more stakeholders identified other than those referred to in this clause and is substantiated by 4.7.1 which states that the chosen viewpoints were all moderate to high. The chosen view points cannot not</p>		
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		<p>indicate precise visual impacts as it is unknown where the exact sites will be which is further problematic. In 4.7.2 it confirms <u>viewsheds only take into account topography</u> and importantly tend to push individual turbines back</p> <p>4.7.4 – the author confirms this is a natural and pristine area - <i>The study area is at present generally intact with few visual intrusions, including manmade vertical and linear features.</i></p> <p>4.7.6 - says the site is - is otherwise relatively open and visually exposed. This again is a acknowledgement of the questionable choice for this site –</p> <p>4.7.7 – as we have disputed the baseline information we are unsure of the objectivity of the points mentioned in 1.2.5 when detailed elsewhere</p> <p>4.7.8 – this is the area of great dispute we have tabled the concern and what we regard as a FATAL Flaw in the non-disclosure of Umsinde in Ishwati and also the incomplete feasibility studies of some of the specialists in Ishwati. <u>No acceptable response have been forthcoming to our concerns. If Ishwati's procedure is incorrect then Umsinde cannot proceed until Ishwati is addressed</u></p> <p>5.1 The ecological study has no perspective and context and is unacceptable e. No</p>		
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		<p>reference for example to the Sneeuberg Centre of Endemism or Scientists Like Clarke who are the specialists for the Great Escarpment. Ishwati and Umsinde are part of the Sneeuberg mountain complex. <u>Further expertise is with Specialists such as Prof Sue Milton who was also never consulted nor was there research used in Todds study. Why Not?</u></p> <p>In 5.2.1.1 no reference is made to any research conducted into the area when it clearly exists.</p> <p>The same goes for 5.2.1.1. The Nama Karoo Foundation also has a data base of plants and rare plants in conjunction with the McGregor Herbarium. Why not?</p> <p>All the author says is It is, <i>however, likely that additional listed species occur at the WEF Site as it has not been well sampled in the past.</i> As he accepts that there may be other species and we have proved there are why dopes he not detail this elsewhere in his report? He says that this will be done in the EIA phase we reject this as we have shown that undocumented species do exist and insist that this be done in the Scoping Phase.</p> <p>In 5.3.1.4 it is said <i>...Although some impact on these species may occur as a result of development in the area, they are widespread species and this would not be likely to compromise the local or regional</i></p>		
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		<p>populations of these species. We can dispute this as for example what about invertebrates recorded in the nearby Sneeuberg Centre of Endemism and what about the sighting of for example the very rare African Snake Weasel in the area.</p> <p>He goes further - Although the presence of this species would not prevent development from occurring, it highlights that areas above 1600 m may have additional. He chooses the word MAY when we know that there are. This all makes us believe that Mr Todd is downplaying all this and saying it will be dealt with in the EIA. There is research and proof and we will provide it to the specialist. You have not allowed access to the Specialist. Why is it downplayed and why can't we discuss with the Specialist. All over in the report there is no mention of the Research or importance of the GREAT ESCARPMENT or existing Scientific Research WHY NOT?</p> <p>5.3.1.6 Site Sensitivity Assessment there is NO mention of the sensitivity of the undeveloped Karoo's GREAT ESCARPMENT. Surely this is the context that the whole report should be viewed from. WHY IS THERE NO CONSIDERATION TO THIS. WE MAY CONCLUDE THAT THIS WAS INTENTIONALLY OMITTED AND THEREFOR REJECT THE SCOPE AND CONTEXT OF THE VARIOUS REPORTS. The whole Great Escarpment is a sensitive area and has many protected areas from the Cederburg,</p>		
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		<p>Karoo National Park, Sneeuberg Centre of Endemism etc etc</p> <p>In 5.3.1.7 it is said <i>In terms of the distribution of the different sensitivity categories, high sensitivity areas occupy a large proportion of the central and southern part of the WEF Site. We can only agree somewhat about this statement but what they as are not sensitive areas of the site we will dispute as the context of the whole site in the context of the Great Escarpment changes things dramatically.</i> The whole of the GREAT ESCARPMENT DUE TO ITS NATURE OF WHAT IT IS IS A SENSITIVE SITE. TAKING ISOLATED PATCHED THAT HE SAYS ARE NOT AS SENSITIVE IS SKEWED AS THERE IS NO BIGGER PICTURE THAT THE SITE IN INCLUDED IN. WE WILL PUSH FOR THE SENSITIVITY OF THE SOUTHER GREAT ESCARPMENT IS HIGH AND SOO WILL BE THE SOME OF THE PARTS THAT MAKE OF THE ESCARPMENT. IT IS A CORRIDOR FOP <u>MIGRATION OF FAUNAL AND FLORAL SPECIES</u></p> <p><u>FOR EXAMPLE</u></p> <p>5.4 Potential Impacts and Mitigation – We do not these points as only a limited number of impacts are referred to and the important ones are left out – WHY</p> <p>5.4.1 –5.4.2 – 5.4.3 we will comment on this later as we do not believe that it is the right time</p>		
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		<p>to comment on this as there is so much information left out. Secondly we have run out of time despite your 7 day extension. We asked for further extension and had valid reasons but you rejected this?</p> <p>In 5.4.4 the statement starts of by saying <i>Developments that could lead to cumulative impacts</i></p> <p>The word COULD is used when surely by now the right word would be WOULD. Could means that the research has not been done or there is again a element of bias in the document. Then there is</p> <p>the following ridiculous statement saying - <i>Although there are a number of other proposed WEFs in the broader area (within 100 km), these are within a different ecological environment from the Proposed Development Site and so would not contribute directly to the cumulative loss of similar habitat.</i> We dispute this and again suggest possible wilful limited use of available information. Nobelsfontein also forms part of the Great Escarpment albeit in a transition zone</p> <p>5.4.4.1 Reduced Ability to Meet Conservation Obligations and Targets. The Nama Karoo Foundation is busy establishing the GREAT KAROO CONSERVANCY TO PROTECT THE SOUTHERN GREAT ESCARPMENT – IT WILL BE MADE UP OF OTHER PROTECTED AREAS IN THE REGION. THE DEVELOPEMNT GOES AGAINST THIS</p>		
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		<p>INITIATIVE.</p> <p>The anticipated low levels of change to the affected habitat types indicates that the Proposed Development is not likely to lead to a significant cumulative impact such that it would compromise the country's ability to meet national conservation targets - HOW CAN THIS STATEMENT BE MADE AND WE REJECT THJE CHOICE OF WORDS SUCH AS - The anticipated low level of change. THE DEVELOPMENT WILL CHANGE THE NATURE OF THE ESCARPMENT TERMINALLY AS MENTIONED IN MANY RESEARC PAPERS WHICH THE SPECIALISTS CHOSSE NOT TO USE OR REFERNCE. DID YOU KNOW THE GREAT ESCARPMENT IS THE THIRD LONGEST MOUTAIN RANGE IN THE WORLD. THE SOUTHER GREAT ESCARPMENT AND SNEEUBERG COMPEX ARE A RARAITY AS PROVED BY THE SENEUEBERG CENTER FOR ENDEMNISM</p> <p>IN 5.4.4.2 ends up with this statement <i>This impact results from the WEF itself and the grid connection is not considered a significant contributor.</i> THIS IS NOT ACCEPTABLE AND SHOWS LACK OF RESEARCH AND UNDERSTANDING OF THE ESCARPMENT. WE THERE FORE REFUTE THIS STATEMENT</p> <p>IN 5.5 FOR EXAMPLE WHY WAS THE SNEEUBERG CENTRE OF INDEMSIMN REFERNECED OR THE NAMA KAROO</p>		
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		<p>FOUNDATIONS RESEARCH AND WORK?</p> <p><u>AS WE HAVE RUN OUT OF TIME WE RESERVE THE RIGHT TO COMMENT ON THE REST OF THE DOCUMENTATION IN THE DRAFT SCOPING REPORT</u></p> <p><u>DUE TO LACK OF TIME WE HAVE TO JUMP TO POINT 13</u></p> <p><u>13. WE HAVE SHOWN ALREADY THAT THE STATEMENT THAT THE DSR</u></p> <p><i>has provided an overview of baseline environments, predicted impacts,</i></p> <p>We have shown although very briefly due to lack of time that the overview provided is incomplete and unacceptable. How can this statement be true when there is NO MENTION in the entire document of the SOUTHERN GREAT ESCARPMNET which in itself is a sensitive and under researched eco system. One I&EP was correct when he referred it to as Table Mountain. The DSR clearly shows a lack of context and some specialists have chosen not to use recent research done on the Escarpment. Most of the surveys in progress have omitted to put the development in this context so we have to reject the context for which the surveys are being done. The NKF gas recommended various Specialist who have researched this area and none of their data is used in these reports WHY?</p> <p>WE WOULD LIKE OUR FURTHER</p>		
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		<p>SUBMISSIONS AFTER THIS AT LEAST TO FORM AN ADDENDUM IN THE FINAL SCOPING REPORT. BY NOW YOU CAN SURELLY SEE WE HAVE VALID INPUT BUT AWAIT YOUR CONFIRMATION THAT THIS INPUT AND OTHER INPUTS WE ARE RESREACHING BE GIVEN A CHANCE TO BE INCLUDED IN THE DSR. FAILURE TO DO SO MEANS THAT YOU DISPUTE THE ISSUES RELATING THE GREAT ESCARPMENT. ALL OF THESE ISSUES RAISED BY UIS ARE NOWEHER FOUND IN ANY OF YOUR DOCUMENTS</p> <p>THE ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF THE OMMISION OF LACK OF APPROPRIATE CONTEXT OF THE PROPOSED SITE IE BEING PART OF THE SNEEUBERG COMPLEX THE DOMINANT MOUNTAINS OF THE SOUTHERN GREAT ESCARPMENT WILL HELP THE PROCESS MAKE THE RIGHT DECISION. APPROPRIATE SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH AND SPECIALSITS ARE AVAILABLE WHO CAN SUBSTANTIATE THE ABOVE STATEMENT</p> <p>1. In your Scoping Report you say the initial Notification is now Complete</p> <p>a. Landowners have been identified through three main mechanisms, namely:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Available databases from previous projects within the vicinity of the Proposed Development Site; ✓ Landowner information obtained from a detailed deeds search 		
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			<p>One on one consultation with the landowners within the Proposed Development Site. a. Landowners (Stake holders) when asked why they are supporting this ecological disaster say it is our duty and bring the Madupi argument. This is absurd as that argument is best left for the politicians. Windlabs Ian Macdonald says he has signed up over 200 farmers in his career. We question the arguments WindlabArcus/Eims uses to convince landowners to “sign up”. It is understood the confidentiality clauses in the agreements landowners sign where they are NOT allowed to talk about the Wind Farm and not allowed to talk about it in a negative way? This statement that the Initial Notification period is now Complete. This is not acceptable as the initial notification did not reach all Landowners in the area surrounding your Planning Area. These landowners and all people living on the land should have been notified and should also have been probably pre-registered I &EP</p> <p>b. The Background Information Document (BID) was not legible. People could not read it nor could they understand it nor could they see any detail in the map. Mr Macdonald conceded this saying We acknowledged in our letter that the public may have had difficulty in accessing the information. Remedial action was taken but it was to late as the cut-off date to register had closed</p>		
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			<p>already. How is the general public to know that they can continue to register?</p> <p>c. There were not adequate advertisements in the Richmond district. Murraysburg like Richmond also does not receive any of the newspapers you advertised in. The Richmond Community at large was and is not aware of the Wind Farms. They will be impacted. In Murraysburg you asked Adri Smit</p> <p>d. Accessing information electronically was difficult sometimes web links could not be found, or did not work. Then people had issues trying to register and also send their faxes before the deadline. The fax server was also down so many could not send.</p> <p>e. In your letter dated 17 June you said you had done the following</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✎ Placement of the BID on website of EIMS (www.eims.co.za) However the closing date for the initial registration period was the 15th June. So you only put up the link to the public after the closing date for registrations. Concern is expressed why the link was not available to the public and only available to the pre-registered I&EP. 			
Karoo Group	News	2014/11/14	Email	<p>Dear EIMS</p> <p>Thank you for the email. As you are rushing to get to the FSR submitted some interim comments. A more detailed responses will be</p>	<p>EIMS response: Dear Karoo News Group;</p> <p>Thank you for your further comment on the Umsinde Emoyeni project. The comment period on the Draft Scoping Report is closed and all</p>	<p>Land Value;</p> <p>Other</p>

			<p>provided in the meantime please put on record the rejection of the LITERATURE REVIEW: THE IMPACT OF WIND ENERGY FACILITIES ON LAND VALUE documents which is based on international data which has little relevance to SA and the WEF impacts in SA and the Karoo. It is noted 4 out of 19 reports considered did say that there is an impact which is 20%. The EAP should as a result concede that there is an impact to be considered. Input from SA estate agencies will be compiled to show you the truth. The EAP is not a real estate valuation professional.</p> <p>No decision on Scoping this out cannot be taken until then. The KNG also reserves the right to correlate your register with its and reply before any further action is taken to ensure all questions are dealt with.</p> <p>Note is taken of your comment it took the EIA team some time to respond and equally the KNG and other I&AP also need the same time to study your responses and reply where necessary then the FSR will be rejected. The DEA will then be brought into the picture of all these and other issues.</p> <p>Note is taken of the EAP and Specialist refusal to comment directly or to accept input from I&AP directly. These questions will be put to the EAP as well.</p>	<p>comments have been responded to. Taking into account the findings of the public consultation period, the Final Scoping Report is being prepared and will be submitted to the Department of Environmental affairs (DEA) in due course. All comments and responses made in relation to the public consultation period on the Draft Scoping Report will be included in the Final Scoping Report.</p> <p>Once submitted you are welcome to submit your comments direct to the DEA. Comment on the Project will continue through the published channels, which we provide for you below. This is to follow due process with regard to the public participation requirements of NEMA.</p> <p>Environmental Impact Management Services (Pty) Ltd Postal address: P. O. Box 2083, Pinetown, 2123 Telephone: 011 789 7170 Fax: 0111 787 3059 Email: emoyeni@eims.co.za Contact person: Ms. Nobuhle Hughes</p> <p>All of the responses to comments have been compiled by the EIA team, including the relevant specialist and the EAP. Should you wish to meet with the EAP to discuss your concerns, further opportunity, in addition to that previously presented during the Draft Scoping Report consultation period, will be made available during the public consultation on the Environmental Impact Assessment Report.</p>		
Karoo Group	News	2014/11/17	Email	<p>Dear EIMS,</p> <p>The email sent from First Africa who has requested the KNG to reply. This email with your comments in italics it appears was never</p>	<p>EIMS response: Dear Karoo News Group</p> <p>The email to First Africa was sent on the 15 July 2014 (02:46 PM). Whilst the comment period for the Umsinde Emoyeni Project Draft Scoping Report</p>	<p>Avifauna;</p> <p>Other</p>

		<p>received by First Africa or KNG previously. Please clarify this situation.</p> <p>Please see replied in BOLD</p> <p>BLUE CRANES IN THE GREAT KAROO UNDER THREAT – PLEASE REGISTER as a I&EP it is not too late (see attached) –</p> <p><i>I&AP's can be registered throughout the EIA process up to the finalisation of the Final EIA Report. The final date for registering will be communicated to all I&APs as the EIA process progresses, but it is currently months away. We attach a process flow diagram of the EIA process and this shows in red where we are at present. Thank you.</i></p> <p>South Africa is the 3rd most biologically diverse country in the world. It is a special place and it is an international priority area for conservation of species. We have a long list of red data species with the best known being the Rhino and our national bird, The Blue Crane. Not long ago there were the same number of blue cranes and rhino on the planet of around 100 000. Today both species have critical low numbers of around 20 000. It is criminal to kill a Rhino and it is criminal to kill a Blue Crane. There are 15 Crane species in the world and SA is home to 3 of them. The Blue Cranes last surviving stronghold in their natural habitat is in the Karoo and particularly the mountainous areas of the Great Escarpment at Winlab's project.</p> <p><i>The avifauna specialist has provided the following information on the Blue Crane:</i></p> <p><i>There are three species of crane in South Africa one of which, the Blue Crane, occurs regularly around Murraysburg. The Blue Crane is a</i></p>	<p>has now closed, we have responded to your comments below.</p> <p>All future responses from the First Africa email address will be processed with those from the KNG through the tracker provided on the 13th November 2014.</p> <p>The Final Scoping Report is being prepared and will be submitted to the Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA) in due course. All comments and responses made in relation to the public consultation period on the Draft Scoping Report will be included in the Final Scoping Report.</p> <p>Once submitted you are welcome to submit your comments direct to the DEA.</p>	
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		<p><i>priority species which should be considered when assessing a WEF development, and as such it was identified in the avifaunal scoping report. The species has also been recorded during monitoring surveys, primarily on the ground with 25 flights recorded during the first two seasonal surveys. This may indicate that this species would be less susceptible than others to collision with turbines, however, any predictions of collision risk can only be made after all data from all four seasonal surveys has been analysed. This will be done during the EIA phase of the study.</i></p> <p>Please ask the Specialist to explain how he derived at this conclusion which he based on his monitoring surveys. This is in conflict with the opinion of other Specialists who say the Blue Crane is susceptible to collisions.</p> <p>One such priority area is the greater Murraysburg area where Windlab (Windlab Systems of Australia) are erecting what is planned to be the world's largest industrial wind farm. In fact 2 X industrial wind farms. The biggest in Africa and the world.</p> <p><i>This statement is incorrect. At present the largest onshore wind farm in the world is understood to be the Alta Wind Energy Centre in California, United States which currently has an installed capacity of 1,320 MW, with an expected total capacity of 1548 MW upon completion (http://www.energy.ca.gov/tour/alta/ accessed 13th July 2014). The USA has numerous other facilities over 500 MW in capacity.</i></p> <p><i>In Europe the Whitelee Onshore Wind Farm in Scotland has a capacity of 539 MW</i></p>		
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		<p>(http://www.whiteleewindfarm.co.uk/about_windfarm?nav accessed 13th July 2014).</p> <p>Thank you for this information.</p> <p><i>The combined installed capacity of the Umsinde Emoyeni Phase 1 and 2, and neighbouring Ishwati Emoyeni would be up to 441 MW. A number of other wind energy projects in South Africa have already received environmental authorisations for more than the total of these three proposed projects in combination. It should be noted all applications for each 147 MW phase are being lodged on an individual basis. A cumulative assessment of impacts will be undertaken for these developments. It is not the case that if one project is granted environmental authorisation to proceed this will result in all three being granted environmental authorisation.</i></p> <p>There is concern that one EIA application is for Umsinde Phase 1 and 2. If this is the case then it is even more pertinent that the various points not addressed yet be addressed as part of Scoping.</p> <p><i>It should be noted the EIA team including the Environmental Assessment Practitioner (Arcus Consulting) have experience on working on large scale wind energy projects including multi-phase offshore development up to 1.1 Giga Watts (GW) in capacity. What is the relevance of this statement. It is noted that you make this statement many times as if you need to substantiate something that you yourself are not convinced about. Arcus has limited experience with WEF in South Africa and has NO experience in the arid areas of South Africa nor the mountainous regions</i></p>		
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		<p>of the Karoo. The EIA team also has limited experience in areas such a the Karoo.</p> <p>See how our eagles and cranes will be killed: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8NAAzBAR Ydw</p> <p><i>It is not disputed that wind turbines and powerlines have the potential to harm birds through collision. This is a fundamental part of the EIA process as noted in Chapter 8 of the Draft Scoping Report. However it should be considered as appropriate to each development that the level of impacts will differ on a site by site basis. Please see below a quote from the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB). Whilst a UK based organisation, the RSPB is internationally recognised for their protection of birds. Furthermore the UK has had a large established wind energy industry with operational wind energy facilities being monitored. As such we feel the advice of such international bodies is of relevance in South Africa as well. The RSPB states:</i></p> <p><i>“Some poorly sited wind farms have caused major bird casualties, particularly at Tarifa and Navarra in Spain, and the Altamont Pass in California. At these sites, planners failed to consider adequately the likely impact of putting hundreds, or even thousands, of turbines in areas that are important for birds of prey.</i></p> <p><i>Thorough environmental assessment is vital to ensure that all ecological impacts are fully identified prior to consent of any development. If wind farms are located away from major migration routes and important feeding, breeding and roosting areas of those bird species known or suspected to be at risk, it is likely that they will have minimal impacts.</i></p>		
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		<p>We are involved in scrutinising hundreds of wind farm applications every year to determine their likely wildlife impacts, and we ultimately object to about 6% of those we engage with, because they threaten bird populations. Where developers are willing to adapt plans to reduce impacts to acceptable levels we withdraw our objections, in other cases we robustly oppose them.</p> <p><i>However, there are gaps in knowledge and understanding of the impacts of wind energy, so the environmental impact of operational wind farms needs to be monitored - and policies and practices need to be adaptable, as we learn more about the impacts of wind farms on birds". (https://www.rspb.org.uk/ourwork/policy/windfarms/; Accessed 14/07/2014).</i></p> <p>The statement below by the Fitzpatrick Institute should have more relevance with the EAP and her opinion with regard to impacts in SA. Statement as follows:</p> <p><i>Left unmanaged this industry(giant industrial wind farms) certainly has the potential to impact negatively on already threatened elements of the regions Avifauna (birds) "the biology of these negative wind farm impacts is still unclear and it remains very difficult to predict exactly which species will be impacted by a new wind farm and how"</i></p> <p>Please ask the EAP to respond to this statement as it is NOW more relevant than the RSBP. The statement that is underlined by RSPB</p>		
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			<p><i>The EIA for avifauna is being undertaken by a team with both South African bird expertise, led by Andrew Pearson formerly of the Endangered Wildlife Trust (EWT), in collaboration with Michael Armitage of Arcus who has been conducting collisions risk assessment and planning of wind energy facilities in the UK for many years. This potential impact will be given robust consideration in the EIA and associated design of the wind energy facility.</i></p> <p>Attention needs to be given by the Specialist as to the location of the WEF as a start. Has alternative locations be submitted to the DEA or in any reports. The KNG will be consulting with its own Avi Fauna Specialist and will also be consulting locals for local knowledge. For example it seems the report has omitted Martial Eagles that are in the area and have a large forage range. Migratory birds have not been identified and we know there are migratory birds passing through the area from Storks to Swallows to Birds of Prey. So far they have been omitted to identify these birds. Mr Armitage should be well aware that the requirements for Pre Construction Monitoring in the UK are more stringent than in SA and to make matters worse specialist tend to only adopt the bare minimum standards as required in the Best Practises Guide. Please ask Mr. Armitage to respond this this point</p> <p>In the scoping report reference is made to 2 blue cranes in the 93 000ha study area. Yet a few phone calls on one day to landowners in the adjacent area counted in excess of 350 on only 5 separate farms. In an area less than 30 kilometres away there are recordings of 2000 in 2011 on one particular property. There are only</p>		
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		<p>20 000 left in the world. Blue Cranes are the most range restricted of all 15 cranes species. Non-breeding and breeding pairs of Blue Cranes are threatened, endemic species, highly susceptible to collision mortality on power lines, proven susceptible to turbine collision mortality, and possibly susceptible to disturbance and displacement by the operating wind farm.</p> <p><i>It is unclear where the commenter has read the scoping report refers to 2 blue cranes? Can you please provide a specific reference so we can understand the context and respond appropriately. A member incorrectly submitted this and thank you for correcting it.</i></p> <p><i>Table 8.2 of the Draft Scoping Report clearly states that 25 flights of Blue Crane have been recorded during the site surveys to date (this is the spring and summer survey). It should be noted this is the number of flights and not the individual birds. This is the data from the flight activity surveys, it is not the total number of cranes on the site at the time. For a full understanding of the survey methods and its findings to date please read Chapter 8 of the Draft Scoping Report available at www.eims.co.za. What is the point of this statement? The KNG correctly said that many birds exist in the general area and that cranes are not restricted to range it depends on the whether they are juveniles, breeding pairs etc. Birds in the broader area need to be considered.</i></p> <p><i>Table 8.1 of the Draft Scoping Report which refers to the WEF site only (excluding the grid connection site) states that the South African Bird Atlas Project (SABAP)-1 recorded the following numbers of Blue Crane over the</i></p>		
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survey period of 1986-1997. Note 3123DB, 3123DD, 3124CA and 3124CC are the squares from this project which cover the WEF site.

[extract of page 93 of Draft Scoping Report]

Table 8.1: Raptors and Priority species[1]recorded in the quarter degree squares covering the WEF Site[2].

Species:	Crane, Blue
Status	V [Vulnerable]
Report rate (%):	3123DB - 0
	3124CA - 40
	3123DD - 20
	3124CC - 16

[Note: Report rates are essentially percentages of the number of times a species was recorded in the square, divided by the number of times that square was counted. It is important to note that these species were recorded in the entire quarter degree square in each case and may not actually have been recorded on the proposed site for this study].

Table 8.3 of the Draft Scoping Report presents the SABAP-1 data for the grid site. The SABAP-

[1] Retief, E.F, Diamond, M., Anderson, M.D., Smit, Dr. H.A., Jenkins Dr. A. & Brooks, M. 2011. Avian Wind Farm Sensitivity Map for South Africa: Criteria and Procedures Used.

[2] Harrison, J.A., Allan, D.G., Underhill, L.G., Herremans, M., Tree, A.J., Parker, V & Brown, C.J. (eds). 1997. *The atlas of southern African birds*. Vol. 1&2. BirdLife South Africa: Johannesburg.

1 data was collected in quarter degrees grid squares (QGS), with the Grid Connection Site covering the following squares: 3123DB, 3123DD, 3123DA, 3123DC, 3123CB, and 3123CD.

Table 8.3: Raptors and Priority species recorded in the quarter degree squares covering the Grid Connection Site.

Species	Crane, Blue
Status *	V [Vulnerable]
Report rate (%) **	3123DB 3123DD – 20 3123DA 3123DC 3123CB 3123CD - 9

** Report rates are essentially percentages of the number of times a species was recorded in the square, divided by the number of times that square was counted. It is important to note that these species were recorded in the entire quarter degree square in each case and may not actually have been recorded on the proposed site for this study. **SABAP can only**

[3] Retief, E.F, Diamond, M., Anderson, M.D., Smit, Dr. H.A., Jenkins Dr. A. & Brooks, M. 2011. Avian Wind Farm Sensitivity Map for South Africa: Criteria and Procedures Used.

[4] Harrison, J.A., Allan, D.G., Underhill, L.G., Herremans, M., Tree, A.J., Parker, V & Brown, C.J. (eds). 1997. *The atlas of southern African birds*. Vol. 1&2. BirdLife South Africa: Johannesburg.

		<p>be used as a very basic guide and is far from complete. The input provided to you thus far should be used additional to SABAP and other processes to get a complete picture</p> <p><i>Blue Crane is a species being considered in the avifauna assessment. It is wholly acknowledged that avifauna, including Blue Crane are susceptible to impacts from overhead powerlines and collisions with turbines. For this reason the scope i.e. how the EIA will be performed, includes the modelling and assessment of the potential impacts on Blue Crane and other susceptible species using international best practice. This statement is in direct conflict that of the Specialist provided earlier in the email. "This may indicate that this species would be less susceptible than others to collision with turbines". You are saying it is susceptible yet the Specialist after brief monitoring outing says they may not be. Please clarify and explain.</i></p> <p><i>Birdlife South Africa's position on renewable energy is stated:</i></p> <p><i>At BirdLife South Africa we acknowledge the predicted shortfall of energy supply versus demand. We also recognise the need to include more renewable energy in our energy mix if the threat of climate change is to be reduced. BirdLife South Africa therefore supports the responsible development of a renewable energy industry in South Africa.</i></p> <p><i>Unfortunately, if poorly planned, renewable energy facilities can have negative impacts on birds and the environment. BirdLife South Africa is helping to minimise these impacts. Please</i></p>		
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submit this statement by Fitzpatrick Institute as alternative and more accurate point of view that Birdlife SA's. Please clarify what is the EAP's view and the Specialists view on the contrasting statements

“Land acquisition and project design are going ahead at breakneck speed and huge pressure is being placed on consultants and the DEA to produce and approve EIA reports as quickly as possible. It is not the best start. Left unmanaged this industry(giant industrial wind farms) certainly has the potential to impact negatively on already threatened elements of the regions Avifauna (birds) “the biology of these negative wind farm impacts is still unclear and it remains very difficult to predict exactly which species will be impacted by a new wind farm and how”.

[1] Retief, E.F, Diamond, M., Anderson, M.D., Smit, Dr. H.A., Jenkins Dr. A. & Brooks, M. 2011. *Avian Wind Farm Sensitivity Map for South Africa: Criteria and Procedures Used*.

2 Harrison, J.A., Allan, D.G., Underhill, L.G., Herremans, M., Tree, A.J., Parker, V & Brown, C.J. (eds). 1997. *The atlas of southern African birds. Vol. 1&2. BirdLife South Africa: Johannesburg*.

3 Retief, E.F, Diamond, M., Anderson, M.D., Smit, Dr. H.A., Jenkins Dr. A. & Brooks, M. 2011. *Avian Wind Farm Sensitivity Map for South Africa: Criteria and Procedures Used*.

4 Harrison, J.A., Allan, D.G., Underhill, L.G., Herremans, M., Tree, A.J., Parker, V & Brown, C.J. (eds). 1997. *The atlas of southern African*

		<p><i>birds. Vol. 1&2. BirdLife South Africa: Johannesburg.</i></p> <p><i>[Available online at: http://www.birdlife.org.za/conservation/terrestrial-bird-conservation/birds-and-renewable-energy (accessed 13th July 2014)].</i></p> <p><i>This is also a similar position of international avifauna institutions such as the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds whose statement is:</i></p> <p><i>Climate change poses the single greatest long-term threat to birds and other wildlife, and the RSPB recognises the essential role of renewable energy in addressing this problem.</i></p> <p><i>[Available online at: https://www.rspb.org.uk/ourwork/policy/windfarms/ (Accessed 13th July 2014)].</i></p> <p><i>Wind energy facilities assist in combating climate change which is a recognised threat to avifauna. However careful planning and assessment of impacts of each development in its own right is required and this is being undertaken through the EIA process. This clearly shows bias and lack of objectivity. The EAP is again putting the burden of climate change on the communities. Your statement is questionable and why are you trying to prop it up continually with the Climate Change arguments. What you are saying in effect is lets risk wind farms and hope they don't kill birds. If you can guarantee that there will be no impacts the argument may hold water but is DOES NOT so it is again asked that you refrain from using this argument.</i></p>		
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		<p>South Africa has the obligation to protect these species, and no self-proclaimed “saviours of the planet” have the right to place itself above international and our world-class conservation laws. On a West Coast wind farm of Windlab it is anticipated that up to 200 blue cranes will be killed in its life expectancy.</p> <p><i>Windlab was involved in the West Coast One project with Moyeng Energy (the developer). Windlab assisted Moyeng with the wind resource, energy assessment and development design aspects of the project, but was not involved in the development approvals and environmental assessment. The final bird impact and mitigation report has been requested from Moyeng Energy so that the project team can review the information presented, but it is not clear how your comment relates to the Umsinde Emoyeni project. When the report is available please send the KNG a copy as there have been impacts and mortalities on this WEF. So in other words it may be that Windlabs development design is one of the reasons why there is mortalities. This would be one point of relevance but not the only one</i></p> <p>It is unimaginable what the bird mortalities and particularly big birds such as raptors and cranes will be on the 2 x Karoo escarpment industrial wind farms over 20 years. The area is also full of wind highways for raptors and is home to other red data species all of which are threatened by this massive industrial wind farm now rushed into its scoping phase.</p> <p><i>The bird surveys at the site will be performed for 12 months in line with the EWT and Birdlife best practice guidelines these are the <u>bare minimum</u> as proposed by the guidelines and</i></p>		
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		<p>as Mr Armitage can concur the UK for example has a 24 month monitoring requirement. It is hoped that Mr Person wont just stick to the bare minimum requirements in such a important area (<i>Jenkins A.R., van Rooyen. C.S, Smallie. J.J, Anderson. M.D & Smit.H.A, 2011. Available online at http://www.ewt.org.za/programmes/WEP/pdf/B AWESG_Monitoring%20guidelines_Version%201_04042011.pdf (Accessed 13th July 2014). The scoping stage has started as inputs from both this and the 12 months bat survey on site are collating data to enable the process to begin as per the EIA timeline. This is presumptuous as nothing is ready to begin with all the issues that still need to be clarified.</i></p> <p><i>The design of this survey has been performed in line with international best practice to feed into collision risk modelling so that the potential for bird impacts can in fact be modelled in a quantifiable manner. This may help but if the baseline data is incomplete then this process will be questioned. At this stage the base line information is to say the least incomplete.</i></p> <p>The Windlab Emonyi Ishwati and Umsinde Wind Farms will have over 360 winds turbines and some of the biggest in the world of up to 180 meters high.</p> <p><i>The project description for the EIA provides the MAXIMUM parameters for the project. The maximum number of turbines for each phase of the proposed Umsinde Emoyeni project is 98 turbines each, and the neighbouring proposed Ishwati Emoyeni project is for up to a maximum of 80 turbines (giving a total (maximum) of 276 turbines for the three projects when combined). This is the method by which EIA is performed.</i></p>		
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It is not correct however to present the case that there will be 360 turbines of 180 m in height. The table below presents two example potential scenarios for each phase of the Umsinde Emoyeni development (which has 2 phases). There is questions being asked of the 2 phases in 1 application. Please xplain

By reviewing this table you can see that the EIA project description is assessing a worst case scenario which is in actually unrealistic. It is however the approach of EIA to use the worst case.

<i>Parameter</i>	<i>Scenario 1 (GW87 example)</i>	<i>Scenario 2 (AW125 example)</i>	<i>Project Description</i>
<i>WEF Installed Capacity</i>	<i>147 MW</i>	<i>147 MW</i>	<i>Maximum 147 MW</i>
<i>Number of Turbines</i>	<i>98</i>	<i>49</i>	<i>Maximum 98 turbines</i>
<i>Capacity of Turbine</i>	<i>1.5 MW</i>	<i>3 MW</i>	<i>1.5 - 3.5 MW</i>
<i>Height of Turbine to Tip (Tip height)</i>	<i>129 m</i>	<i>163 m</i>	<i>Maximum 180 m</i>

			<p>Height of Nacelle (Hub height)</p>	<p>85 m</p>	<p>100 m</p>	<p>Maximum 120 m</p>		
			<p>Blade length</p>	<p>44 m</p>	<p>63 m</p>	<p>Maximum 65 m</p>		
<p>It would be criminal to continue the WEF as it is an acceptable fact wind farms kill Blue Cranes and big birds. Blue Cranes are protected. It is a criminal offence to do something that will intentionally lead to the death of our Black and White Rhinos or our national bird The Blue Crane.</p> <p>We demand a thorough AVI FAUNA study and ask that Bradley Gibbons affiliated to the EWT Karoo Crane Working Group add his comment</p> <p><i>EWT are already registered stakeholders on the project however we will ensure Bradley Gibbons is also added to the I&AP database. Can you please provide full contact details including address, telephone and email. You have stated elsewhere and to another I&AP that you are in contact with Bradley Gibbons. This is playing games.</i></p> <p>We also demand the EIA process be re-opened for the Emonyeni Ishwati Avi fauna study. – The entire area is regarded as a particularly sensitive environment</p> <p><i>We are unable to comment on the Ishwati Emoyeni WEF as we are only the EAP on Umsinde Emoyeni. The Umsinde Emoyeni EIA will conduct a cumulative assessment of the</i></p>								

		<p><i>Ishwati Emoyeni project along with the 2 phases of the Umsinde Emoyeni WEF. The Final Environmental Impact Report for Ishwati Emoyeni has already been published and the comment period completed, however, if you wish to contact the EAP for this project please contact: the information is requested from WINDLAB to provide answers to the questions. You are duty bound to do this so please enquire from the developer as to why he never disclosed this. It does have an effect on I&AP at Umsinde.</i></p> <p><i>Samantha Naidoo – CSIR Project Manager Tel: 031 242 2397 Fax: 031 261 2509 Email: snaidoo5@csir.co.za</i></p> <p><i>and</i></p> <p><i>Ismail Banoo – CSIR Project Leader Tel: 031 242 2378 Fax: 031 261 2509 Email: ibanoo@csir.co.za</i></p> <p>News flash*****</p> <p>UTILITY COMPANY SENTENCED IN WYOMING FOR KILLING PROTECTED BIRDS AT WIND PROJECTS</p> <p>WASHINGTON – Duke Energy Renewables Inc., a subsidiary of Duke Energy Corp., based in Charlotte, N.C., pleaded guilty in U.S. District Court in Wyoming today to violating the federal Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) in connection with the deaths of protected birds, including golden eagles, at two of the company's wind projects in Wyoming. This case represents the first ever criminal enforcement of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act for unpermitted avian takings at wind projects. Duke Energy Renewables Inc. failed to make all reasonable efforts to build the</p>		
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		<p>projects in a way that would avoid the risk of avian deaths by collision with turbine blade. According to papers filed with the court, commercial wind power projects can cause the deaths of federally protected birds in four primary ways: collision with wind turbines, collision with associated meteorological towers, collision with, or electrocution by, associated electrical power facilities, and nest abandonment or behavior avoidance from habitat modification.</p> <p><i>The EIA team are aware of this prosecution from 2013 and agree with the application of the legislation applicable in the locality of the project which has been introduced for the safeguarding of the environment. We would however draw your attention to the statement:</i></p> <p><i>Duke Energy Renewables Inc. failed to make all reasonable efforts to build the projects in a way that would avoid the risk of avian deaths by collision with turbine blade. Where you are failing and may have the same repercussions is that you are refusing access to the Specialist so local knowledge can be passed on directly to him. Your failure to include all the facts provided to you will not be to your advantage in any court of law. Other specialist invite the participation of local consultees</i></p> <p><i>As stated above the EIA team consists of South African and International specialists in regard to avifauna. We are conducting an avifauna survey of the site in line with the South African guidelines (Jenkins et al.) and giving regard to international best practice. The findings of this study will feed into the wind facility design process and it is envisaged collision risk modelling, in line with international best</i></p>		
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		<p><i>practice, will be undertaken to assist in the design process. It has been mentioned you are proceeding all the while ignoring input that will assist with providing accurate baseline information for the Scoping Phase</i></p> <p>Wind farm noise does harm sleep and health, say scientists. Wind farm noise causes “clear and significant” damage to people’s sleep and mental health, according to the first full peer-reviewed scientific study of the problem. Wind Turbine Disease Wind Turbine Syndrome is the clinical name given to the constellation of symptoms experienced by many (though not all) people who find themselves living near industrial wind turbines.</p> <p><i>Please provide a reference to the peer-reviewed academic article which proves wind turbine syndrome to be a recognised clinical condition.</i></p> <p><i>To our knowledge to date, Wind Turbine Syndrome is an alleged condition suffered by people living close to turbines. It was described in a self-published book by paediatrician Dr Nina Point based on a sample size of 23 people who responded specifically to an advert specifically for people that attributed their health problems to wind farms. It has not been properly peer-reviewed or published in any credible journal and has largely been discredited based on evidence we have reviewed.</i></p> <p><i>A 2009 expert panel review examined the possible adverse health effects of those living close to wind turbines. Their report concluded that wind turbines do not directly make people ill but that “A small minority of those exposed report annoyance and stress associated with</i></p>		
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			<p><i>photographs taken by the ecological team of the EAP company Arcus. These have been taken ad hoc through the course of our field work at operational wind energy facilities. No evidence has been seen of the effect described by you by any of our team of specialists in the field and we are unaware of any academic evidence from elsewhere of this issue. As a company Arcus have worked on over 200 wind energy developments and to date are yet to experience any issues relating to harm to grazing farm animals grazing or being housed near to wind energy facilities.</i></p> <p>There are many sites that will give your acclaimed EAP evidence to provide reasonable doubt to this. Just visit Jeffreys Bay or Van Stadens. This brings into question if you are actually and sincerely following a risk averse approach.</p>			
Karoo Group	News	2014/11/18	Email	<p>Dear EIMS and Arcus,</p> <p>The KNG and its members are not in agreement that all comments have been responded to.</p> <p>There was however an agreement whereby you undertook to provide responses within 7 days or on a weekly basis. The last correspondence by you was received on the 8/8/2014 which is 10 days before the extended comment period. A further email was sent to you on the 17/11/2014. I&APs had to wait almost 3 months until 13/11/2014 for responses from you. It appears the same goes for the I&APs who provided input which was also received almost 3 months later despite your undertaking to respond within 7 days!</p> <p>The question of land values raised in the initial stages was only really responded to on the</p>	<p>EIMS response: Dear Karoo News Group</p> <p>Thank you for your further comment on the Umsinde Emoyeni project. The comment period on the Draft Scoping Report is closed and all comments received have been responded to. Taking into account the findings of the public consultation period, the Final Scoping Report (FSR) is being prepared and will be submitted to the Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA) in due course. All comments and responses made during the public consultation period in relation to the Draft Scoping Report will be included in the Final Scoping Report.</p> <p>This comment and the First Africa response issued on the 20 November 2014 (09:24 am) will also be included in the FSR comment record. No further comments will be included in the FSR. Once</p>	<p>General; Land Value</p>

			<p>13/11/2014 and no opportunity has been given to consider this report. Note must be taken of your unilateral decision made by you that in your letter you say drafting the DSR that is was your (EAP) opinion that based on your experience you decided that property values should not be part of the EIA and you have Scoped it out as a result. You have no real experience that is relevant to the land values in a 93 000ha natural site. The report is based on mostly foreign residential markets of which 20% of the studies you choose said there was an impact and in some cases substantial. As a result you are obliged or maybe compelled to do a study on this now as NEMA requires a risk averse approach and 20% is a significant enough percentage. I&APs are busy compiling their response to this letter or literature study which will show that your statement shows either ignorance, naivety or denial.</p> <p>The growing file of complaints to be submitted to the DEA as per your suggestion was opened a while back and will be submitted particularly if you amongst others choose not to include the I&AP's response to the Arcus literature study on land value.</p>	<p>submitted you are welcome to submit your comments direct to the DEA.</p> <p>Any further comments will be logged through the public participation record and will be reported on at the EIA phase.</p>	
Karoo News Group	2014/11/20 (08:34 AM)	Email	<p>Dear Jennifer Slack (c/o Arcus Consulting/EIMS)</p> <p>You are clearly scrambling to get the FSR submitted before the DEA offices close at the end of the year. There is no consideration from you for the public's time and effort you are consuming and it appears your only consideration is to try and push through the FSR. You are also saying further comments need to be in before the end of the January 2015 to ensure it can be considered in the EIA report for the Project. You are reminded of the</p>	<p>EIMS response: Dear Karoo News Group,</p> <p>We acknowledge your email receipt. The comment period on the Draft Scoping Report is closed and all comments received have been responded to. Taking into account the findings of the public consultation period, the Final Scoping Report is being prepared and will be submitted to the Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA) in due course. All comments and responses made during the public consultation period in relation to the Draft</p>	General

				<p>EAP PP restrictions on the end of year holiday period.</p> <p>Please record it is inconvenient to address the issues this time of year and it is asked that you explain in reply to this email why you are pushing and insist on having the FSR submitted during this awkward period? Please advice when you intend submitting the FSR to the DEA. Please put on record you have used up the full 3 months period to submit your land value review to I&APs and then you have unilaterally decided to scope this impact and this far have refused to include I&APs comments to this report in the FSR. Comments will be submitted once the KNG has concluded its own process on the issue of land values</p>	<p>Scoping Report, including the Land Values Report, will be included in the Final Scoping Report.</p> <p>As a registered I&AP you will be notified of the submission of the Final Scoping Report after which you are welcome to submit your comments direct to the DEA.</p>	
Karoo Group	News	2014/11/20 (01:53 PM)	2014/11/20	<p>Dear Ms. Nobuhle Hughes</p> <p>The member from First Africa has confirmed that in the email you sent on the 15th July you never answered any questions. All you said in the email was "We will be preparing a response to the specific queries and concerns raised by the unnamed party issuing from FirstAfrica." So you did not respond in that email?</p> <p>Thank you. Email found.</p>	<p>EIMS response: Dear Karoo News Group,</p> <p>Please find attached a copy of the email sent to First Africa on the 15 July 2014 (02:46 PM) for details of the response. The email consisted of a general response and then referred to further responses within the received comments/email.</p>	Other
Karoo Group	News	2014/11/20 (04:15 PM)	Email	<p>Dear Jennifer Slack (Arcus Consulting) c/o Eims – Murraysburg Karoo Wind Farm Development.</p> <p>Reference: your land value report (attached)</p> <p>In the report you have stated it is your opinion based on your experience that you have decided that property values should not be part of the EIA and that you have Scoped it out of the EIA process. It must be noted you have no</p>	<p>EIMS response: Dear Karoo News Group,</p> <p>We acknowledge your email receipt. The comment period on the Draft Scoping Report is closed and all comments received have been responded to. Taking into account the findings of the public consultation period, the Final Scoping Report is being prepared and will be submitted to the Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA) in due course. All comments and responses made during the public consultation period in relation to the Draft</p>	Land Value

		<p>real experience that is relevant to land values in rural areas of 93000ha which your Specialists confirm is an intact natural site.</p> <p>Your report is based on foreign residential markets of which 20% of the studies you choose said there was an impact and in some cases substantial. As a result you are obliged or maybe compelled to do a study on this as part of Scoping as NEMA requires a risk averse approach and 20% is a significant enough percentage.</p> <p>Your selective reviews have little relevance to the SA context where wind farms are almost all located in natural areas where there are few inhabitants often with the developers explicit intention to avoid public resistance to the EIA process. You can no longer use the excuse that there is no known study in SA. While your attempt is appreciated it is hardly relevant. Professional real estate service providers in SA paint a very different picture to that of your report and confirm the substantial negative impact on value and future potential</p> <p>The central issue you are trying to avoid is compensation. The whole wind farm industry is built around Compensation. The Government gets paid, the developer profits, a few contracted landowners get compensated, the manufacturers gets paid, the construction teams gets paid and so does the insurance, legal fraternity, and the banking industry and of course the developer profits. Then there is the obligation for socio economic upliftment. The average socio- economic compensation is between 3 - 5% (and T&C's apply) and at Umsinde near Murraysburg it is a measly 1% .</p>	<p>Scoping Report, including the Land Values Report, will be included in the Final Scoping Report.</p> <p>As a registered I&AP you will be notified of the submission of the Final Scoping Report after which you are welcome to submit your comments direct to the DEA.</p>	
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			<p>So who does not get compensated and why, They are a) the environment, b) adjacent landowners and c) inhabitants. The KNG report will focus on this in its independent study as these are the most effected I&AP's yet you try to exclude them</p> <p>Eims have effectively rejected the concerns raised on land value impacts and associated compensation. An official complaint will be lodged to the DEA highlighting the EAP's dismissal of the issue (which its own biased data confirms as a significant potential impact re 20%) and refusal to address the issue during the present scoping phase. It will be emphasised that it must be accepted during the scoping phase whereas the submission of the FSR to DEA constitutes the end of the scoping phase. Should the issue not be acknowledged in the FSR then the FSR will be non-compliant on at least this point as it is a confirmed likely impact.</p> <p>The Karoo News Group is compiling its own report and media statement on the negative impacts on land value, loss of potential, destabilising communities and compensation based on available knowledge of South African market</p>			
Karoo Group	News	2014/11 25	Email	<p>Dear Eims</p> <p>Your response and procedure is not agreed with.</p> <p>KNG and members maintain their views that have been expressed and reserve all rights to respond to this and other matters to your attention.</p>	<p>This was noted by EIMS.</p> <p>We acknowledge your email receipt. The comment period on the Draft Scoping Report is closed and all comments received have been responded to. Taking into account the findings of the public consultation period, the Final Scoping Report is being prepared and will be submitted to the Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA) in due course. All comments and responses made during the public consultation period in relation to the Draft</p>	Other

				<p>Please put on record the EAP invited direct input to her in the DSR. You are now saying otherwise and also refusing comment on the land value document provided by the EAP well after the closing deadlines. The refusal of the Developer to respond via EIMS or the EAP to questions put to him with regard to Iswathi must also be noted. While it's strange that the EAP was not a registered I&AP at Iswathi. The EAP was well aware in the Umsinde process that the same Developer had not disclosed information to the authorities in Iswathi. The non-disclosure by the EAP to the developers breach of Regulation 71 would make the Umsinde EAP an accomplice.</p>	<p>Scoping Report, including the Land Values Report, will be included in the Final Scoping Report.</p> <p>As a registered I&AP you will be notified of the submission of the Final Scoping Report after which you are welcome to submit your comments direct to the DEA.</p>	
Karoo Group	News	2015/02/10	Email	<p>Dear Ms. Hughes</p> <p>The timing of your submission means that all I&AP having got back ferom the Dec/Jan holiday period have to drop all that they have to do to attend amongst others that were also submitted during this time. This is inconsiderate and you ignored the request in Dec not to submit the FSR during this period.</p> <p>The KNG and all its registered I&AP request that an extension be provided for comment to the FSR to be submitted to the DEA. At this point only comments withy regard to the questionable and manipulated procedure followed in the Iswathi and Umsinde process are being submitted due to time constraints and not comments on the FSR as such. All rights are reserved to make the comments with regard to the FSR.</p>	<p>EIMS response: Dear Karoo News Group,</p> <p>The Final Scoping Report (FSR) was submitted to the DEA after the 5th January to void the holiday period as per the request of the DEA.</p> <p>As per the notification letters to the I&APs, the comment period was initially granted until the 14th February 2015 and this is to be extended to the 2nd March 2015. All comments of the FSR should be addressed to the DEA.</p>	Request for extension of the FSR review period.
Karoo Group	News	2015/02/17	Email	<p>Dear EIMS,</p> <p>Thank you for the extension.</p>	<p>EIMS response: Dear Karoo News Group,</p> <p>All comments should be submitted to the Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA). All</p>	Other

		<p>Comments on the salient points not on the FSR have been submitted to Mr. Essop of the DEA,</p> <p>These include</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ↘ Windlab is the same developer for the disputed adjacent 93 000 ha Umsinde Ishwati WEF application. It appears the Developer may have intentionally misled the public and manipulated the EIA process by not disclosing his intention to do a second large adjacent WEF EIA application in an area described by many specialist as an intact natural area. It has been requested that the intentions of the Developer and the process followed be investigated and should this be confirmed they must be held accountable. ↘ Via the questionable process the developer is intentionally and secretly developing their own REDs in this large 93 000 ha site. The KNG ,ade submissions in 2014 to the SEA EAP warning against the developers tactics. The Fitzpatrick Institute has also warned against the developers targeting rural areas with the explicit intention to target remote communities on order to get less resistance to the EIA process. The Umsinde Emoyeni and Ishwati applications aim to do just that and have manipulated the application process and subsequently misled the communities. ↘ As the FSR is supposed to identify "all the information that is necessary for a proper understanding of the nature of issues" the EIA team has failed miserably to put the entire site in its right context. Obviously this is a fundamental omission and a fatal flaw. Again the question must 	<p>comments received from I&APs during this Final Scoping Report comment period and their responses will be provided to the DEA.</p>
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				<p>be asked why was the very important location of the 93 000 ha site not put in its context which is that it is located on the Southern Great Escarpment as detailed by the Great Escarpment Biodiversity Program.</p> <p>The EAP Mrs Slack is very new to South Africa and has NO real experience in South Africa yet she had the audacity to unilaterally decide to scope land value impacts out of the EIA process and this again points to the effects of issue raised in point 1 where the objectivity of the EAP is in question. The EAP has no qualifications relevant to this issue to submit such a report and then to simultaneously scope it out.</p> <p>Comments to the FSR will be submitted to the DEA which will include amongst others shortcomings in the Avi Specialist studies.</p>		
Karoo Group	News	2015/03/02 10:36 AM	Email	<p>Dear EIMS</p> <p>Many of the KNG members have reported that the FSR is not available on your website for download. In the attached letter you said I&AP's can access the FSR from www.eims.co.za if you go onto the website and click on PROJECTS there is nothing there. Many I&AP's therefore could not comment as they do not have access to the FSR.</p> <p>It has been requested that this be rectified and as a result further extension be granted to comment.</p>	The comment period for the FSR was extended by EIMS.	Other
Karoo Group	News	2015/03/02 11:07 AM	Email	<p>Ps. Further to the above. Both links on the attached document do not work.</p>	This was noted by EIMS and the links corrected	Other

Karoo Group	News	2015/03/04 12:42 PM	Email	<p>Dear Eims</p> <p>Nobody has heard further from EIMS?</p> <p>It seems some have now found the FSR on your website and REPORTS not PROJECTS where it was initially placed</p> <p>However the links you sent I&APs in the extension notice are corrupted and most tried to access it that way and could not. They are still corrupted and cannot be accessed?</p>	<p>EIMS response: Dear Karoo News Group,</p> <p>As stated in the Final Scoping Report (FSR) notification letter the FSR is available and remains available at www.eims.co.za and at www.arcusconsulting.co.uk/services/sa-projects. Furthermore a search on google.co.za returns both of these websites.</p> <p>The documents are available at both websites and the links have been checked and we are recording hits on these links through our websites reporting software.</p> <p>Your comment and response will be sent to the Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA) along with those others received during the FSR comment period.</p>	Other
Karoo Group	News	2015/03/04 02:07 PM	Email	<p>Dear Eims</p> <p>Both the links you provided which you direct I&AP's to in the attached extension letter are corrupted and this is how some tried to access the FSR as per your recommendation. It is hard to fathom that you can access the websites via these links. The Eims link in the attached letter has been copied for your easy reference CLICK HERE. Surely it is not expected that I&AP's use Google Search to locate documents!</p> <p>Please also note that the registered I&AP's of the KNG have requested that it be submitted with the consent of AVDS Consulting that they endorse and support the issues raised by AVDS Consulting who is acting on behalf of certain I&AP's. Many of the large number of KNG I&AP's are also landowners in the area and have similar issues with the Umsinde application and FSR as those represented by</p>	<p>This was noted by EIMS and the links corrected</p>	Other

			AVDS Consulting. Others registered members represent community, heritage, tourism etc.			
Karoo Group	News	2015/12/14	Email	<p>Dear N Hughes</p> <p>We reject the finalisation of the draft EIA report when there are still issues outstanding that need to be included or dealt with in the Scoping Phase. Here are some of the issues you have the others</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. There has still been no confirmation from you that the cumulative impact assessments will be done that include the Nobelsfontein and Aberdeen wind farms. 2. The Scoping for Umsinde cannot be concluded before the issues raised in the Ishwati Appeal process have been clarified which directly effect Umsinde. Issues include the credibility of the developer by his action in not disclosing the adjacent Umsinde Applications. 3. We would also like the scoping to include the developers misinformation and the effects it will have on this development and the public's participation as they no longer have credibility 4. International Agreements such as CMS clearly state that that an acceptable SEA needs to be completed first as well as spatial impact assessments for priority species. It would be in conflict with these treaties should you proceed without the above being in place 5. The Avian study only conforms to the absolute minimums standards of the BLSA Best Practises Guidelines and does not 	<p>EIMS response: Thank you for the comments received, please find responses from the project team to the various points raised in your emails below.</p> <p>Thank you for further comment, please may you provide us with the said reports so that we may forward them to the EAP for their input.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The EIA report assesses the cumulative impact of renewable energy projects, that have application lodged with the DEA, and available on their website, within a 100km radius of the Umsinde Emoyeni Project site. It is important to note that many applications are lodged with the DEA for Wind Energy Facilities (WEFs) but very few are awarded preferred bidder status and even fewer reach the point when construction can commence 2. The issues raised and relevant to the Ishwati project and is appeal process is not linked to the Umsinde Emoyeni Project, as they are two separate projects. At the time of the Ishwati EIA process, the Umsinde Project was very much in the pre-feasibility phase. Some land had been secured through leases and preliminary wind data had been gathered. The project was not yet in the public domain and the viability of the site was still being determined. 3. The scoping report and EIA plan of study was approved by the DEA. Comments received and information available during the scoping phase formed part of the final scoping report reviewed and accepted by the DEA. 	<p>Cumulative impacts;</p> <p>Scoping phase Acceptance;</p> <p>Avifauna study;</p> <p>Land value;</p> <p>Fracking;</p> <p>Public Participation Process;</p> <p>Ishwati Emoyeni WEF;</p> <p>Land occupiers;</p> <p>EAP.</p>

			<p>adhere to the updated guidelines. It is requested that the avian consultant do more in the pre-construction monitoring than the absolute minimum required and this additional monitoring will effect the scoping phase</p> <p>6. We still dispute the results of the avian preconstruction monitoring reports. Independent observations indicate that the actual numbers of some priority species are way more that the avian consultant tabled.</p> <p>We also do not accept the EWT/BLSA Guidelines as a result of recent developments with regard to the impartiality of both parties as clearly they are funded by the wind industry</p> <p>7. The issues of the EAP providing a ricolous and credulous land value report are not yet resolved as the EAP (Jennifer Slack) is not qualified to do such a report and we insist that a land value study be included in the Scoping. Seeing that Mrs Slack is no longer the EAP, please confirm? Who is the EAP? The land value document needs to be discarded and a study undertaken.</p> <p>Please revert soonest with answers to the above and as to whether the finalisation of the report will be put on hold till the issues have been satisfactorily dealt with.</p>	<p>4. The EIA for the project is undertaken according to National Environmental Management Act (NEMA) and the minimum standards associated with it (bird and bat). The assessment and the reports take cognisance of all international treaties. No mention of a SEA was made in the Scoping approval, and undertaking an SEA for a single project is not viable or and will not yield any more information than the EIA. .</p> <p>5. The avifauna study was designed to meet the requirements of the guidelines applicable at the time of the commencement of the 12 month programme (i.e. October 2013).</p> <p>The guidelines applicable at the time were the second edition of the guidelines updated in 2012 namely 'Best Practice Guidelines for Avian Monitoring and Impact Mitigation at Proposed Wind Energy Development Sites in Southern Africa' (Jenkins A.R., van Rooyen. C.S, Smallie. J.J, Anderson. M.D & Smit.H.A, 2011). It is assumed the 'updated guidelines' referred to in the comment above, is the third edition released in 2015 after the completion of the 12 month bird monitoring programme.</p> <p>It is the specialist's opinion that the bird surveys' conducted for the Umsinde Emoyeni WEF did, in many ways, exceed the minimum requirements (of all editions of the guidelines). For example, vantage points were surveyed for at least 15 hours each season, which exceeds the current minimum of 12 hours, and any many cases for longer than this for e.g. VP4 was surveyed for over 22 hours in spring. Furthermore, night time driven transect surveys were added to the survey scope in</p>	
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				<p>summer, autumn and winter to assess the presence of species active at night, such as nightjars and owls, while two additional and separate nest surveys focussing on cliff nesting raptors were conducted by bird specialists Andrew Pearson, and Dr Andrew Jenkins, and are reported on in detail in the EIA report.</p> <p>6. Please specify which results are disputed and give reasons. The scoping report only provided preliminary results of the first two seasons of monitoring, as monitoring was still underway at the time of writing the avifaunal chapter in the scoping report. All results are presented in the final monitoring report which includes an avifaunal impact assessment.</p> <p>Please specify which priority species you refer to and which 'tabled' information you dispute? Please also provide details of your independent observations. Data pertaining to priority species tabled by the specialist in the scoping report were obtained from existing, publically available, historical sources (i.e. The South African Bird Atlas Project) or from observations from two seasons of monitoring only, and which have been verified by the specialist as being accurate.</p> <p>It is the EAP's understanding that the Competent Authority prescribes compliance with the EWT/ BLSA Guidelines.</p> <p>7. This is noted. However, the scoping acceptance letter did not mention that a land value study or report needs to be done and there was no request from the DEA to undertake such a study in the EIA process</p>	
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					<p>after their review of the submitted information (including the land value document).</p> <p>We confirm that Ms Jennifer Slack is no longer the EAP, and Ms Ashlin Bodasing from Arcus is continuing with the project as the EAP.</p>	
Karoo Group	News	2016/01/12	Email	<p>Dear N Hughes</p> <p>We have not had a reply from you with regard to the email above.</p> <p>Further to the email above we have new reports suggesting that the developer had every intention during the Ishwati process to apply for the Umsinde EIA. This seems to apply for some of the specialists involved as well despite their signing of declaration of independence.</p> <p>A developer manipulating a EIA process has direct effects and implications on the outcome of the EIA process.</p> <p>Please revert with a reply.</p>	EIMS responded. Please refer to response for comment dated 2015/12/14.	General.
Karoo Group	News	2016/01/22	Email	<p>Dear N Hughes</p> <p>Find our initial answers and responses to yours in <i>italics</i> and bold.</p> <p>Please read carefully and await your reply to the issues raised. We will then deal with your additional questions</p> <p>We would also like to state for the record that our initial review of the Draft EIAR that there are omissions and answered issues</p>	<p>Dear Karoo News Group,</p> <p>Thank you for all your submitted comments to date. Please find below responses to the comments received prior to the Draft EIA Report was made available (dated 14 December2015).</p> <p>1. There have been no applications for fracking at the time of writing the report, therefore this was not assessed in the cumulative assessment. As stated previously, only EIA applications that have been lodged with respect to renewable energy projects were considered..</p>	<p>Cumulative impacts;</p> <p>Scoping phase acceptance;</p> <p>Avifauna study;</p> <p>Land value;</p> <p>Fracking;</p>

		<p>1. "There has still been no confirmation from you that the cumulative impact assessments will be done that include the Nobelsfontein and Aberdeen wind farms."</p> <p>The EIA report assesses the cumulative impact of renewable energy projects, that have applications lodged with the Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA) <i>This is not the cirerium stipulated under the law for other developments to be considered in cumulative impacts. Consider the definition under Section 1 of the Ela regs: "cumulative impact", in relation to an activity, means the impact of an activity that in itself may not be significant, but may become significant when added to the existing and potential impacts eventuating from similar or diverse activities or undertakings in the area;</i> - available on their website, and those within a 100km radius of the Umsinde Emoyeni Project site <i>Not good enough, the website was also not accurate at some point with holes in information. Where is the requirement that it must be on the wexsite??</i> It is important to note that many applications are lodged with the DEA for Wind Energy Facilities (WEFs) but very few are awarded preferred bidder status and even fewer reach the point when construction can commence <i>Not good enough – consider the definition which includes "may". What about Fracking?</i></p> <p>2. "The Scoping for Umsinde cannot be concluded before the issues raised in the Ishwati Appeal process have been clarified which directly effect Umsinde. Issues</p>	<p>2. The two projects are not contingent on one another and the development of Umsinde Emoyeni is not dependent on the outcome of the Ishwati Emoyeni appeal. These are two separate project, as submitted to the Department of Environmental Affairs. Umsinde Emoyeni can be developed, should it be awarded preferred bidder and have environmental authorisation, regardless of the status of Ishwati. The reports clearly state the different scenarios related to the grid connections and the two developments.</p> <p>3. We are not defending the developers actions, we believe we are being objective in this regard, we cannot comment on a process that we were not involved in.</p> <p>Occupiers were not entirely and knowingly excluded during the process. Attempts were made, and continue to be made, to aquire contact details of occupiers of adjacent properties. During the EIA phase of the project, focus group meetings were held with occupiers and communication channels were set up to inform occupiers of the proposed development. Furthermore, during the scoping and EIA phase, numerous information posters were installed in the area. It is our understanding that reasonable and available measures have been taken to notify and consult with occupiers.</p> <p>5. According to the specialist it is understood that the potential impacts can be managed and mitigated adequately and an informed decision can be made on the basis of the information at hand. It would not be practical or necessary in the opinion of the specialist to conduct another</p>	<p>Public Participation Process; Ishwati Emoyeni WEF; Land occupiers; EAP.</p>
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		<p>include the credibility of the developer by his action in not disclosing the adjacent Umsinde Applications."</p> <p>The issues raised and relevant to the Ishwati project and its appeal process is not linked to the Umsinde Emoyeni Project; they are two separate projects <i>Ridiculous! The Ishwati site is part of the Umsinde site therefore impossible that they are not related. Also what about the grid connections which linkm the entire developments as one whether Umsinde or Ishwati.</i> At the time of the Ishwati EIA process, the Umsinde Project was very much in the pre-feasibility phase <i>Rubbish, there was sufficient intent and commitment from the developer to Umsinde showing he had every intentions to submit a application. it was sufficient to have had to be included ("may").</i> Some land had been secured through leases and preliminary wind data had been gathered. The project was not yet in the public domain and the viability of the site was still being determined. <i>Why are you not being objective about this it appears that you are continually defending the developers actions. It was in the public domain despite the confidentiality clauses the developer insisted on to prevent it getting into the public domain!</i></p> <p>3. "We would also like the scoping to include the developers misinformation and the effects it will have on this development and the public's participation as they no longer have credibility."</p>	<p>12 months of monitoring in line with the new guideline. In fact, the survey is largely in line with the new guideline, as the changes from the 2012 version to the 2015 version were mostly to do with operational phase monitoring requirements. The latest guidelines state <i>'Whilst the avifaunal scoping study could coincide with and serve as the scoping study for the purposes of EIA, it is not necessary to wait until the formal EIA starts in order to start monitoring'</i>. There was no risk in commencing the studies prior to official commencement of scoping, as the site was visited prior to monitoring commencing to 'scope' the site and design an appropriate survey, which could commence so that it could be completed in time to advise the EIA. <u>Noted, thank you for the report.</u></p> <p>6. <u>Not required. The latest guidelines state 'Whilst the avifaunal scoping study could coincide with and serve as the scoping study for the purposes of EIA, it is not necessary to wait until the formal EIA starts in order to start monitoring'</u>. It is not a requirement for monitoring to be complete before the conclusion of a Scoping Phase. Monitoring is meant to advise the final Avifaunal IA report. The scoping study (which is usually desk-based) was in fact supplemented by additional monitoring data, which is above the norm for most projects.</p> <p>7. As previously requested, please supply this, and any other pertinent data in order to ensure that such information is considered and included in the Final EIA Report to be submitted for decision making. The report did consider a species like Lesser Kestrel, it states that the Karoo scrub areas of the site are</p>
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			<p>The scoping report and EIA plan of study was approved by the DEA <i>DEA are not the law but are subject to the law..</i> Comments received and information available during the scoping phase formed part of the final scoping report reviewed and accepted by the DEA. <i>The significant number of marginalised “occupiers” (residents and workers) on participant and adjacent properties have been entirely, and knowingly, excluded from the scoping process. This is illegal.</i></p> <p><i>28. (1)(h) “A scoping report must contain all the information that is necessary for a proper understanding of the nature of issues identified during scoping, and must include ...details of the public participation process conducted in terms of regulation 27(a), including...”</i></p> <p><i>27(a) says “After having submitted an application, the EAP managing the application must...(a) conduct at least the public participation process set out in regulation 54;”</i></p> <p><i>Therefore the PPP prescribed under Reg 54 must have been completed BEFORE scoping is finalized and accepted by DEA. Consider what does Reg 54 says?</i></p> <p><i>54. (1) This regulation only applies in instances where adherence to the provisions of this regulation is specifically required.</i></p>	<p>'potential foraging ground for raptors such as Black-shouldered Kite, Rock Kestrel, Lanner Falcon and Lesser Kestrel'. Only two flights of Lesser Kestrel were recorded on the WEF site over 12 months of monitoring.</p> <p>It is our understanding that we have followed a risk averse approach by using guidelines that are produced and prescribed by internationally renowned organisations like EWT and Birdlife and which are reviewed by international experts.</p>	
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			<p><i>(2) The person conducting a public participation process must take into account any guidelines applicable to public participation as contemplated in section 24J of the Act and must give notice to all potential interested and affected parties of the application which is subjected to public participation by—</i></p> <p><i>(b) giving written notice to—</i></p> <p><i>...</i></p> <p><i>(ii) the occupiers of the site where the activity is or is to be undertaken or to any alternative site where the activity is to be undertaken;</i></p> <p><i>(iii) owners and occupiers of land adjacent to the site where the activity is or is to be undertaken or to any alternative site where the activity is to be undertaken;</i></p> <p><i>Proof of notification of occupiers must be included in the scoping report, per 28(1)(h)(ii):</i></p> <p><i>A scoping report must contain all the information that is necessary for a proper understanding of the nature of issues identified during scoping, and must include...proof that notice boards, advertisements and notices notifying potentially interested and affected parties of the application have been displayed, placed or given;</i></p> <p><i>The DEA-accepted scoping report therefore lacks necessary proof of this “material information” and should have been “rejected” by DEA. The competent authority must, within 30 days of</i></p>		
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			<p>acknowledging receipt of a scoping report, or receipt of the required information, reports, or comments or the amended scoping report, consider it, and in writing—(c) reject the scoping report if it— (i) does not contain material information required in terms of these Regulations; or...</p> <p>Therefore their views, concerns and local knowledge has been excluded from the following critical function of scoping, per Reg 27(e)(i) – (iii): 27. “After having submitted an application, the EAP managing the application must...(e) subject the application to scoping by identifying ... (i) issues that will be relevant for consideration of the application; (ii) the potential environmental impacts of the proposed activity; and (iii) alternatives to the proposed activity that are feasible and reasonable;”</p> <p>4. “International Agreements such as CMS clearly state that that an acceptable SEA needs to be completed first as well as spatial impact assessments for priority species. It would be in conflict with these treaties should you proceed without the above being in place.”</p> <p>The EIA for the project is undertaken according to National Environmental Management Act (NEMA) and the minimum standards associated with it (bird and bat). The assessment and the reports take cognisance of all international treaties.</p>		
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			<p>No mention of a SEA was made in the Scoping approval (<i>irrelevant - the DEA showed incompetence as is revealed above by their incorrect acceptance of the FSR</i>), and undertaking an SEA for a single project is not viable or and will not yield any more information than the EIA. No –one said we need a SEA for Umsinde only! Subsequent to receiving this email from you we received the draft EIA report. A quick scan of the Avian Study the consultants clearly states that a SEA is required as well as a high level impact spatial assessment for priority species.</p> <p>5. "The Avian study only conforms to the absolute minimum standards of the BLSA Best Practises Guidelines and does not adhere to the updated guidelines. It is requested that the avian consultant do more in the pre-construction monitoring than the absolute minimum required and this additional monitoring will effect the scoping phase."</p> <p>The avifauna study was designed to meet the requirements of the guidelines applicable at the time of the commencement of the 12 month programme (i.e. October 2013) Thank you for stating this which clearly Indicates a significant commitment to this Umsinde project back in October 2013 when the Ishwati EIA was still young. The guidelines applicable at the time were the second edition of the guidelines updated in 2012 namely 'Best Practice Guidelines for Avian Monitoring and Impact Mitigation at Proposed Wind Energy Development Sites</p>		
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in Southern Africa' (Jenkins A.R., van Rooyen. C.S, Smallie. J.J, Anderson. M.D & Smit.H.A, 2011). It is assumed the 'updated guidelines' referred to in the comment above, is the third edition released in 2015 after the completion of the 12 month bird monitoring programme. ***The latest information must be used since the application has not been completed. The risk of commencing specialist studies such as this one before finalisation to the scoping process (which would inform them) lies with the applicant and cannot be passed o to the environment and its local inhabitants and biota. Further it is clear that the Best Practises Guidelines are experimental – see attached report from Jon Smallie who is also the Avian Consultant for Ishwtai and clearly there is a lack of knowledge about the movement and impact by wind farms and grid infrastructure on priority species.***

It is the specialists opinion that the bird surveys' conducted for the Umsinde Emoyeni WEF did, in many ways, exceed the minimum requirements (of all editions of the guidelines). For example, vantage points were surveyed for at least 15 hours each season, which exceeds the current minimum of 12 hours, and any many cases for longer than this for e.g VP4 was surveyed for over 22 hours in spring. Furthermore, night time driven transect surveys were added to the survey scope in summer, autumn and winter to assess the presence of species active at night, such as nightjars and owls, while two additional

			<p>and separate nest surveys focussing on cliff nesting raptors were conducted by bird specialists Andrew Pearson, and Dr Andrew Jenkins, and are reported on in detail in the EIA report. We will be commenting on this in the Draft EIA report and notice that the Avian consultant has applied himself however the conclusion reached and the effectiveness of his mitigation proposals are completely misleading.</p> <p>6. "We still dispute the results of the avian preconstruction monitoring reports."</p> <p>Please specify which results are disputed and give reasons. The scoping report only provided preliminary results of the first two seasons of monitoring, as monitoring was still underway at the time of writing the avifaunal chapter in the scoping report. All results are presented in the final monitoring report which includes an avifaunal impact assessment. We will be commenting on the Draft EIA and notice that the Avian study was not completed by the time the Scoping Report was finalised. How can the Scoping report be submitted for approval when the monitoring was still incomplete?</p> <p>"Independent observations indicate that the actual numbers of some priority species are way more than the avian consultant tabled."</p> <p>Please specify which priority species you refer to and which 'tabled' information you dispute? Please also provide details of your independent observations. Data</p>		
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			<p>pertaining to priority species tabled by the specialist in the scoping report were obtained from existing, publically available, historical sources (i.e. The South African Bird Atlas Project) or from observations from two seasons of monitoring only, and which have been verified by the specialist as being accurate. We will submit for example the arrival of large numbers of migrating priority species into this area which were not present in the preceding years or during the pre-construction monitoring. Species like Lesser Kestrels moved southwards compared to previous years due to lack of rainfall north of the Great Escarpment Please enquire from the Consultant why the movement of species due to rainfall or the lack thereof was not considered in his assessments and reports</p> <p>We also do not accept the EWT/BLSA Guidelines as a result of recent developments with regard to the impartiality of both parties as clearly they are funded by the wind industry. It is the EAP's understanding that the Competent Authority prescribes compliance with the EWT/ BLSA Guidelines. Irrespective of what the DEA prescribes the law prevails and a risk-averse approach is prescribed by law.</p> <p>7. "The issues of the EAP providing a ridiculous and credulous land value report are not yet resolved as the EAP (Jennifer Slack) is not qualified to do such a report and we insist that a land value study be included in the Scoping. Seeing that Mrs Slack is no longer the EAP, please</p>		
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			<p>confirm? Who is the EAP? The land value document needs to be discarded and a study undertaken."</p> <p>This is noted. However, the scoping acceptance letter did not mention that a land value study or report needs to be done and there was no request from the DEA to undertake such a study in the EIA process after their review their review was flawed (as seen above) and biased of the submitted information (including the land value document). We confirm that Ms Jennifer Slack is no longer the EAP, and Ms Ashlin Bodasing from Arcus is continuing with the project as the EAP. Loss of property and enterprise value due to wind farms is a well known impact that must be assessed. The significance was pointed out in our rebuttal of the biased land report by the EAP and it was shown, despite its bias, that the EAP's own report confirmed the significance of the impact.</p>		
Karoo News Group	2016/02/03	Email	<p>Dear Ms Hughes</p> <p>We would like you to split the 2 aspects of this email, namely</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. This email contents deals with the Issues raised before the release off the DEIR, similarily the answers received from you with further issues arising from your answers 2.1 The DEIR had not been released when we sent you this email, 2.2 Further, by the time we had responded in <i>italics</i> and bold to your comments we had only managed to access less than 5% of 	<p>EIMS response: Dear Karoo News Group,</p> <p>Thank you for your latest comments, the project team is preparing responses. With regards to the requested 30-days extension for the review period of the Draft EIA Report, unfortunately the project team is unable to extend the comment period past the 7th March 2016.</p>	<p>Cumulative impacts;</p> <p>Scoping phase acceptance;</p> <p>Avifauna study;</p> <p>Land value;</p> <p>Fracking;</p> <p>Public Participation Process;</p>

		<p>all the documents on the website you refer to.</p> <p>We therefore await clarity and finality of the issues raised before the DEIR was released such as the previous EAP unilaterally scoping out impacts on land values based on her own biased report. Further she is not qualified for this as she is not a specialist in that field and has little experience in SA and is no longer the EAP!. Can you please provide reasons why she is no longer the EAP and who is the current EAP. First things first and please read again our comments below and answer where applicable.</p> <p>With regard to the DEIR how is it possible to download these large files let alone review, discuss internally, and comment? These detailed reports are hardly accessible and many in the Karoo cannot download these size or format files in any event. Surely it is not expected of concerned I&AP's to spend the time necessary (weeks) at the public places where they are available. Some inhabitants, labourers and community members are finding it impossible to participate. The developer chose such a big site impacting so many people and knowingly ran the risk of this being an Achilles heel for a fair process.</p> <p>With regard to the meetings there probably will be some present unfortunately only as observers having been unable to access the information. We reserve the right to comment on anything relating to the meetings when the reports have been studied. Will the avian consultant be at the public meetings ? It would be appropriate to mention now that we will need more time and an extension to review everything adequately.</p>		<p>Ishwati Emoyeni WEF;</p> <p>Land occupiers;</p> <p>EAP.</p>
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			<p>As mentioned what has been looked at briefly is the Avian Report which is mostly good revealing the density of nesting and the presence of large numbers of priority species that we have been talking about. What is ridiculous and undermines the whole report is that the avian consultant says he can mitigate this to acceptable levels. This is a blatant lie and to make matters worse he refers to the Ishwati specialists report which....! The Ishwati 'Specialist' is already responsible from a consultants viewpoint on the death by a wind farm of an entire Black Eagle family so his and developers ability to effectively mitigate has already been completely discredited.</p> <p>We will be commenting on all these reports when it is possible to do so and reserve the rights accordingly.</p>			
Karoo Group	News	2016/02/15	Email	<p>Dear Ms Hughes</p> <p>Can you please reply to the emails below that have not been replied upon. Additionally please can you answer the following</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Does the new EAP stand by the land value letter submitted by the previous EAP who we reiterate was not qualified in the remotest sense to write such a report? Your reply stated that "the scoping acceptance letter did not mention that a land value study or report needs to be done and there was no request from the DEA to undertake such a study in the EIA" The reason why is that the previous EAP had unilaterally scoped out land value. Your answer is therefore misleading. The DEA relies of the EAP to be objective in its reports so the fact that the DEA never 	<p>Dear Karoo News Group,</p> <p>Thank you for all your submitted comments to date. Please find below responses to your latest comments (dated 15 February 2016).</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> The Land Value literature review was included as an addendum to the Final Scoping Report, with the EAP stating that "<i>the scope of the EIA remains as per the Draft Scoping Report in that property values will be taken into account within the socio-economic assessment considering for example the findings of the visual, noise and other impact studies, but a quantified assessment will not be included.</i>" The Land Value literature review was accepted by DEA in their acceptance of the Scoping Report. The purpose of the public meeting was to present the findings of each specialist study. It 	<p>Land value;</p> <p>Avifauna specialist;</p> <p>Reports;</p> <p>Responses;</p> <p>De Aar Mayor;</p> <p>Fatal flaws;</p> <p>Ishwati Emoyeni WEF;</p> <p>Toursim;</p> <p>Land occupiers;</p> <p>General</p>

			<p>requested one is based on the misleading report of Ms Slack. This is a complete manipulation of procedures and your answer has effectively put you in a corner. At the meeting Arcus stated "...it was found not to be a issue" who in Arcus said this and does the new EAP agree as she is not familiar with the site and has only visited once ?</p> <p>2. At the public meeting there were no specialist to answer questions. It was requested in 2015 that they be present</p> <p>3. There were no complete DEIA reports available to the meeting for I&AP's to take home. This despite a request that complete information packs be available. You have not responded to the issue that people in the Karoo cannot access your large files on the website. We would like copies of these reports and therefore request extension for the commenting period 30 days after the reports have been received</p> <p>4. We still await clarity and finality of the issues raised before the DEIR was released. We reject your suggestion that "further comments and responses below will be captured in the issues and responses report and submitted as part of the Final EIR to the DEA for consideration in their decision making process." We need answers!!</p> <p>5. At the public meeting it appears the De Aar mayor was specifically invited by the developer to give a motivation speech. Please confirm that this is true? If not please advise why and by who he was invited as</p>	<p>is not feasible for every specialist to be present at a meeting. Their reports are available for perusal. The EAP was present at the public meeting to discuss the findings of the studies, and specific questions to the specialists will be dealt with in the Comments and Response Report.</p> <p>3. Once again, it is not feasible to provide entire hard copy reports to every I&AP. Hard copies are available and can be accessed at libraries and co-ops etc. for review. There were hard copies of the report available at the public meeting for perusal at the entrance of the hall, together with the comment sheets and copies of the Executive Summaries (the Executive Summaries were made available for I&APs to take home). The notifications sent out informing I&APs of the availability of the DEIR included the venues where these reports are available. Windlab has offered to send KNG a CD containing all the reports; no response has been received. We would like to offer again that a CD can be sent if you provide your address.</p> <p>4. It should be noted that the comment period on issues relating to the scoping report has been closed since the department accepted the scoping report. We have been engaging with KNG on a number of issues, and it is not always feasible to respond to comments immediately. The intention of the comment period is to receive all comments and provide responses in the form of the comments and responses report. All comments and their responses will be included in the Issues and Responses Report to be submitted as an appendix to the Final EIA Report.</p>	
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			<p>you are well aware he is not impartial. The facilitator did identify him publically!</p> <p>6. At the public meeting the developer said “this site is ideal because no fatal environmental flaws exist”. This show complete prejudice and we will raise this amongst others with the Competent Authority. The EIA is not complete so please explain how the developer can make such a statement and if NEMA EIA guidelines allow the developer to speak on behalf of the DEA</p> <p>7. It was noted that Ishwati was almost entirely ignored at the meeting</p> <p>8. We are aware Windlab is frenetically working behind the scenes to get community support but the community as you may have noticed is now getting vey suspicious</p> <p>9. It was also noted that Mr Brimble was very active trying to keep opponents of this application away from the other members of the public</p> <p>10. Tourism as never mentioned and you failed to give details of permanent work that will be created</p> <p>We await your reply to the unresolved issues again raised and before the DEIR as well as new issues and then comments post meeting</p>	<p>5. This is categorically untrue. The relevant district and local municipalities were identified at the start of the project as key Interested and Affected Party (I&AP) among others and were invited to participate in the EIA process as were other stakeholders/ I&APs. Consequently the Pixley Ka Seme District Municipality were notified of the public participation process, including report availability and public meetings. It is our understanding that no further encouragement for the mayor to attend the meeting was provided outside of the standard public participation process. As the mayor stated during the public meeting, he travelled from De Aar as the Northern Cape falls within the project boundary and he wished to support the project as he has seen the benefits that renewable projects have bought to areas of the Northern Cape. We are not aware of any impartiality with regards to the mayor.</p> <p>6. As was stated during the meeting high-level feasibility studies were undertaken prior to the EIA. The results of these studies were that no fatal-flaws existed, at that level of assessment (prior to the EIA). This is done to minimize the risk of starting an EIA without knowing the base line condition of the environment and to identify any potential fatal flaws. Pre-application screening regularly involves some form of fatal-flaw analysis in order to determine if the project will give rise to unacceptable environmental consequences. All the specialist studies that have been conducted as part of the EIA (and as reported in the Draft EIR), including the impact assessment significance rating pre- and post-mitigation.</p>	
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					<p>7. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the Draft EIR for the Umside Emoyeni project. Ishwati Emoyeni was addressed in the cumulative impacts presented in the Draft EIA Report and where applicable at the meeting.</p> <p>8. Your comment is noted, however we are not aware of any such specific efforts to garner community support.</p> <p>9. Your comment is noted, however we are not aware of any such specific efforts by the applicants' representatives.</p> <p>10. Temporary and permanent employment is dealt with in-depth in the Draft EIA Report on pages 57, 74, 75, 76 and 107; and Tourism is addressed on pages 125 and 132. These figures provided are estimates and based on similar sized projects. Exact details of (number, types, etc.) of permanent work will be provided for in line with Department Of Energy requirements, during the Renewable Energy Independent Power Producer Procurement Programme (REIPPPP) Bidding process.</p>	
Karoo Group	News	2016/02/24 (10:14am)	Email	<p>Dear Ms Hughes</p> <p>Land Value – You are doing your best to hide away the impacts on land value away into the other assessments and you have also decided that a quantifiable assessment will not be done. So you are saying the DEA accepted the previous EAP's letter on Land Value but the DEA was not made aware of the issues raised in direct relation to the letter. Why not ?</p> <p>2. Avian Specialist – We want direct answers from the Avian Specialist considering what is at stake in his report.</p>	<p>EIMS response: Thank you for all your submitted comments to date. Please find below responses to your latest comments (dated 24 February 2016).</p> <p>1. All comments and issues submitted on the draft scoping and final scoping reports were forwarded to the DEA for their consideration. It should be noted that, as per the EIA process, all comments from I&APs on final reports are sent directly to the DEA, and if sent to the EAP are forwarded to the department. This process was the same of the final scoping report for this project.</p>	<p>Land value; Avifauna specialist; Reports; Responses; De Aar Mayor; Fatal flaws;</p>

			<p>The EAP is not qualified to address the issues we would like to raise. We also again get the impression you are intentionally keeping the Avian Specialist away from us. We want answers from him directly. The first question we want to know from him is How can he say he can effectively mitigate the high density of birds of prey. What proof can he give us that he can. The track record on Black Eagle WEF impacts says otherwise. He referred to the Ishwati Avian Study in his report so Ishwati impacts is a conservation in Umsinde. Further the Ishwati's Avian consultant track record on WEF mitigation is negative. We await answers to the question from Andrew Pearson</p> <p>3. Reports. – Mr Bramble did offer to post CD's on the 15th Feb which will take a week to get to the Karoo which leaves 3 weeks to study them and comment. Would you say this is reasonable and fair considering the volumes of information? There were not complete reports available at the public meeting whether hard copy of CD !! We requested a hard copy to use for the benefit of occupiers and inhabitants but you have now refused to provide</p> <p>4. Responses – What you are saying is regardless of the comments and the validity of them they are just simply filed in the comments and responses reports and attached as a addendum.. Thank you for confirming this. There is a pattern here in this application of watering down real concerns. Examples such as the land report, refusing access to the avian consultant...</p> <p>5. De Aar Mayor - Please provide a statement and undertaking from the</p>	<p>2. Although the broader area does have relatively moderate to high densities of raptors, this is only really the case for Verreaux's Eagle and Rock Kestrel (based on the observed data). There may well be high numbers of migratory raptors such as Amur Falcon and Lesser Kestrel on the WEF site during certain times of the year, although this was not observed in our studies and we were not aware of any evidence or data to confirm this. We do not state that the buffers will be 100% effective in preventing all Eagle mortalities. These buffers were provided based on various considerations including: the recommendations given by Dr. Andrew Jenkin's in his nest survey report, appended to the specialist report; buffers proposed at other WEFs; observed flight activity; recorded flight behaviour of Verreaux's Eagles in the Cedarberg (pers. Com. Megan Murgatroyd and Dr. Andrew Jenkins); and consideration of the draft Verreaux's Eagle guidelines by Birdlife SA.</p> <p>These draft guidelines state: <i>"There have been few empirical studies disturbance distances for Verreaux's Eagles and to date, specialists in South Africa have relied on expert opinion when recommending buffers. For Verreaux's Eagles proposed buffers have ranged from 800m up to 2.5km (mean = 1.45km). Few specialist reports have provided empirical justification for the extent, although an analysis of activity around eagle nests in the Karoo found that activity was generally higher within 1km of the nest sites, marginally higher between 1 and 1.5km, with no clear pattern beyond that (Percival 2013). BirdLife South Africa recommends a non-negotiable no-go buffer of a minimum of</i></p>	<p>Ishwati Emoyeni WEF; Toursim; Land occupiers; Extension of comment period; General.</p>
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		<p>Developer that they had no contact with the Mayor prior to the meeting.</p> <p>6. Developer decides there are no fatal flaws - Please explain what high level studies were completed before the EIA process that informed the developer that there will be no fatal flaws. If this information exists why was it not made to the public prior to Scoping ? Can we have access to it. Is this not what the EIA is supposed to do or can the developer decide for himself whether there are fatal flaws or not and then promote his opinion publically. Don't think this is what NEMA says. It is the EIA process that decides this. Please clarify</p> <p>7. Don't understand? The specialist reports refer too Ishwati so it is applicable in Umsinde. They use Ishwati reports to motivate theirs so we do not agree with you</p> <p>8. Stakeholders were seen previously trying to rally support. You are aware that they may not do that ?</p> <p>9. Again denial while Mr Brimbles actions were obvious and self evident at the meeting</p> <p>10. Yes we have noticed that but it is all very vague. The point made was that tourism and the impacts of the WEF was not even mentioned</p> <p>11. Don't agree. What about the Uranium application in the east block which is close and was already at Scoping. What about the Aberdeen WEF, What about the Karoo Solar Park, what about Nobelsfontein. All this should have been considered ?</p> <p>12. Ishwat and Umside are related. The Appeal for Ishwati consider that the developer may have manipulated the EIA process so there is a direct relationship. We have consulted</p>	<p><i>1km, in order to minimise risk of disturbing breeding birds and to reduce the risk of juveniles colliding with turbines. An additional precautionary buffer of 3 km is recommended around nests to reduce the risk of collisions and displacement. This precautionary buffer may be reduced (or increased) should the results of monitoring indicate that this is desirable. In the event that a change in the extent of the precautionary buffer is contemplated, it must be clearly demonstrated that there is a low risk of collisions. In order to protect areas around alternate nests and reduce any incentive to disrupt nesting and/or breeding, these buffers should be applied to all inactive nests. It is important to be aware that a nest buffer alone is unlikely to be adequate to mitigate potential impacts on Verreaux's Eagles. Bird may move great distances away from the nest and may regularly use habitat kilometres away. It is therefore important to consider the spatial extent and relative use of the territory."</i></p> <p>We believe that the spatial extent and relative use of the territory has been considered in the almost 900 hours of VP observations, which in turn created a sensitivity map which has advised turbine placement.</p> <p>Bird data collected for Ishwati was considered for the Umsinde Project for baseline data. The cumulative impact from Ishwati were considered for the Umsinde Project and the specialist agreed with the need for a broader study to be undertaken in line with the recommendation made.</p> <p>3. The offer of a CD was made available as soon as KNG commented that they could not access</p>
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		<p>on this !. Further if for example the DEA rejects Ishwati and the Umsinde Avian Study uses information from Ishwati then that will impact Umsinde ? It is not for you to decide whether they are related or not that will be for the DEA to decide. For the record you have been commenting on process that you are not involved with</p> <p>13. You say "Occupiers were not entirely and knowingly excluded during the process" . Thank you so you do agree that they have been sufficiently excluded. This will apply to shearers and others as well whose livelihood will be impacted</p> <p>14. You say "According to the specialist it is understood that the potential impacts can be managed and mitigated adequately". We refute this outright and the track record supports us. The Specialist in his own words has said he has never encountered a site with such demnsity of Black Eagles. He has insufficient experience to state this and also refers to the Ishwati report where we know the Specialist is incapable of mitigating a site where there is a single pair of Black Eagles that have been killed. We have 21 active nesting pairs here ! We would like answers and guarantees from the specialist. Please provide. What does adequately mean in the context of priority and protected species?</p> <p>15. The latest guidelines state..... We have raised this point preciously in that you have excluded the Avian Report is the Scoping and now you wait till the last moment and then throw it as us and give us 3 weeks to consider it and all the other reports. Noted however you are also contradicting yourself in this response compared to a response you provided earlier</p>	<p>the DEIR, furthermore, it would have been sent by DHL and received by the KNG within 1-2 days. To this day, the KNG has still not provided an address for a CD to be sent to.</p> <p>4. All comments are dealt with and addressed both in the Issues and Responses Report (IRR) and in individual emails (as is happening in this email). The focus of the IRR is to ensure all comments received are captured and collated in order to be responded to. Interested and Affected Parties are provided with the IRR as an appendix of the EIA Reports, this is also submitted to the DEA for their review. We have to ensure that all comments are responded to in the IRR, which KNG will have an opportunity to comment on when the final EIA is submitted to the DEA.</p> <p>5. Please see attached (Please refer to Appendix U for the attachment).</p> <p>6. As was stated during the public meeting high-level feasibility studies were undertaken prior to the EIA simply to ascertain whether or not the project was fatally flawed. The results of these studies were that this was not the case at that level of assessment, and as such an EIA could begin. These pre-EIA feasibility studies are commonly undertaken and in no way affect the outcome or process of the EIA itself.</p> <p>7. This will be included in the Issues and Response Report to be submitted to the DEA.</p> <p>8. At no time was anyone from the EIA team or Windlab trying to rally support.</p> <p>9. The project team do not agree with this.</p>	
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		<p>16. Lesser kestrel - Only two flights of Lesser Kestrel were recorded on the WEF site over 12 months of monitoring. Lesser Kestrel are migrating species and only arrive in SA after the 4 monitoring period ie Nov. What was not considered at all is the effect on drought and the movement of migrating species. This has been brought to the attention of the DEA and is a fatal flaw in the Avian report. We would like to discuss this directly with the Avian Consultant please? Hundreds were seen on the site in late Jan/Feb 2016 en route back over the escarpment</p> <p>We reserve the right to comment further and await communications from yourself, the developer and the avian consultant. This email just touches on some issues and is sent so as not to cause any delays</p> <p>The 7th March is insufficient extension, we requested another 30 days</p>	<p>10. The social impact assessment as well as the heritage impact assessment that was undertaken considered tourism and assessed the impacts of the WEF on tourism. This was included in the draft impact assessment reports.</p> <p>11. Cumulative assessments were undertaken for similar and other developments between 50 and 70 km of the Umsinde Project (depending on the specialists study concerned). The scoping report and plan of study for EIA stated: <i>"The cumulative assessment will consider any projects which have entered the EIA process and are located in such proximity that, in the opinion of the specialists, there is potential for cumulative impacts to arise."</i> Only projects which have commenced the EIA process was considered in the assessment of cumulative effects.</p> <p>12. We have only being commenting as it relates to Umsinde Emoyeni. At no point has the project team commented on any process involving Ishwati.</p> <p>13. We have not intentionally excluded any Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs). As stated previously, various efforts have been and continue to be made to engage all interested and affected stakeholders. During the EIA phase of the project, focus group meetings were held with occupiers and communication channels were set up to inform occupiers of the proposed development, this included information posters that were set up in the surrounding area and the public meeting. It is our belief that reasonable and available</p>	
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				<p>measures have been taken to notify and consult with all occupiers and other I&APs.</p> <p>The reference to the Ishwati report was in the context of cumulative impacts. The mitigations recommended for Umsinde are not necessarily the same as those that were recommended for Ishwati. Our reference to Ishwati does not necessarily infer that we are in agreement with all the findings and recommendations made in the Ishwati report. We were in agreement with recommendations regarding cumulative impacts made by Mr. Smallie. We conducted an extensive nest survey (I believe the most in depth yet conducted on a WEF in SA) over a very large area, within which these 21 nests were located. It is important to note that 5 of the 21 Verreaux's Eagle nests located were within the WEF site. The remaining 16 are located outside of the WEF. There are no active Verreaux's Eagle nests within 3 km from any turbine locations. The majority of VE nests are located some distance from the turbines. 16 nests are more than 7 km from turbines, 12 nests are more than 10 km from turbines, while five nests are more than 15 km from turbines.</p> <p>If all recommendations are carried out and a maximum number of 98 turbines per phase of the EIA are constructed (as per the specialist report) based on current information and analysis the number of mortalities may be sufficiently low to not severely impact the regional population.</p> <p>14. The 12 months of monitoring was not completed at the time the scoping report was submitted, but was already underway. The Avifaunal impact assessment report was completed in December 2015, which was</p>
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				<p>included in the public review of the draft impact assessment reports.</p> <p>15. Monitoring was conducted after November. Four seasonal surveys were carried out: Spring (8-16 October 2013); summer (10-18 January 2014); autumn (8-16 April 2014); and winter (2-10 July 2014), as well as additional nest surveys in July 2014 and October 2014. Lesser Kestrels are generally present in South Africa from November through to March, with peak numbers in January and February.</p> <p>In 93 counts conducted in the area as part of the South African Bird Atlas Project 1 (SABAP1) data, Lesser Kestrel was counted on 7 occasions (approximately a report rate of approximately 8 %) while no records of Amur falcon were reported. In 75 cards submitted across nine pentads of the more recent SABAP2 data base, neither Amur Falcon nor Lesser Kestrel were reported. In line with these data, monitoring on the site during Spring (8-16 October 2013); summer (10-18 January 2014) and summer resulted in very little activity of these species. It is acknowledged that environmental conditions may change from year to year, with inter-annual variations. The possibility of these species being present at some point on the site was considered when rating the impacts. Furthermore it is believed that this potential variation (in annual presence of these two species in the area) would have been picked up to some degree by the SABAP data considered for these species, but this was not the case. Although we accept that Lesser Kestrel is an important Palearctic migratory species, and mortalities should be prevented,</p>	
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				<p>it is important to note that it has recently been down-listed from Vulnerable to least concern and that recent evidence suggests a stable or slightly positive population trend overall during the last three generations (Taylor, 2015).</p> <p>16. Please supply a location of this sighting and/or a reference to this observational data, as well as details of who made the sighting? As stated before all specialists are included as part of the project team in responding to all comments.</p> <p>Please note that no further extension of the commenting period will be given.</p>	
Karoo Group	News	2016/02/24	Email	<p>Dear Ms Hughes</p> <p>What is exactly meant by “relatively moderate to high densities of raptors”? Please provide examples of other sites that have a similar or higher density of active nests of birds or prey in general and specifically Black Eagles. In your report you specifically say you have never witnessed such densities even saying “with 6 Black Eagles in the sky in one area” You having accepted that there can, will and we know have been movements of migratory kestrels and other species over the escarpment at unpredictable times, How are you planning to mitigate this?</p> <p>What you are in effect saying is that there will probably be mortalities and your experience with other WEF supports this. In other words what you are saying is that with such density there is a very good probability that Black</p>	<p>The avian study and Draft EIA clearly state the planned mitigation measures that must be implemented should the project go ahead.</p> <p>Furthermore, the project team disagree that there is a “good probability” that Black eagles will be killed during the operational period.</p> <p>Avifauna specialist study.</p>

				Eagles will be killed during the operational period of the WEF?		
Karoo Group	News	2016/02/29	Email	<p>Dear Ms Hughes</p> <p>While we await the answers below we would like to make mention of the following</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. With regard to the extension we intend laying a complaint with the competent authority. The decision rests with the EAP, Ashlin ? There is no provision for the "project team" to make such decisions. Who are the "project team" that you keep referring to ? 2. The legal obligation for the EIA management rests with the Ashlin and no other team or party. 3. Does the EAP endorse the land value letter that was construed by the previous EAP 	<p>EIMS response:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The project team consists of the EAP (Ashlin Bodasing), the PPP specialists (EIMS), as well as all other specialists that are involved in the project. Members of the project team are included in the Draft EIA Report. 2. Yes we agree with this 3. Our response as stated before has not changed. 	<p>Project team;</p> <p>Extension comment period;</p> <p>Land value.</p> <p>of</p>
Karoo Group	News	2016/03/07	Email	<p>Dear EAP</p> <p>We have not been able to comment on the DEIR for reasons explained to you over and over</p> <p>We requested a reasonable extension which you refused for reasons not given. Further have failed to address vital issues raised</p> <p>The email above was sent to you 2 weeks ago and we have had no reply, you are internationally frustrating the ability of I&AP's to participate</p> <p>We demand answers and a fair, objective and transparent process and reserve all right and those of all our 52 registered members accordingly to participate in such a process.</p>	<p>EIMS responded. Please refer to response dated 2016/02/29.</p> <p>The project team agreed to a 10-day extension of the commenting period and this is considered reasonable.</p>	<p>General.</p>

Karoo Group	News	2016/03/24	Email	<p>Dear Eims, Ashlin,</p> <p>Thank you for the response</p> <p>This question for the EAP Ashlin Bodasing. Re Land Values –</p> <p>A member of our group is also the Principle for Pam Golding Properties (PGP) for the Karoo Region. PGP being the largest national real estate company in SA with the biggest market share in the Karoo for the last 12 years active in all categories of property. They refute your report and as a result we are rejecting the report and contesting your submission of this report to the DEA and your exclusion of land value impacts from Scoping</p> <p>“Having read the report on land values we agree with Mrs Slack that there is a negative impact in the foreign semi urban property markets she refers to in the report. However when considering the impact of a WEF in natural or wilderness ‘places’ particularly in a country like South Africa the negative impact on property values increases substantially. We can unequivocally confirm that utility WEF have a substantial negative effect on the market value of properties adjacent to WEF and even proposed WEF in the unspoilt areas of the Karoo” Wayne Rubidge</p> <p>As a result you are requested bring the issue to the attention of the DEA, withdraw your report, and that you re open the scoping to include a farm value impact study.</p> <p>De Aar Mayor</p> <p>Thank you for the letter from the developer and we also have the same undertaking from the Project Team ? Please confirm ?</p>	<p>This comment was noted by EIMS. It was received after the end of the comment period and therefore no response was formulated. This correspondence is included in Appendix V, as it falls outside of the EIA process.</p> <p>In regard to the De Aar mayor; you have requested a letter from the project team (in addition to the letter provided by the proponent). This goes against the principles of the NEMA EIA Public Participation Regulations which state that all affected party’s need to be included (and therefore need to be contacted by the project team). The town of De Aar (and therefore the mayor) are affected by the proposed development,</p>	Correspondence outside the EIA process.
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		<p>If this event who invited the De Aar Mayor or did he just gate crash grab the podium and take over. Don't think so. Please advise who invited the Mayor</p> <p>Avian and other comments We will respond to the Avian Specialist comments and the others by Thursday next week However there are some questions below (in bold) that we would like the Avian Consultant to answer which will assist us in the further comments we will provide next week</p> <p><i>“Although the broader area does have relatively moderate to high densities of raptors, this is only really the case for Verreaux’s Eagle and Rock Kestrel (based on the observed data). There may well be high numbers of migratory raptors such as Amur Falcon and Lesser Kestrel on the WEF site during certain times of the year, although this was not observed in our studies and we were not aware of any evidence or data to confirm this.”</i></p> <p>What is exactly meant by “relatively moderate to high densities of raptors” ? Please provide examples of other sites that have a similar or higher density of active nests of birds or prey in general and specifically Black Eagles. In your report you specifically say you have never witnessed such densities even saying “with 6 Black Eagles in the sky in one area” You having accepted that there can , will and we know have been movements of migratory kestrels and other species over the escarpment at unpredictable times How are you planning to mitigate this?</p>		
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			<p><i>"We do not state that the buffers will be 100% effective in preventing all Eagle mortalities. These buffers were provided based on various considerations including: the recommendations given by Dr. Andrew Jenkin's in his nest survey report, appended to the specialist report; buffers proposed at other WEFs; observed flight activity; recorded flight behaviour of Verreaux's Eagles in the Cedarberg (pers. Com. Megan Murgatroyd and Dr. Andrew Jenkins); and consideration of the draft Verreaux's Eagle guidelines by Birdlife SA."</i></p> <p>What you are in effect saying is that there will probably be mortalities and your experience with other WEF supports this. In other words what you are saying is that with such density there is a very good probability that Black Eagles will be killed during the operational period of the WEF</p>		
Karoo News Group	2016/04/01	Email	<p>Dear Eims, Ashlin</p> <p>We have not had any further responses to the comments above and also none from the Avian Specialist to provide clarity on some points so we can finalise our comments on the Avian report. Please provide.</p>	This comment was noted by EIMS. It was received after the end of the comment period and therefore no response was formulated. This correspondence is included in Appendix T, as it falls outside of the EIA process.	Correspondence from I&AP outside the EIA process.
Takalani Maswine - Control Environmental Officer National Department of Environmental Affairs	2014/07/02	Email	<p>Please be advised that I have resigned from my position at DEA as from 02 January 2013. If you need any further assistance, please feel free to contact Mr. Coenrad Agenbach at 012 310 3711 or email Cagenbach@environment.gov.za</p>	EIMS contacted Mr. Coenrad Agenbach and Mr. Coenrad confirmed that Mr. Maswine did indeed resign and he provide EIMS with the contact information of the new Environmental Control Officer.	Registration

Johan Fourie – Head of Department Western Cape Department of Transport and Public Works	2014/07/02	Email	Please note that I am on leave and will only return to the office on the 20 th on Monday. Ms. Jacqui Gooch will be the acting HOP for this period. If there are any queries, please contact: Head of Office Sharonette Webb on X3959 Sharonnetee.Webb@westerncape.gov.za Personal Assistant Annie Kleynhans on X6481 Annie.Kleynhans@westerncape.gov.za	This was noted by EIMS.	General
Jessica Patricia – Western Cape Department of Environmental Affairs and Development Planning: George office	2014/07/02	Email	Hi, thank you for your email. However, please take note that I am on leave and will only be back in the office on 7 July 2014. For all urgent enquiries, please contact Francois Naude on 044 805 8604.	This was noted by EIMS.	General
Charmaine Uys – Birdlife South Africa	2014/07/02	Email	Kindly note that Charmaine Uys no longer employed by Birdlife South Africa and this address will soon be discontinued. Emails to the address will not be auto-forwarded. For IBA and Biodiversity stewardship matters, please contact Daniel. Marnewick@birdlife.org.za . For mining application matters, please contact advocacy@birdlife.org.za . Alternatively, phone 011 789 1122. Apologies for any inconvenience caused.	This was noted by EIMS.	General
Paul Lochner – CSIR	2014/07/02	Email	I am on leave until 19 August. For queries related to CSIR-EMS, please contact our group assistant Anne-Marie Taylor 021 88 2661. Emma Girdge is acting manager for EMS in my absence.	This was noted by EIMS.	General
Michael Worsnip – Chief Director:	2014/07/02	Email	Chief-Director: Michael Worsnip is out of office from 18 June – 28 June 2014. For any urgent	This was noted by EIMS.	General

Land Restitution Support Western Cape Department of Rural Development and Land Reform			enquiries, please contact D. David Smit who is appointed as Acting Chief Director for the period 12-20 June 2014 or CD: Juanita Fortuin for the period 23-27 June 2014. Mr. Smit can be contacted at 021 409 0301 or email DDSmit@ruraldevelopment.gov.za ; Ms. Fortuin can be contacted on JDFortuin@ruraldevelopment.gov.za or 021 409 0330.		
Pieter Sybrand - Head of Office Western Cape Department of Environmental Affairs and Development Planning	2014/07/02	Email	Please note that I am out of the office on annual leave from 20 June to 14 July. In the event of an urgent matter, please contact Annelize de Villiers, on telephone 021 483 8315 or email annelize.devilliers@westerncape.gov.za .	This was noted by EIMS.	General
A.T. Leburu – EIA Administration Northern Cape Department of Environment and Nature Conservation	2014/07/04	Email	The Department confirms having received the Draft Scoping Report for environmental Authorisation of the above mentioned project on the 4 th July 2014. As required in terms of the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations, 2010. The application has been assigned the reference NC/NAT/NAM/UMS/2014. Kindly quote this reference number in any future correspondence in respect of the application. Please note the responsible officer is going to be Ms. O. Ndzumao and can be contacted at (027) 718 8800	This was noted by EIMS.	Receipt/Acknowledgement of notification
Bernice Labuschagne – Personal Assistant to Head of Ministry (Western Cape	2014/07/17	Email	I acknowledge receipt of your attached notification (DSR availability).	EIMS thanked Ms Labuschagne for her response and for forwarding the notification to the relevant party.	Receipt/Acknowledgement of notification

Department of Environmental Affairs & Development Planning)			This will be forwarded to the Department of Environmental Affairs and Planning (Western Cape) for attention.		
Grahame Lindop – Nama Karoo Foundation	2014/07/17	Email	I received the invitation to attend your meeting and submit apologies for not being able to attend.	EIMS noted and thanked Mr Lindop for his apologies regarding attendance of the public meeting.	Public meeting
Lydonn Jacobs (on behalf of Mr Cupido) - Community Member	2014/07/18	Email	On behalf of Mr Cupido, he would like you to send him another registration form.	EIMS sent Mr Jacobs, on behalf of Mr Cupido, copies of the registration forms in English and Afrikaans.	Registration
Lydonn Jacobs (on behalf of Mr Cupido) - Community Member	2014/07/31	Email	Sorry to bother. I just want to say I have another request, a friend of Mr. Cupido would really like to ask for another application form. Thanks for the trouble.	EIMS response: Please find attached copies of the Comment Sheets (in English and Afrikaans) for Mr. Cupido's friend, as requested.	Request for Comment Sheets.
Lydonn Jacobs (on behalf of Mr Cupido) - Community Member	2014/08/01	Email	Thank you very much. Actually that's not the one they requested, They already have the one where they could comment on. He would like to ask if you could please send him an application form where he can apply. Thanks for the kindly trouble.	EIMS response: Please may you advise on what kind of application form, besides the previously provided registration/ comment forms, is required so that we may be able to assist.	Request for information
Enrico Rodney Jooste	2014/07/18	Faxed registration form	Interested in being able to be a part of the project. I would like to benefit as a worker. My observation is that you have done your homework thoroughly. That the project will not pose a threat to an animals of birds of prey. This type of project has worked in other parts of the country, why will it not work here? Murraysburg is a poor town in the Western Cape. This project	EIMS response: Thank you for your comments regarding the Umsinde Emoyeni project. As you note information on the existing environment and approach to the environmental impact assessment (EIA) has been provided in the Draft Scoping Report (DSR). As a registered Interested and Affected Party (I&AP) you will be	Registration/ Ecology/ Employment

			will bring food to us and the community. I am currently employed but would still like to be a part of the project. When the project is approved, and it will be, I would like to work there. I can't find any problems with the project. I don't have any further queries or comments. When will the project commence so that I can start work.	kept informed as the project progresses and new information is available for your comment.	
Joshua Bezuidenhout – Shell Community Liaison Officer	2014/07/21	Email	Could I please have a copy of the draft scoping report in respect to the proposed WEF site area located approximately 30km north-east of the town of Murraysburg within the Beaufort west Local Municipality in the Western Cape Province as a matter of urgency?	<p>EIMS response: The Draft Scoping Report is a large document and hard copies are available for public review in various locations including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✍ Ubuntu Local Municipality (in Victoria West); ✍ Beaufort West Local Municipality (in Beaufort West) ; ✍ Murraysburg Farmers' Co-operative; ✍ Beaufort West Local Municipality (Murraysburg Office); ✍ Richmond Ntsikelelo Tida Library; and ✍ Richmond Police Station. <p>The EAP sent Mr Bezuidenhout an electronic (CD) copy of the Draft Scoping Report on the 1st August 2014 for his review.</p>	Request for Documentation
Rochelle McPherson - Senior Clerk Land & Rights (Land Development) Eskom Distribution	2014/07/23	Email	Please forward a locality plan for your abovementioned project.	EIMS response: Thank you very much for contacting us, please find attached the locality map for the above-mentioned project as requested. Please advise if the map attached is sufficient.	Request for information

Rochelle McPherson - Senior Clerk Land & Rights (Land Development) Eskom Distribution	2014/07/28	Email	Forward your whole application to WayleavesWesternOU@eskom.co.za Thank you so much for the map. I will let you know if there will be anything else I might need. Thanking you in advance	EIMS response: Also please note that we have registered you as an Interested and Affected Party (I&AP) using your details provided below.	Registration
Rochelle McPherson - Senior Clerk Land & Rights (Land Development) Eskom Distribution	2014/07/28	Email	It's best to put down my supervisors name Henk Landman, same address. Henk.landman@eskom.co.za	This was noted by EIMS and Mr Henk Landman is already a registered Interested and Affected Party (was pre-identified at the commencement of the project).	Registration
Rochelle McPherson - Senior Clerk Land & Rights (Land Development) Eskom Distribution	2014/07/29	Email	According to our mapping office this falls under Northern Cape region. The contact person there is Debby Harding @ Tel. +27538305774. Hope she will be able to help you.	EIMS response: EIMS has updated the Interested and Affected database with the latest contact details for Ms Debbie Harding who was already registered as a pre-identified stakeholder	Registration
Rochelle McPherson - Eskom	2015/01/13	Email	Good day, I will be on leave from Monday 12/01/2015 and will be on duty again on Monday 19/01/2015. Please send all Wayleave applications to WayleavesWesternOU@eskom.co.za . Queries for wayleaves please contact Philina Brooks-Neill at 021 980 3771, Building Plan queries contact Phumeza Qwashu at 021 980 3269 and	EIMS response: This was noted by EIMS.	General

				any other queries contact Shaun Swanepoel at 021 980 3919.		
Rochelle Pherson Eskom	Mc –	2015/01/29	Email	<p>Good day,</p> <p>I received an application in the Northern Cape. Please forward your application to Debbie Harding @email HardinD@eskom.co.za.</p>	<p>EIMS response: Good afternoon Rochelle,</p> <p>We received your comment below and would like to get clarification on whether your comment is referring to the Final Scoping Report availability notification (sent out on the 13th January 2015) or if you have received an actual application regarding this project.</p> <p>We are currently conducting the EIA process and the application was submitted to the National Department of Environmental Affairs (competent authority), with Eskom included as an Interested and Affected Party (I&AP).</p> <p>Please also be advised that Ms. Debbie Harding is already registered an I&AP for the project and thus the Final Scoping Report notification was distributed to her as well.</p>	Acknowledgement of receipt of notification`
Rochelle Pherson Eskom	Mc –	2015/02/02	Email	<p>Good day,</p> <p>I received your application but unfortunately the area of interest in not in our jurisdiction. All applications in that region must be forwarded to Debbie Harding.</p>	<p>EIMS response: This was noted by EIMS and information and correspondence forwarded accordingly..</p>	Acknowledgement of receipt of notification`
Lungile Motsisi - Eskom		2014/07/28	Email (with attached letter)	<p>Please receive the attached letter, an original has been posted to you:</p> <p>I refer to the letter date 10 July 2014 and wish to inform you that the following Eskom Transmission (Tx) services will be affected by your application:</p>	<p>EIMS response: We thank you for confirming Eskom's conditions and will pass these on to the Applicant. Please note that the applicant will apply to Eskom for a Connection Cost Estimate at a later stage in project development.</p>	Eskom specific issues

			<p>a) Eskom Tx's Droerivier-Hydra 1, 2 and 3 400kV power line;</p> <p>b) Eskom Tx's Gamma-Omega 400kV power line and a vacant servitude.</p> <p>Eskom Tx will raise no objection to the proposed wind energy facility provided Eskom Tx's rights are acknowledged and respected at all times.</p> <p>The following terms and conditions must also be borne in mind:</p> <p>a) Eskom Tx shall at all times retain unobstructed access to and egress from its servitude</p> <p>b) Any individual Title Deed of any future Erven affected by the servitude must be made subject to the Notarial Deeds Servitude mentioned above.</p> <p>c) Eskom Tx's consent does not relieve the applicant from obtaining the necessary statutory, land owner or municipal approvals.</p> <p>d) The applicant will adhere to all relevant environmental legislation. Any cost incurred by Eskom Tx as a result of non-compliance will be charged to the applicant.</p> <p>e) No construction or excavation work shall be executed within the tree-and building restrictions of the mentioned servitudes.</p> <p>f) If Eskom Tx has to incur any expenditure in order to comply with statutory clearances or other legislations as a result of the applicant's activities or because of the presence of equipment or installations within the servitude area, the applicant</p>		
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			<p>shall pay such costs to Eskom Tx on demand.</p> <p>g) The use of explosives of any type within 500m of Eskom Tx's services, shall only occur within Eskom Tx's previous written permission. If such permission is granted the applicant must give at least fourteen working days prior notice of commencement of blasting. This allows time for arrangements to be made for supervision and/or precautionary instructions to be issued in terms of the blasting process. If blasting becomes necessary, application in this regard should be made separately.</p> <p>h) Changes in ground level may not infringe statutory ground to conductor clearances or statutory visibility clearances. After any changes in the ground level, the surface shall be rehabilitated and stabilised so as to prevent erosion. The measures taken shall be to Eskom Tx's requirements.</p> <p>i) Eskom Tx shall not be liable for the death of or injury to any person or for the loss of or damage to any property whether as a result of the encroachment or the use of the servitude area by the applicant, his/her agent, contractors, employees, successors in title, and assigns. The applicant indemnifies Eskom Tx against loss, claims or damages including claims pertaining to consequential damages by third parties and whether as a result of damage to or interruption of or interference with Eskom Tx's servitudes or apparatus or otherwise.</p>		
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			<p>j) No mechanical equipment, including mechanical excavators or high lifting machinery, shall be used in the vicinity of Eskom Tx's apparatus and/or services, without prior written permission having been granted by Eskom. If such permission is granted the applicant must give at least seven working days prior notice to the commencement of work. This allows time for arrangements to be made for supervision and/or precautionary instructions to be issued.</p> <p>No work shall commence unless Eskom Tx has received the applicant's written acceptance of the conditions specified in the letter of consent and/or permit. The contact person in this regard is Ms Judith Malinga (manager Lines and Servitudes). She can be contacted on Tel. No. +27 21 915 9241.</p> <p>k) Eskom Tx's rights and duties in the servitude shall be accepted as having prior right at all times and shall not be obstructed or interfered with.</p> <p>Note: Where an electrical outage is required, at least fourteen working days are required to arrange it.</p> <p>l) Under no circumstances shall rubble, earth or other material be dumped within the servitude area. The applicant shall maintain the area concerned to Eskom Tx's satisfaction. The applicant shall be liable to Eskom for the cost of any remedial action which has to be carried out by Eskom Tx.</p> <p>m) The clearances between Eskom Tx's live electrical equipment and proposed</p>	
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			<p>construction work shall be observed as stipulated by <i>Regulation 15 of the Electrical Machinery Regulations of the Occupational Health and Safety Act, 1993 (Act 85 of 1993)</i>.</p> <p>n) Equipment shall be regarded electrically live and therefore dangerous at all times.</p> <p>o) In spite of the restrictions stipulated by Regulation 15 of the Electrical Machinery Regulations of the Occupational Health and Safety Act, 1993 (Act 85 of 1998), as additional safety precaution, Eskom Tx will not approve the erection of houses or structures occupied or frequented by human beings under the power lines or within the servitude area.</p> <p>p) Eskom Tx may stipulate any additional requirements to illuminate any possible exposure to Customers or Public to coming into contact or be exposed to any dangers of Eskom plant.</p> <p>q) It is required of the applicant to familiarise himself with all safety hazards related to Electrical Plant.</p>		
Neville van Rooy	2014/07/29	Email	Update please. I'm interested to the research done on Environmental Impacts; Water, Plants Animals, Biodiversity.	EIMS response: We are currently in the scoping phase of the project whereby a Draft Scoping Report has been compiled. The Draft Scoping Report, which is currently available for public comment until the 18th August 2014, contains information on the existing baseline environment at the project site, and outlines the topics which will be considered in the EIA. The following list identifies these topics, their appropriate references in the Draft Scoping Report and the environmental specialist compiling the study.	Request for information

				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✎ Bird Impact Assessment and Monitoring: Arcus Consulting – Andrew Pearson /Chapter 8 of the Draft Scoping Report ✎ Bat Impact Assessment and Monitoring: NSS Environmental – Kate McEwan/ Chapter 6 of the Draft Scoping Report; ✎ Terrestrial Ecological Impact Assessment (Flora and Fauna): Anchor Environmental – Simon Todd/ Chapter 5 of the Draft Scoping Report; ✎ Archaeology and Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment: ACO Associates – Tim Hart / Chapter 10 of the Draft Scoping Report; ✎ Palaeontology Assessment: via ACO Associates – John Almond / Chapter 10 of the Draft Scoping Report; ✎ Aquatic/ Wetland Assessment: Scherman Colloty and Associates – Brian Colloty / Chapter 7 of the Draft Scoping Report; ✎ Noise Impact Assessment: Enviro-Acoustic Research – Morne de Jager / Chapter 11 of the Draft Scoping Report; ✎ Visual Assessment Bernard Oberholzer Landscape Architects & Meirelles Lawson Burger Architects - Bernard Oberholzer and Quinton Lawson / Chapter 4 of the Draft Scoping Report; ✎ Soil and Agriculture: Terrasoils – Johan van de Waals / Chapter 9 of the Draft Scoping Report; and 	
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				<p>✎ Social Impact Assessment: Tony Barbour Environmental Consulting and Research – Tony Barbour/ Chapter 12 of the Draft Scoping Report.</p> <p>The Draft Scoping Report has been available for review since the 3rd of July 2014 until the 18th August 2014, at the following public venues:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✎ Ubuntu Local Municipality (in Victoria West) ✎ Beaufort West Local Municipality (in Beaufort West) ✎ Murraysburg Farmers' Co-operative ✎ Beaufort West Local Municipality (Murraysburg Office) ✎ Richmond Ntsikelelo Tida Library ✎ Richmond Police Station. <p>Since the commencement of the Scoping public comment period, we have conducted several focus group meeting as well as a public meeting (on the 17th July 2014 in Murraysburg).</p> <p>Following completion of the Scoping phase, the EIA phase will be undertaken which will include the design of the facility within the project site, and the assessment of impacts. The findings of this stage will be presented in the Draft EIA Report. This will similarly be available for public comment prior to the development of the Final EIA Report. Once the Final EIA Report is completed this will be provided to the DEA for a decision to be made whether to grant Environmental Authorisation for the project. Comment on the Final EIA Report can also be made to the DEA directly.</p> <p>We hope this provides some further information related to your areas of concern, and we welcome</p>	
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				further comments and queries on the content of the Draft Scoping Report and subsequent reports to follow which you will be notified of as a registered I&AP.		
Neville van Rooy – Murrasburg Community member	2015/01/13	Email	<p>Good day,</p> <p>Can someone please send me the property list of the Umsinde Emoyeni wind farm project for Murraysburg. 2. Where at the municipal office can the information be taken from? They claim to have no information available at the office. To who was the information mailed to?</p> <p>Thanks.</p>	<p>EIMS response: EIMS contacted Mr. Neville van Rooy telephonically in response to his email received on the 13th January 2015, requesting for the list of affected properties for the project as well as inquiring on where he can access the information on the Final Scoping Report (FSR).</p> <p>EIMS informed Mr. van Rooy that a hard copy of the FSR is available at the Murraysburg Municipal office as well as on the EIMS website. EIMS further let Mr. van Rooy know that the full list of affected properties for the project is available in Appendix 1.2 of the FSR, this he can view at the municipal office in hardcopy or online at www.eims.co.za.</p>	Request for information	for
Neville van Rooy – Murrasburg Community member	2015/01/19	Email	Hi Mam I would just like to inform you that the information is not available at the Murraysburg office. We inquired this morning from Jesmine Pietersen as you informed us. She does not know anything about a document of that nature.	EIMS response: Thank you for keeping me posted on the report availability at the Murraysburg office, I contacted the office and it seems the report was in Mr. Klink's office. They have since put it out where it can be easily accessible to the public. Once again thank you for your assistance in the matter.	Request for information	for
Neville van Rooy – Murrasburg Community member	2015/01/23	Email	What is the meaning of Murraysburg RD on the property list.	EIMS response: Murraysburg RD means Murraysburg <u>Registration Division</u> . It's how the areas where the properties are situated are listed according to the title deeds office.	Request for information	for
Neville van Rooy – Murrasburg Community member	2015/01/23	Email	Hi what is the chance that you can please move the reading files over to library across the road. Lot of disturbance and uncomfortable to sit and read with files on your lap etc. Which section in the documents refer: to how the project will affect/benefit the community, in terms of Electricity, Job creation: What request if possible can the community make that will	EIMS response: Thank you for your correspondence on the Umsinde Emoyeni Project. The project is currently with the Department of Environmental Affairs for consideration of the Final Scoping Report – we will pass on your comments and our response to the DEA for their consideration.	Request for information	for

			<p>benefit the entire town. Is there a possibility of being exempted from Eskom, and the community get fed with one or two turbines for energy (electricity). Please refer me to this info in the documents. You mention forming of a community trust, to handle community funds (risk of corruption). What other options do you have available, to boost/upgrade existing community projects like swimming pool, picnic entertainment park next to river, bus that could run to shopping market. One or two bursaries to Agriculture college, Youth Centre/Mobile foundational phase education – crèche for farms to narrow (obviously gaps between farms kids and kids who goes to crèches). Small scale farmers, etc.</p>	<p>As your comments relate in the majority to the renewable energy development process and not the EIA report specifically we have requested the developer Windlab prepare a response to you and this is provided below:</p> <p>Unfortunately as the location of the documents has already been communicated with all Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) it is not possible to move the documents to another location now. We will, however, bear your comment in mind and we will consider placing the next set of documents that are released for I&AP comment at the library (this will be the Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) which will be released later this year).</p> <p>Please see Section 2.7.5 of the Final Scoping Report which outlines the economic development benefits of the proposed project. See also Section 3.2 for an overview of the Department of Energy's Renewable Energy IPP Procurement Programme (REIPPPP).</p> <p>It is not clear what information is required, however the project will contribute towards significant economic development in the surrounding towns, including job creation, enterprise development and socio-economic development.</p> <p>If the project is successful, all the electricity from the project will be transferred to the existing Eskom Gamma substation via a system of 132 kV overhead powerlines. From the Gamma substation the energy will be transferred via a new short section of powerline to the existing high-voltage lines of the National Grid. See section 2.6 for more information. The electricity generated by the project will all be fed into the national grid, it will not be possible to feed some of the electricity to Murraysburg specifically. We understand that there is a need for more reliable energy in Murraysburg</p>	
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				<p>so one of the initiatives that could be investigated (as part of the benefits that the project can provide via the revenue that would be paid to the community trust) could be related to energy security. For example, the community trust could invest in solar water heaters or domestic – scale renewable energy solutions (such as small wind or solar installations in the community).</p> <p>Community funds from an operating wind farm project will originate from two avenues: the shareholding in the project held by the local community (local community ownership) and a percentage of the operating revenue that will be invested in enterprise development and/or socio-economic development (ED/SED). Funds from the local community ownership will be in the form of shareholder dividends from the wind farm. The vehicle for the participation of the local community trust, the trustees of which will comprise the representatives from the project company and the local community. Funds from ED/SED will be calculated as a percentage of gross revenue and will be administered by the project company or its agents. The initiatives that will be supported by the community funds will be determined by the project company, its economic development consultants and the local community. The work to set up the community trust and the initiatives that it will support will be done in detail once the project has submitted a tender in the REIPPPP process and has been selected by the Department of Energy. If the project reaches this level of development this will probably occur in late 2016 or later.</p>	
Neville van Rooy – Murrasburg Community member	2016/11/18	Email	<p>1. Good Afternoon Neville,</p> <p>When we last communicated you suggested placing reports for review at the Murraysburg library, please may</p>	<p>1. Mr. Neville van Rooy response: Thanks after a long silence. Send it to:</p> <p>The Librarian Murraysburg Public Library:</p>	General.

			<p>you provide me a street address for the library as we are preparing to make the Draft EIA report available for public review soon. We usually send the reports via courier and they require a <u>street number and name</u> (street address) for delivery. Your assistance in this matter will be highly appreciated.</p> <p>2. Long-time indeed, the EIA assessments have been in progress to date! Thank you so much for your assistance, much appreciated!</p>	<p>17 Beaufort Street Murraysburg 6995</p> <p>Retreat mall 7 station rd retreat next to charity shop</p>	
Neville van Rooy – Murrasburg Community member	2015/11/18	Email	<p>Thanks for the Reports in the public Library truly informative; Relating to the Wildlife work done by Inkululeko wild life services, in their report it says that there need to monitoring Field work done construction phase 1 and 2 and operational Field work. Its of concern why they did not include professional Field workers (guides) from the local town in their research.2 Will they be included for employment possibilities during this phase 1 and 2 construction phases? Why must Professional nature guides work so far as Addo Elephant Park, Karoo National Park, Comdeboo National Park and working possibilities is in close by. The other advantage of this is they know the region well plus there is a room for training these guides in their way of operation.</p>	<p>The work done by Inkululeko Wildlife Services was for bat research and they were not on site full time, monitoring stations were installed to collected the majority of the data. Should the project be awarded preferred bidder status and be constructed, local searchers will be employed as part of the project to undertake operational phase monitoring for birds and bats, which will include training on these aspects. once this project is in the construction phase, any information regarding local wildlife searchers will be welcomed by the developer.</p>	Employment opportunities.
Neville van Rooy – Murrasburg Community member	2016/01/27	Email	<p>1. Hi just want to inform you that the leadership of the Counsel of Stake Holders Murraysburg has change; Mr Johnson is no longer chairman?</p> <p>2. Its. Mr Jacques Martin-Magida new chairman'</p>	<p>1. Thank you very much for always keeping me informed. Please advise who is the current chairman and may you please ask them to remind the community of the public meeting taking place next week Thursday at the town hall from 3pm to 5pm.</p>	General

				2. This was noted by EIMS.	
Neville van Rooy – Murrasburg Community member	2016/01/28	Email	<p>1. Thanks for your respons. Will there be a representative from unkululeko research coming to the public meeting?</p> <p>2. Thank You mam?</p>	<p>1. EIMS response: Only representatives from the applicant and the environmental assessment team will be present at the meeting, none of the specialists (including inkululeko wildlife services) will be present but any queries directed to them will be recorded and responses solicited.</p> <p>2. This was noted by EIMS.</p>	General.
Neville van Rooy – Murrasburg Community member	2016/02/04	Public meeting	Mr Neville van Rooy asked how many technical workers will be required for the proposed wind farm development. He stated that he is concerned also about safety issues particularly safety of the children.	Ian Macdonald from Windlab answered that the exact details of the jobs for the Umsinde Emoyeni development have not been determined however based on operational wind farms it is estimated that approximately up to 300 jobs will be available during construction; of these 300 jobs about 55% will be for unskilled labour and the rest for semi-skilled and skilled. Of the anticipated skilled labour, approximately 30% will likely be for work such as electricians, bricklayers etc. and approximately 15% to be specialised skills such as engineers. Projects in the renewable energy programme are incentivised to have as many workers from the local community as possible. Windlab is not anticipating an influx of new unskilled or semi-skilled individuals into the development area as they feel the required skills will be available locally.	Job opportunities; Safety and security.
Neville van Rooy – Murrasburg Community member	2016/02/04	Public meeting	Mr Neville van Rooy wanted to know more about the 2.5% share mentioned during the meeting, he wanted to know if the share would be transferred to a subsidy on electricity. He added that he has concerns that the mentioned Trust may have transparency issues.	Ms Katherine Persson from Windlab responded by telling Mr Van Rooy that the electricity generated from the proposed development will feed into the Eskom national grid. However, separate projects that involve roof-top solar could potentially be developed from the Trust funds in order to reduce the household cost of electricity for homeowners in the area. Ms Persson elaborated that trustees of the community trust will decide how the dividend revenue will be invested (e.g. education, separate renewable energy project, etc.) and that this will be	Shareholding

				undertaken in an impartial manner and will include external and independent personnel.	
Neville van Rooy – Murrasburg Community member	2016/02/04	Public meeting	Mr Neville van Rooy further wanted to know how Beaufort West and Richmond fall within the 50km radius to be included for the benefits especially since Beaufort West already has their own wind farm.	All towns within a 50km radius of the project fall within the area that must receive positive economic development from the WEF, irrespective of other wind farms in the area	Benefits.
Neville van Rooy – Murrasburg Community member	2016/02/05	Email	<p>Thanks for the meeting;</p> <p>When will you know if the project is approved?</p> <p>Who/and why was Victoria West people invited?</p> <p>The community is aware that the residence of Victoria already benefited from a wind Farm- so just cautioning of playing communities up against one another?</p> <p>What role is Richmond going to play when they are not the town within the 50km radius of the town- Or will both Towns share this radius,</p> <p>The project is a Western Cape project-Why must Richmond who falls in Northern cape also be included-bearing in mind that the project overlap into ,their region?</p> <p>Heritage: Its offensive to expose people to their heritage that they are not allowed to access, because the land is privatise-farm owners and National parks; referring to the many rock paintings on farms in the karoo in general and on your site ? Many people in the area might work on Umsinde project</p> <p>How will your project run alongside, the unpopular Uranium/fracking mining in the karoo that might overlap into your area or indirectly affect your project? SHELL has</p>	<p>EIMS response: Good Afternoon Neville,</p> <p>Once again, thank you for your comments. Please find below responses from the project team (in bold).</p> <p>When will we be notified if the project is approved. All registered Interested and Affected Parties (such as yourself) will be formally notified of the decision by the Department of Environmental Affairs. At this stage we are unsure of the date that a decision on the project will be made.</p> <p>Who/And Why was Victoria West people invited? Everyone that registered as an Interested and Affected Party was notified of the public meeting.</p> <p>The community is aware that the residence of Victoria already benefited from a wind Farm- so just cautioning of playing communities up against one another? This is noted, thank you.</p> <p>What role is Richmond going to play when they are not the town within the 50km radius of the town- Or will both Towns share this radius, The project is a Western Cape project-Why must Richmond who falls in Northern cape also be included-bearing in mind that the project overlap into, their region?</p>	General; Heritage; Fracking.

			<p>released MPRA proposed Exploration application for Jan/FeB 2016. website;http://www.golder.com/public/shellkaroo</p> <p>Uranium Mining concern??? Quote; " Peninsula Energy has targeted 100-million pounds of uranium, which will undergo Jorc-compliance testing, to be completed over the next 12 to 18 months. Simpson points out that the company has successfully completed Jorc compliance for 56-million pounds of uranium at 1 201 parts per million. "In early 2015, the company will begin its definitive feasibility study to be used to raise the debt finance and secure sales contracts for the delineated resources by 2016. Peninsula hopes to start construction in 2016/17 to commission the mine to produce uranium by 2018," Simpson says."</p> <p>It is our preference that if you wish to share this article with others you should please use the following link: http://www.miningweekly.com/article/emerging-uranium-miner-acquires-karoo-uranium-projects-2014-04-04</p>	<p>A portion of the proposed project falls within the Northern Cape Province, therefore Richmond was included.</p> <p>Heritage: Its offensive to expose people to their heritage that they are not allowed to access, because the land is private-farm owners and National parks; referring to the many rock paintings on farms in the karoo in general and on your site ? Many people in the area might work on Umsinde project.</p> <p>Your comments and concerns are noted and will be included in the Issues and Response Report to be submitted to the Department of Environmental Affairs with the Final EIA Report.</p> <p>How will your project run alongside, the unpopular Uranium/fracking mining in the karoo that might overlap into your area or indirectly affect your project? SHELL has released MPRA proposed Exploration application for Jan/FeB 2016. website;http://www.golder.com/public/shellkaroo Thank you for this information. The two projects are not related. This overlap is not part of the EIA process and should this occur, will be addressed by the developer. The Shell application rights in regard to Fracking are still pending.</p>	
Hennie Greeff	2014/07/31	Email	<p>The Department of Roads and Public Works wish to register as an affected party for the proposed wind farm development in an area as indicated in your map south of Richmond NC.</p> <p>Hennie Greeff – Manager Roads: Pixley ka Seme District</p> <p>Department of Roads and Public Works</p> <p>Contact No.:</p>	<p>EIMS response: Thank you very much for responding to our notification and for providing us with your contact details, this serves to confirm that you have been registered as an Interested and Affected Party for the Umsinde Emoyeni Wind Energy Facility project.</p>	Registration

			<p>Cell – 0824408800 Office – 053 631 1355/6 Office Fax – 053 631 1357 Fax to E-mail 086 617 3339</p> <p>Postal Address: P.O. Box 133 De Aar, 7000</p> <p>Physical Address: Cnr. Main and Station Street John Dube Building De Aar, 7000</p>		
Lana Ignjatovic Branch Administrator Leasds2Business	2014/07/31	Email	<p>Please would you be kind enough to register me as an interested party on the following EIA process. We will have no comments for or against the proposed developments, however we would like to be included on all correspondence, up to an including the issuing of the EA.</p> <p>Umsinde Emoyeni Wind Energy Facility.</p> <p>Your kind assistance will be greatly appreciated.</p>	EIMS response: Thank you very much for contacting us, we have noted that you have no comments for or against the proposed development. As requested, this serves to confirm that we have registered you (using the contact details provided) for the Umsinde Emoyeni Wind Energy Facility project.	Registration
Lana Ignjatovic Branch Administrator Leasds2Business	2015/08/27	Email	<p>Good afternoon,</p> <p>Has the EA been issued yet?</p> <p>Your kind assistance will be greatly appreciated.</p>	<p>EIMS response: Good morning Lana,</p> <p>Thank you for your continued interest and involvement with the above-mentioned project. The project is still in the EIA phase, notification about the availability of the Draft EIS Report will be distributed to registered I&APs such as yourself, prior to the report being made available for public review.</p>	Request for information
Ronelle Visagie - Platberg Karoo Raptor Project	2014/07/10	Email	<p>Please add my contact details to your list of I&APs for the wind farm developments.</p> <p>I'm working on raptors in the Karoo and my main concern is the effect of the wind farms on</p>	<p>EIMS response: Once again, thank you very much for contacting us and registering for this project.</p> <p>We acknowledge your concerns about the Blue Cranes and eagles but would like to know what</p>	Registration Avifauna

Endangered Wildlife Trust (EWT)			eagles, but I'm worried about the Blue Cranes as well.	concerns you have specifically so we can respond to you in more detail. A detailed bird study is in progress at the Project Site and this baseline information will be used for the impact assessment phase of the EIA. For further details on the scope and approach of the specialist bird study please see the Draft Scoping Report (available on the EIMS website www.eims.co.za).	
Ronelle Visagie - Platberg Karoo Raptor Project Endangered Wildlife Trust (EWT)	2016/02/25	Email and attached letter	Dear Nobuhle Please find attached my comments on the draft EIA report. Attachment: Comments on the avifaunal report of the Umsinde Emoyeni WEF Verreaux's Eagles According to The Eskom Red Data Book of Birds of South Africa, Lesotho and Swaziland. (2015) 79 raptor species occur in the region and 22 of these species are now considered to be threatened. (Taylor, 2015) The large eagles have small clutches, seldom replace lost clutches and take a few years to reach maturity. It is of great concern that there are 21 breeding pairs of Verreaux's Eagles in the area of the proposed development. It is a well-known fact that the numbers of these large eagles are decreasing because of a number of reasons, like electrocutions and farmers that shoot them deliberately as they are accused of killing lambs. Many of them still drown in dams. Now	EIMS response: Good Morning Ronelle, Please find responses (in bold) from the project team to your submitted comments on the Avifauna Report component of the Draft EIA Report. Please do not hesitate to contact us should you have any queries or concerns. <u>Comments on the avifaunal report of the Umsinde Emoyeni WEF</u> <u>Verreaux's Eagles</u> According to <i>The Eskom Red Data Book of Birds of South Africa, Lesotho and Swaziland</i> . (2015) 79 raptor species occur in the region and 22 of these species are now considered to be threatened. (Taylor, 2015) The large eagles have small clutches, seldom replace lost clutches and take a few years to reach maturity. It is of great concern that there are 21 breeding pairs of Verreaux's Eagles in the area of the proposed development. Sixteen of these 21 nests are outside of the WEF site. Five of the 21 Verreaux's Eagle (VE) nests located were within	Avifauna specialist study; Water.

		<p>there is the additional risk of colliding with wind turbines at all the proposed WEF developments across the Karoo.</p> <p>At a productive wind farm near Molteno 3 VE's were killed and the latest total there now stands at 4 while another eagle was killed at windfarm near Victoria West (Smallie, 2015). There were very few eagle flights observed during the pre-construction monitoring (Smallie, 2015). A buffer zone of 3 km is suggested, but these incidents happened more than 3.5 km from the nearest nest site and the latest fatality was 7 km from the nearest nest site. No buffer zone will be large enough to prevent the killing of these eagles, because when they glide, they can cover long distances. "Floaters" (non-territorial adults) may be even more prone to collisions, because they don't know the area well. No "mitigation" will be enough to prevent the eagles from being killed by the turbines.</p> <p>I've been observing VE's and their juvenile at a proposed WEF and they stayed next to the plateau while the juvenile was with them. As soon as the juvenile left, the adults hunt all over the plateau, because that was where the food source was. (RV personal observation). I am not convinced that one can remove the food sources from a site to keep the eagles from going there.</p> <p>All the nests should be monitored for flight patterns during the time that the juveniles are flying with their parents and for at least one session after the juveniles left. It is not recommended that satellite transmitters are used, because the impact of transmitters or tags is not known. There is no evidence that any of the eagles fitted with satellite transmitters during the past, are still alive (Murgatroyd, 2015</p>	<p>the WEF site. There are no active Verreaux's Eagle nests within 3 km from any turbine locations. The majority of VE nests are located some distance from the turbines. 16 nests are more than 7 km from turbines, 12 nests are more than 10 km from turbines, while five nests are more than 15 km from turbines.</p> <p>It is a well-known fact that the numbers of these large eagles are decreasing because of a number of reasons, like electrocutions and farmers that shoot them deliberately as they are accused of killing lambs. Many of them still drown in dams. Now there is the additional risk of colliding with wind turbines at all the proposed WEF developments across the Karoo. At a productive wind farm near Molteno 3 VE's were killed and the latest total there now stands at 4 while another eagle was killed at windfarm near Victoria West (Smallie, 2015). There were very few eagle flights observed during the pre-construction monitoring (Smallie, 2015).</p> <p>While I acknowledge that this information shows that this species is susceptible, it is not surprising that it is susceptible and was always predicted to be (Retief, et al. 2011, Pers.Com. BARESG). Personal conversation with Jon Smallie and BARESG, suggests that these fatalities near Molteno may be linked to an increase (post construction) in prey abundance on the site in question. It will not necessarily be the same conditions on the Umsinde WEF. Our assessment did consider the fact that Verreaux's Eagles have been found to collide, and we cited Smallie's report (Smallie, 2015). We also considered that in other parts of the world, similar birds (e.g. Golden Eagle) have co-existed and bred successfully in close</p>	
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		<p>personal comment). Birdlife South Africa strongly recommends that ethical clearance must first be obtained before embarking on a project that involves tracking birds. For more information please see BirdLife South Africa's position statement on the tracking of birds, available at www.birdlife.org.za.</p> <p>BirdLife South Africa therefore suggests that the duration of monitoring should be extended to two years, where a wind farm may pose a significant risk to Verreaux's Eagles, particularly where alternate nests are some distance apart and/or turbines are proposed in areas that may be associated with increased flight activity and/or risky behaviour.</p> <p>Post-construction monitoring need to be done to calculate the impacts of the turbines on the VE population, as well as on other bird species. BirdLife South Africa is of the opinion that any turbines placed within an area regularly used by Verreaux's Eagles should be deemed to pose a significant risk of collisions and should be relocated.</p> <p>If fatalities occur, it is suggested that the turbines be shut down during early morning and late afternoon when birds are more active. It will even be more ideal if turbines can be shut down during juvenile dispersal. New technology like dtBIRD (www.dtBird.com) should even be considered.</p> <p>Data of the post construction monitoring at the site need to be available. It is known that wind farms don't want to share data and this may indicate that they could be hiding the mortalities that occur at the site.</p>	<p>proximity to operational WEFs. Alvaro Camina (pers comm. 2014) is of the opinion that that the proximity of Golden Eagle nesting sites to turbines in Spain did not significantly affect territory occupancy or breeding success, despite some wind turbines being closer than 1km.</p> <p>A buffer zone of 3 km is suggested, but these incidents happened more than 3.5 km from the nearest nest site and the latest fatality was 7 km from the nearest nest site. No buffer zone will be large enough to prevent the killing of these eagles, because when they glide, they can cover long distances. We do not state that the buffers will be 100% effective in preventing all Eagle mortalities. These buffers were provided based on various considerations including: the recommendations given by Dr. Andrew Jenkin's in his nest survey report, appended to the specialist report; buffers proposed at other WEFs; observed flight activity; recorded flight behaviour of Verreaux's Eagles in the Cedarberg (pers. Com. Megan Murgatroyd and Dr. Andrew Jenkins); and consideration of the draft Verreaux's Eagle guidelines by Birdlife SA.</p> <p>These draft guidelines state:</p> <p><i>"There have been few empirical studies disturbance distances for Verreaux's Eagles and to date, specialists in South Africa have relied on expert opinion when recommending buffers. For Verreaux's Eagles proposed buffers have ranged from 800m up to 2.5km (mean = 1.45km). Few specialist reports have provided empirical justification for the extent, although an analysis of activity around eagle nests in the Karoo found that activity was generally higher within 1km of the nest sites, marginally higher</i></p>
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		<p>Other raptors</p> <p>In the report it is mentioned that only one Cape Eagle-Owl was seen in the area. As these owls are not easily detected, it is suggested that there may be more birds of this species in the area.</p> <p>One nest of Peregrine Falcons was found by Andrew Jenkins during the October survey. If the survey was done during December or January, more nests may have been found. I've seen them flying with their 3 juveniles near the nesting site during January 2015 while doing bird monitoring at a proposed WEF in the De Aar area. (RV pers. observation)</p> <p>None of the specialists mentioned the fact that the location of the site is on the Great Escarpment. Any migrating birds, like Lesser Kestrels and Amur Falcons have to go over the escarpment from N. Cape to E. Cape/W. Cape somewhere during droughts and other circumstances.</p> <p>A wind power provider that operates about 800 turbines in the Altamont Pass -- where thousands of birds are believed killed by them each year -- is shutting down its operations. (Internet link below)</p> <p>Other birds</p> <p>It is a known fact that Blue Cranes and Ludwig's Bustards are prone to power line collisions. As there will be long stretches of power line (about 100 km) at the new development, this is a huge concern. Even though lines are marked with bird flight diverters, it is only 80% successful. While doing bird monitoring at a proposed WEF, I've seen Blue Cranes and Ludwig's Bustards</p>	<p><i>between 1 and 1.5km, with no clear pattern beyond that (Percival 2013). BirdLife South Africa recommends a non-negotiable no-go buffer of a minimum of 1km, in order to minimise risk of disturbing breeding birds and to reduce the risk of juveniles colliding with turbines. An additional precautionary buffer of 3 km is recommended around nests to reduce the risk of collisions and displacement. This precautionary buffer may be reduced (or increased) should the results of monitoring indicate that this is desirable. In the event that a change in the extent of the precautionary buffer is contemplated, it must be clearly demonstrated that there is a low risk of collisions. In order to protect areas around alternate nests and reduce any incentive to disrupt nesting and/or breeding, these buffers should be applied to all inactive nests. It is important to be aware that a nest buffer alone is unlikely to be adequate to mitigate potential impacts on Verreaux's Eagles. Bird may move great distances away from the nest and may regularly use habitat kilometres away. It is therefore important to consider the spatial extent and relative use of the territory."</i></p> <p>We believe that the spatial extent and relative use of the territory has been considered in the almost 900 hours of VP observations, which in turn created a sensitivity map which has advised turbine placement.</p> <p>"Floaters" (non-territorial adults) may be even more prone to collisions, because they don't know the area well. No "mitigation" will be enough to prevent the eagles from being killed by the turbines.</p>	
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		<p>underground resources and it is a known fact that the level of the underground water in the Karoo is decreasing.</p> <p>References:</p> <p>Murgatroyd, M. (2015) Personal comment via email.</p> <p>Taylor, M. (2015) The Eskom Red Data Book of Birds of South Africa, Lesotho and Swaziland. (2015) ed. M. Taylor, Ed. Johannesburg: BirdLife South Africa.</p> <p>Smallie, J. 2015b. Verreaux's Eagle Aquila verreauxii wind turbine collision fatalities. Short note.</p> <p>Smallie, J. 2015a. Operational phase bird monitoring at wind farms in SA. Birds and Renewable Energy Forum, Cape Town (presentation).</p> <p>Smallie, J. 2014. Chapter 7 Avifaunal Impact Assessment. In: Combined Environmental Impact Assessment for the proposed Ishwati Emoyeni Wind Energy facility and Supporting</p> <p>http://www.mercurynews.com/ci_29048835/alt-amont-pass-controversial-wind-turbine-company-blamed-bird</p>	<p><i>in line with the South African post-construction monitoring guidelines. This program must include thorough and ongoing nest searches and nest monitoring”</i></p> <p>Furthermore, in order to find any nests that were not located during the initial two surveys, it is stated that “An avifaunal specialist must conduct nest searches of all suitable cliffs and/or tree nesting sites within 1 km of the Phase 1 and Phase 2 WEFs footprints that were not surveyed as part of the pre-construction cliff surveys. This additional survey must preferably be prior to construction commencement or as soon as possible thereafter. The aim will be to locate nest sites, so that these may continue to be monitored during the construction and operation phase, along with the monitoring of already identified nest sites.”</p> <p>Finally we also recommend that the developer must “implement a carcass search programme for birds during the first two years of operation, in line with the South African monitoring guidelines (Jenkins et al., 2015).”</p> <p>There is no evidence that any of the eagles fitted with satellite transmitters during the past, are still alive (Murgatroyd, 2015 personal comment). Noted, and thank you for this information. Birdlife South Africa strongly recommends that ethical clearance must first be obtained before embarking on a project that involves tracking birds. For more information please see BirdLife South Africa’s position statement on the tracking of birds, available at www.birdlife.org.za. Noted, and thank you for this information.</p>	
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			<p>BirdLife South Africa therefore suggests that the duration of monitoring should be extended to two years, where a wind farm may pose a significant risk to Verreaux's Eagles, particularly where alternate nests are some distance apart and/or turbines are proposed in areas that may be associated with increased flight activity and/or risky behaviour. Noted. This study was undertaken with applicable monitoring guidelines (Jenkin et al, 2011)</p> <p>Post-construction monitoring need to be done to calculate the impacts of the turbines on the VE population, as well as on other bird species. We have recommended that the developer must "implement a carcass search programme for birds during the first two years of operation, in line with the South African monitoring guidelines (Jenkins et al., 2015)." The specialist has also recommended post construction must occur as per the guidelines, which includes activity monitoring.</p> <p>BirdLife South Africa is of the opinion that any turbines placed within an area regularly used by Verreaux's Eagles should be deemed to pose a significant risk of collisions and should be relocated.</p> <p>If fatalities occur, it is suggested that the turbines be shut down during early morning and late afternoon when birds are more active. It will even be more ideal if turbines can be shut down during juvenile dispersal. New technology like dtBIRD (www.dtBird.com) should even be considered. It is agreed that operational mitigations may be required. The extent and timing of such</p>
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				<p>'shutdowns' would need to be determined by thorough operational monitoring, and would only be necessary if significant impacts occur. Related to this issue we recommended:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>“Frequent and regular review of operational phase monitoring data (activity and carcass) and results by the bird specialist. This review should also establish the requirement for continued monitoring studies (activity and carcass) throughout the operational and decommissioning phases of the development.</i> • <i>The above reviews should strive to identify sensitive locations at the development including turbines and areas of increased collisions with power lines that may require additional mitigation. If unacceptable impacts are observed (in the opinion of the bird specialist), the specialist should conduct a literature review specific to the impact (e.g. collision and/or electrocution) and provide updated and relevant mitigations to be implemented.</i> • <i>As a starting point for the review of possible mitigations, the following may need to be considered:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <i>Assess the suitability of using deterrent devices (e.g. DT Bird and ultrasonic/radar/electromagnetic deterrents for bats) to reduce collision risk.</i> ○ <i>Identify options to modify turbine operation to reduce collision risk.”</i>
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			<p>Data of the post construction monitoring at the site need to be available. It is known that wind farms don't want to share data and this may indicate that they could be hiding the mortalities that occur at the site. Only a few wind farms have reached a full year of operational monitoring and this data is now being assimilated and shared. There is co-operation between operators but this data is relatively new and it is very much a work in progress. Furthermore, by stating that the operational monitoring must be in line with the South African monitoring guidelines (Jenkins et al., 2015), this is implied as it is a requirement of the guidelines. It is likely that sharing of the data with relevant organisations/statutory bodies will form part of the conditions of any Environmental Authorisation.</p> <p><u>Other raptors</u></p> <p>In the report it is mentioned that only one Cape Eagle-Owl was seen in the area. As these owls are not easily detected, it is suggested that there may be more birds of this species in the area. Agreed and considered in the assessment. Appendix V of the report did state in reference to Cape Eagle Owl and Barn Owl that “the former two species were almost certainly present as breeders but were overlooked because of their nocturnal habits”.</p> <p>One nest of Peregrine Falcons was found by Andrew Jenkins during the October survey. If the survey was done during December or January, more nests may have been found. Noted. The assessment did consider that more of these birds could potentially be present/breeding in the WEF site or surrounding areas. Dr Jenkins’</p>
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			<p>survey was optimally scheduled to find nests of the majority of cliff-nesting species, with a particular focus on Verreaux's Eagle. I've seen them flying with their 3 juveniles near the nesting site during January 2015 while doing bird monitoring at a proposed WEF in the De Aar area. (RV pers. observation)</p> <p>None of the specialists mentioned the fact that the location of the site is on the Great Escarpment. Any migrating birds, like Lesser Kestrels and Amur Falcons have to go over the escarpment from N. Cape to E. Cape/W. Cape somewhere during droughts and other circumstances. The possibility of Lesser Kestrel and Amur Falcon being present on the site was considered. In 93 counts conducted in the area as part of the South African Bird Atlas Project 1 (SABAP1) data, Lesser Kestrel was counted on 7 occasions (approximately a report rate of approximately 8 %) while no records of Amur falcon were reported. In 75 cards submitted across nine pentads of the more recent SABAP2 data base, neither Amur Falcon nor Lesser Kestrel were reported. In line with these data, monitoring on the site during Spring (8-16 October 2013); summer (10-18 January 2014) and summer resulted in very little activity of these species. It is acknowledged that environmental conditions may change from year to year, with inter-annual variations. The possibility of these species being present at some point on the site was considered when rating the impacts. Furthermore it is believed that this variation (in annual presence of these two species in the area) would have been picked up to some degree by the SABAP data considered for these species, but this was not</p>
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				<p>the case. Although we accept that this is an important Palearctic migratory species, and mortalities should be prevented, it is important to note that it has recently been down-listed from Vulnerable to least concern and that recent evidence suggests a stable or slightly positive population trend overall during the last three generations (Taylor, 2015)</p> <p>A wind power provider that operates about 800 turbines in the Altamont Pass -- where thousands of birds are believed killed by them each year -- is shutting down its operations. (Internet link below). This project, which was developed a number of years ago, is known widely for its unintended impacts on birds. It is, however, important to note that the level of avian assessment and other detailed feasibility studies that are undertaken for a wind farm proposal today in South Africa are much more extensive, and are done so with the intention to inform the siting of proposed wind farms in areas where impacts can be minimised as far as possible.</p> <p><u>Other birds</u></p> <p>It is a known fact that Blue Cranes and Ludwig's Bustards are prone to power line collisions. Noted and considered in the assessment. As there will be long stretches of power line (about 100 km) at the new development, this is a huge concern. This is incorrect. There will not be 100km of new overhead line. The total length of the grid connections for both phases combined would be approximately 38 km if the neighbouring Ishwati Emoyeni WEF is developed, or approximately 60 km if the Ishwati Emoyeni WEF is not developed (directly from Umsinde WEF to Gamma Substation). The majority of MV lines connecting turbines will be buried</p>	
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			<p>underground. Even though lines are marked with bird flight diverters, it is only 80% successful. While doing bird monitoring at a proposed WEF, I've seen Blue Cranes and Ludwig's Bustards flying low over the plateau. (RV pers. observation) Blue Cranes breed in the area and the juveniles may be killed while they are still inexperienced flyers. This is noted and was considered in the assessment.</p> <p>The avifaunal assessment states that the report does not adequately address the impacts of Blue Cranes breeding in the area. We do not deny the possibility of Blue Cranes breeding on the site. No records were made of the species breeding on the WEF site. Blue Cranes were addressed (particularly the potential presence of large flocks), and considered in the rating of impacts. The report states "Flat open areas of the WEF site were utilised by relatively high numbers of large terrestrial species such as Blue Crane, Southern Black Korhaan, Karoo Korhaan and Ludwig's Bustard. Blue Crane accounted for 17.8% of the total number of incidental observations and 39% of the total number of incidentally recorded individuals" and "Cultivated lands – the majority of large flocks of Blue Crane were recorded in cultivated lands (Figure 5). A 200 m buffer was applied to afford this species protection from disturbance, as well as when arriving or departing." Furthermore it said "Blue Cranes are known to use farm dams as roost sites. Several farm dams occur in the area" and "The Karoo population of Blue Crane is the only strong population remaining on natural vegetation in southern Africa". This species was also occasionally recorded from vantage point</p>
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				<p>monitoring, accounting for 6.5% of observed flights of target species.</p> <p>The report also stated that <i>“Blue Crane was also regularly recorded (incidentally) and accounted for 17.8 % of incidental records. As this species often congregates in flocks, a large number of individuals (318) were recorded during 54 observations, but it must be noted that multiple observations may have been made of the same individuals at different times”</i> and <i>“The largest flock made up of 43 individuals was recorded during the winter survey.”</i> Furthermore the avifaunal specialist, while conducting the Arcus cliff survey, observed a flock of approximately 60 Blue Cranes off the site, approximately 4 km from the WEF site boundary. The possible presence of such large flocks on the WEF site was therefore noted.</p> <p>It is also known that flamingos and Blue Cranes fly at night. This makes them even more vulnerable and prone to collisions with power lines. Noted</p> <p>On page 16 of the report it is mentioned that limited access roads restricted the nest surveys and not all available cliff habitat was covered. This is a big concern, because there may be more nests and birds that were not included in the monitoring process.</p> <p>We believe that the combined nest surveys effort, which covered 104 cliff faces, and included over 26 person days, far exceeds any such survey/nest search conducted on a WEF in SA to date. Surveys naturally focussed on the most prominent, large and important cliffs, that were most accessible. Surveys were broadly in line with Malan (2009) which states, when</p>	
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				<p>considering the size of the survey area, <i>“Overall, it is probably best to keep things small to start with, building an accurate model of your study population based on a detailed assessment of a representative core of sites and, if possible, use this knowledge to inform a progressively wider and more extensive survey in the fullness of time”</i> and <i>“..effectively ‘pick off the cherries’ in your study population...you should probably focus on the biggest cliffs in your area. In most cases, cliff-nesting raptors will colonise the tallest, longest, most elevated and most conspicuous rock faces first...”</i> and <i>“If there is an obvious short-list of such cliffs in your area, and at least some of these are reasonably accessible, target these to start with..”</i></p> <p>Although it is possible that some smaller nests of certain raptors were not found on the WEF site, we believe that we have found the majority (if not all) of the Verreaux’s Eagle nests. Furthermore, in order to find any nests that were not located during the initial two surveys, it is stated in the report that <i>“An avifaunal specialist must conduct nest searches of all suitable cliffs and/or tree nesting sites within 1 km of the Phase 1 and Phase 2 WEFs footprints that were not surveyed as part of the pre-construction cliff surveys. This additional survey must preferably be prior to construction commencement or as soon as possible thereafter. The aim will be to locate nest sites, so that these may continue to be monitored during the construction and operation phase, along with the monitoring of already identified nest sites.”</i></p>	
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				<p>“The specialist shares the opinion given by Smallie (2014), that a ‘strategic assessment of the impact that multiple projects in this area could have on key species needs to be undertaken as soon as possible’ and that such an assessment is best undertaken by appropriate regional or national agencies.” Hopefully this assessment will be undertaken soon. Agreed.</p> <p><u>Other comments</u></p> <p><u>Water</u></p> <p>In the light of the current drought and water crisis in South Africa it is of great concern that the development is planned and may go ahead if approved. Thousands of litres of water is needed to build this facility. The area may be water rich, but it will draw water from underground resources and it is a known fact that the level of the underground water in the Karoo is decreasing. It should be noted that if a project is awarded preferred bidder status a Water use License (“WULA”) would need to be obtained from the Department of Water Affairs before construction can begin. This application will take into account water use required for the site. The construction of a wind farm project requires relatively small amounts of water and almost no water during the operation period.</p>	
Hector Elliott Ministry of Transport and Public Works	2014/08/10	Email	I think that I am receiving these emails in error, possibly because I was Head of Ministry of Transport and Public Works from July 2010 – September 2012. I also receive hard copies. I have copied the incumbent, Mr. Sanele Nyoka, on this email. In any event, I am not an IAP in this matter.	This was noted by EIMS and the database updated accordingly.	Deregistration

Kerry Maree - Cape Nature	2014/07/10	Email	Please remove Kmaree@capenature.co.za (Kerry Maree) from your I&AP list for development applications. Such documents need to be sent to landuse@capenature.co.za instead please.	This was noted by EIMS and the databased updated accordingly..	Deregistration Registration
Marina Joubert - Southern Science	2014/07/10	Email	Please remove my email from your notices.	EIMS response: Please accept our apologies for the registered mail received after your request to be removed from I&AP database for the project. I have followed up and ensured that your details are removed from the project's mailing list as it is from the database. We apologies for any inconvenience caused and thank you for alerting us to the matter.	Deregistration
Sulet Gildenhuys	2014/07/2014	Email	Could you please remove my email address from your database and only use Benjamin Walton's email address as our contact person for Cape Nature (landusegeorge@capenature.co.za).	EIMS response: Thank you for contacting EIMS, this serves to confirm that you have been removed from the I&AP database as requested and Mr. Benjamin Walton has already been included in the I&AP database to represent Cape Nature.	Deregistration
Mr. F.C. Hayward	2014/08/07	Email	Please be advised that my postal address is as follows: FC Hayward, P.O. Box 481, Middelburg, 5900, EC. The current post box on the received mail is written as P.O. Box 48!	EIMS response: Thank you very much for contacting us and furnishing us with your correct post box details. We have updated the database accordingly. We appreciate your input and involvement with the project.	Registration
Insaaf Martin - Office of Head of Department Western Cape Department of Economic Development and Tourism	2014/08/08	Email	I hereby confirm receipt of your correspondence regarding "Extension of comment period for draft scoping report- Umsinde Emoyeni WEF Project". Your correspondence has been forwarded to Ms Fayruz Dharsay. Further correspondence will be forthcoming in due course. Please refer to our reference number 2014/2642 for further enquiries.	EIMS response: Thank you very much for acknowledging receipt of our latest notification, as well as forwarding the information to the relevant party. We await your further input.	Receipt/Acknowledgement of notification

October Haarvoor – Voorzitter M.E.F.U	2014/08/08	Email via Mr L. Jacobs	To find out more in relation to this project. In relation to agriculture, I think it will be helpful and advantageous to our community and farmers.	EIMS response: Thank you for registering as an Interested and Affected Party (I&AP) regarding the Umsinde Emoyeni project. As an I&AP you will be kept informed of the progress of the project and when new documents and information are available for comment. Thank you for your comment regarding agriculture, the community and landowners.	Registration/ Agriculture
Dr. J. Lapere – Neighbour	2014/07/17	Public Meeting	No Comment.	EIMS response: Thank you for your interest in the Umsinde Emoyeni project, you are hereby registered as I&AP.	Registration
Jurian Martin – Beaufort West Municipality	2014/07/17	Public Meeting	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> To help Arcus with their scoping phase and helping with the compiling of the report To be of a part of Wind Energy farm project and help Windlab and Arcus to get the project by the Department of Energy. I think this project will benefit the community of Murraysburg economically and Windlab and Arcus have a great shot to nail this Project. The area they choose is also a great location and I wish them best of luck. Noise and health issues are prevalent topics to be covered. I am concern about the health problems to humans and animals. Noise disturbances – I am concerned people who live here mite complain of the noise that comes from wind turbines. Also have a concern for the threat to wildlife due to large scale construction of wind turbines 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> This was noted by EIMS. This was noted by EIMS. Comment noted. An assessment of socio economic impacts associated with the Project will be included in the Final EIA Report. The consideration of alternative sites will be presented in the Final EIA Report. An assessment of noise impacts associated with the Project will be included in the Final EIA Report as described in Section 11 of the Draft Scoping Report (DSR). There are anecdotal reports of negative health effects from turbine noise on people who live very close to wind turbines. However, peer-reviewed scientific research has not supported these claims. The development will be designed in a way that minimises noise impacts. An assessment of ecological and avifaunal impacts associated with the Project will be 	General Benefit for Community Site Selection Noise Pollution Health Issues Economy Threat to Fauna Cost of Maintaining Infrastructure

			<p>on remote location, it could be a threat in the central Karoo wildlife nearby.</p> <p>8. Another concern that I have about poorly sited industrial wind turbines that I want to emphasize is the serious health and economic issues faced by those living near the turbines.</p> <p>9. Also the cost of repairing turbines that break down and effect the community electric rates.</p>	<p>included in the Final EIA Report. Where necessary mitigation measures or enhancement measures may be implemented to reduce impacts arising from the Project. The EIA will report the EAP's opinion as to if it is felt the project is acceptable in terms of its potential risk to the environment.</p> <p>8. An initial site selection process has been undertaken by the Applicant to identify the project site as a potentially suitable for wind energy. The EIA is an important next phase in the process to determine in more detail the potential environmental effects and to inform the design of the Wind Energy Facility (WEF) to avoid or mitigate significant impacts.</p> <p>9. The cost associated with maintaining and repairing turbines rests with the owner of the WEF and the costs will not be borne by the community through increased electricity rates. Under the Department of Energy's Renewable Energy Independent Power Producer Procurement Programme the developers are legally and contractually bound to maintain the Wind Energy Facility.</p>	
Edward Recaart Joesiff Daniels – Alfa and Omega Ministries (Evangelist)	2014/07/17	Public Meeting	<p>Future opportunities and growth of our community.</p> <p>Concerns: I am studying electrical course N1 Level since last year 2013. Start Jan 2015 N2 Level, it is a 3 year course. Future opportunities and financial support during the course is my daily concern because the municipality is not supporting me financially.</p>	<p>EIMS response: The Project will be developed under the Department of Energy's Renewable Energy Independent Power Producers Procurement Program (REIPPPP). An explanation of the REIPPPP and its requirements can be found in Chapter 3 of the Draft Scoping Report.</p> <p><u>Information from Windlab on the REIPPPP:</u></p> <p>As a part of the REIPPPP, local communities are required to have a stake in the ownership of the project, which is either funded by financier or by the other equity shareholder (which is known as a 'free</p>	Other

			<p>carry'). Community ownership of an operating wind farm is generally conducted via a broad-based community trust, with the surrounding communities as beneficiaries of the dividends paid to shareholders in the project company. The dividend revenue will be invested in community development initiatives which would be outlined in the community trust deeds.</p> <p>In addition, successful REIPPPP projects are required to invest a percentage of gross revenue in socio economic development and enterprise development, primarily in the surrounding local communities (currently defined in the REIPPPP as located within a 50 km radius of the wind farm's operational site). If the wind farm is constructed, a number of critical community development programmes would be established that would have the potential to positively impact the communities near the wind facilities. More information can be found in section 2.7.5 of the DSR.</p> <p>Wind energy can provide technical skills to South Africans and thus improve the technical skills profile of the country and the regions where wind energy facilities are located.</p> <p>The development process for a wind farm takes a number of years. The major benefits for the local community including investment in economic development and enterprise development and the community's shareholding in the Project (should the project be constructed) would only be realized in approximately 2-4 years from now, so this would be after you have completed your studies.</p> <p>Under the REIPPPP, bidders are incentivised to maximise the job creation potential of the project and additional points are available for employment opportunities created for members of the local</p>
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				communities surrounding the proposed projects. During the operation and maintenance phase of a successful REIPPPP project, a number of employment opportunities will be created. These opportunities may include site management, environmental management, facility operation and maintenance, community liaison, administration, monitoring, reporting, catering, cleaning and security. The exact number of jobs during operation (and construction) is not yet known, but will be defined in detail in the later stages of project development. If the Project is successful in the REIPPPP, the members of the community will be invited to register their skills to enable the project company to compile a skills database of the area.	
Morris David Baadjies	2014/07/17	Public Meeting	Take care of the community of Murraysburg. Employment is greatly needed.	<p>EIMS response: The project will be developed under the Department of Energy's Renewable Energy Independent Power Producers Procurement Program (REIPPPP). An explanation of the REIPPPP and its requirements can be found in Chapter 3 of the Draft Scoping Report.</p> <p><u>Information on the REIPPPP from Windlab:</u></p> <p>As a part of the REIPPPP, local communities are required to have a stake in the ownership of the project, which is either funded by financier or by the other equity shareholder (which is known as a 'free carry'). Community ownership of an operating wind farm is generally conducted via a broad-based community trust, with the surrounding communities as beneficiaries of the dividends paid to shareholders in the project company. The dividend revenue will be invested in community development initiatives which would be outlined in the community trust deeds.</p> <p>In addition, successful REIPPPP projects are required to invest a percentage of gross revenue in</p>	Employment Other

				<p>socio economic development and enterprise development, primarily in the surrounding local communities (currently defined in the REIPPPP as located within a 50 km radius of the wind farm's operational site). If the wind farm is constructed, a number of critical community development programmes would be established that would have the potential to positively impact the communities near the wind facilities. More info can be found in section 2.7.5 of the DSR.</p> <p>Wind energy can provide technical skills to South Africans and thus improve the technical skills profile of the country and the regions where wind energy facilities are located.</p> <p>Under the REIPPPP, bidders are incentivised to maximise the job creation potential of the project and additional points are available for employment opportunities created for members of the local communities surrounding the proposed projects. During the operation and maintenance phase of a successful REIPPPP project, a number of employment opportunities will be created. These opportunities may include site management, environmental management, facility operation and maintenance, community liaison, administration, monitoring, reporting, catering, cleaning and security. The exact number of jobs during operation (and construction) is not yet known, but will be defined in detail in the later stages of project development. The Project will be developed under the Department of Energy's Renewable Energy Independent Power Producers Procurement Program (REIPPPP). An explanation of the REIPPPP and its requirements can be found in Chapter 3 of the Draft Scoping Report.</p> <p>As a part of the REIPPPP, local communities are required to have a stake in the ownership of the</p>	
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				<p>project, which is either funded by financier or by the other equity shareholder (which is known as a 'free carry'). Community ownership of an operating wind farm is generally conducted via a broad-based community trust, with the surrounding communities as beneficiaries of the dividends paid to shareholders in the project company. The dividend revenue will be invested in community development initiatives which would be outlined in the community trust deeds.</p> <p>In addition, successful REIPPPP projects are required to invest a percentage of gross revenue in socio economic development and enterprise development, primarily in the surrounding local communities (currently defined in the REIPPPP as located within a 50 km radius of the wind farm's operational site). If the wind farm is constructed, a number of critical community development programmes would be established that would have the potential to positively impact the communities near the wind facilities. More info can be found in section 2.7.5 of the DSR.</p> <p>Wind energy can provide technical skills to South Africans and thus improve the technical skills profile of the country and the regions where wind energy facilities are located.</p> <p>Under the REIPPPP, bidders are incentivised to maximise the job creation potential of the project and additional points are available for employment opportunities created for members of the local communities surrounding the proposed projects. During the operation and maintenance phase of a successful REIPPPP project, a number of employment opportunities will be created. These opportunities may include site management, environmental management, facility operation and maintenance, community liaison, administration,</p>	
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				monitoring, reporting, catering, cleaning and security. The exact number of jobs during operation (and construction) is not yet known, but will be defined in detail in the later stages of project development.	
Adriaan Absa Davids	2014/07/17	Public Meeting	I am interested in the installation of the wind turbine. I am a student in electricity (South Cape college).	EIMS response: Thank you for your interest in the Umsinde Emoyeni project. A description of the Project can be found in Section 2 of the Draft Scoping Report and further information on the Project will be published in the forthcoming reports. These will be available online and as a registered I&AP you will be notified when more information is available.	Request for information
Adriaan Absa Davids	2016/02/04	Public Meeting	Mr Adriaan Davids mentioned that there are people in Murraysburg and surroundings that are already skilled, how will those people access the available opportunities.	Mr Ian Macdonald answered that the project company will work with the local municipality to prepare a skills register that the developers can use to match workers to jobs.	Job opportunities
Adriaan Absa Davids	2016/02/09	Email and attached Comment Sheet	This project will be beneficial for all community members who struggle to get by in terms of job opportunities. I am part of "198" students with a Level 3 Student Brink. This project looks like a good idea as it will prevent load shedding.	EIMS response: Thank you very much for your comment, it has been noted by the project team and you have been registered as an Interested and Affected party (I&AP) for the project.	General.
Kenneth Musheiwane Mause – I.E.T.I (Student)	2014/07/17	Public Meeting	This will be a job opportunity for me as I am a student studying in the electrical field. I would like to join the organisation after my studies in two years. This will be a boost in my electrical area and knowledge as I see that this is an interesting field to use my expertise and learn more about this.	EIMS response: The Project will be developed under the Department of Energy's Renewable Energy Independent Power Producers Procurement Program (REIPPPP). An explanation of the REIPPPP and its requirements can be found in Chapter 3 of the Draft Scoping Report. <u>Information from Windlab on the REIPPPP:</u> As a part of the REIPPPP, local communities are required to have a stake in the ownership of the project, which is either funded by financier or by the	Employment Job Opportunity Other

				<p>other equity shareholder (which is known as a 'free carry'). Community ownership of an operating wind farm is generally conducted via a broad-based community trust, with the surrounding communities as beneficiaries of the dividends paid to shareholders in the project company. The dividend revenue will be invested in community development initiatives which would be outlined in the community trust deeds.</p> <p>In addition, successful REIPPPP projects are required to invest a percentage of gross revenue in socio economic development and enterprise development, primarily in the surrounding local communities (currently defined in the REIPPPP as located within a 50 km radius of the wind farm's operational site). If the wind farm is constructed, a number of critical community development programmes would be established that would have the potential to positively impact the communities near the wind facilities. More info can be found in section 2.7.5 of the DSR.</p> <p>Wind energy can provide technical skills to South Africans and thus improve the technical skills profile of the country and the regions where wind energy facilities are located.</p> <p>Under the REIPPPP, bidders are incentivised to maximise the job creation potential of the project and additional points are available for employment opportunities created for members of the local communities surrounding the proposed projects. During the operation and maintenance phase of a successful REIPPPP project, a number of employment opportunities will be created. These opportunities may include site management, environmental management, facility operation and maintenance, community liaison, administration, monitoring, reporting, catering, cleaning and security. The exact number of jobs during</p>	
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				<p>operation (and construction) is not yet known, but will be defined in detail in the later stages of project development.</p> <p>As a registered I&AP you will be kept informed as the consultation period progresses. If the Project is successful in the REIPPPP, the members of the community will be invited to register their skills to enable the project company to compile a skills database of the area.</p>	
Adam Conrad Hector – Beaufort West Municipality (Admin.)	2014/07/17	Public Meeting	<p>Economically our community will benefit.</p> <p>Please just have a proper look at our environment, especially our birds and other live animals.</p>	<p>EIMS response: An assessment of socio economic impacts associated with the Development will be included in the Final EIA Report.</p> <p>The Project will be developed under the Department of Energy's Renewable Energy Independent Power Producers Procurement Program (REIPPPP). An explanation of the REIPPPP and its requirements can be found in Chapter 3 of the Draft Scoping Report.</p> <p><u>Information on the REIPPPP from Windlab:</u></p> <p>As a part of the REIPPPP, local communities are required to have a stake in the ownership of the project, which is either funded by financier or by the other equity shareholder (which is known as a 'free carry'). Community ownership of an operating wind farm is generally conducted via a broad-based community trust, with the surrounding communities as beneficiaries of the dividends paid to shareholders in the project company. The dividend revenue will be invested in community development initiatives which would be outlined in the community trust deeds.</p> <p>In addition, successful REIPPPP projects are required to invest a percentage of gross revenue in socio economic development and enterprise development, primarily in the surrounding local</p>	<p>Benefit for the Community</p> <p>Avifauna</p> <p>Fauna</p>

				<p>communities (currently defined in the REIPPPP as located within a 50 km radius of the wind farm's operational site). If the wind farm is constructed, a number of critical community development programmes would be established that would have the potential to positively impact the communities near the wind facilities. More info can be found in section 2.7.5 of the DSR.</p> <p>Wind energy can provide technical skills to South Africans and thus improve the technical skills profile of the country and the regions where wind energy facilities are located.</p> <p>Under the REIPPPP, bidders are incentivised to maximise the job creation potential of the project and additional points are available for employment opportunities created for members of the local communities surrounding the proposed projects. During the operation and maintenance phase of a successful REIPPPP project, a number of employment opportunities will be created. These opportunities may include site management, environmental management, facility operation and maintenance, community liaison, administration, monitoring, reporting, catering, cleaning and security. The exact number of jobs during operation (and construction) is not yet known, but will be defined in detail in the later stages of project development.</p> <p>An assessment of ecological and avifaunal impacts associated with the Project will be included in the EIA Reports. Where necessary mitigation measures or enhancement measures may be implemented to ensure that impacts arising from the Project are acceptable.</p>	
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Bradley Gerson Verbal Solomons	2014/07/17	Public Meeting	No Comment.	EIMS response: Thank you for your interest in the Umsinde Emoyeni project, you are hereby registered as I&AP.	Registration
Elicia Hugo – ANC Jeug Liga C.P.O (Kassier)	2014/07/17	Public Meeting	Would like to know before commenting on Windlab, how efficient it would be since wind also contribute to climate change, and is it a long or short term plan? And would recommend that the project must benefit both parties (e.g. NGO, PO). In order to make it successful, we must select a useful bidder.	<p>EIMS response:</p> <p>Information provided by Windlab:</p> <p>The efficiency of the energy conversion of wind energy to electrical energy in modern wind turbines is relatively high, typically above 40%, depending what part of the aerodynamic power band it is operating in. Coal plants have an energy efficiency of approximately 32.5% (http://www.eia.gov/electricity/annual/html/epa_08_01.html).</p> <p>Whilst building wind farms and wind turbines does result in CO₂ emissions (concrete for foundations, transportation, steel, turbine manufacture etc) and thus contributes to climate change, once operational the energy generated can replace the energy generated from more CO₂ intensive sources, such as coal, and thus reduce CO₂ emissions. The typical carbon payback period for wind turbines is approximately 6 months, after which they would result in net carbon reduction for the remaining approximately 20 years of operation.</p> <p>Potential renewable energy projects are awarded permission to be constructed by the Department of Energy's if complaint with the requirements of the competitive REIPPPP and dependant on the capacity available. The Department evaluates projects on price of the electricity and economic development commitments to the local and national community of South Africa.</p>	Climate change

Hermaans Torah Witbooi – Murraysburg Community Member	2014/07/17	Public Meeting	<p>I just want to know whether this wind turbine project will be detrimental to agriculture in our area: such as cultivation and farming, etc.</p> <p>The wind turbine project will assist Eskom with the load shedding problem. We must also be very careful when it comes to the birds and other flora and fauna.</p>	<p>EIMS response: Wind turbines across the world operate in area where agricultural activities like the grazing of livestock and cultivation of crops continues. Wind Energy Facilities allow for these activities to continue concurrently as the wind energy facility only uses a small proportion of the total site area. Furthermore, an assessment of soil and agricultural impacts associated with the Project will be included in the EIA Report.</p> <p>Comments regarding the need for additional energy generation are acknowledged.</p> <p>An assessment of ecological and avifaunal impacts associated with the Project will be included in the EIA Report. Where necessary mitigation measures or enhancement measures may be implemented to ensure that impacts arising from the Project are acceptable.</p>	Agricultural potential / Load shedding/ Ecology
Garth Maskrie – Murray Youthful Murraysburg NGO (Vice Chairperson)	2014/07/17	Public Meeting	<p>I would just like to add that for the advantage of the people, that you do not let the municipality work with the funds or if there are any jobs, not to let them select the people that are going to get that jobs.</p> <p>That is what happens in this town people get jobs that do not have the qualifications or even no qualifications at all.</p> <p>I would also like to state that if there were to be job vacancies that you interview each and every person and not just give jobs without knowing that person qualifications thank you!</p>	<p>EIMS response: Thank you for your comment on the management of funds. If selected as the Preferred Bidder by the Department of Energy within the Renewable Energy Power Producer Procurement Programme (REIPPPP). The project company would liaise with the community to ascertain the best way to manage the community funds.</p> <p>Further information below is provided by Windlab:</p> <p>Community ownership of an operating wind farm is generally conducted via a broad-based community trust, with the surrounding communities as beneficiaries of the dividends paid to shareholders in the project company. The dividend revenue will be invested in community development initiatives which would be outlined in the community trust deeds. The members of the trust will consist of several members including community</p>	Employment

				representatives and members of the wind farm development company.	
Lushian Reduwaan Maloy	2014/07/17	Public Meeting	No comment	EIMS response: Thank you for your interest in the Umsinde Emoyeni project, you are hereby registered as I&AP.	Registration
Aldren Jacobs Gerswin – South Cape College, Mosselbay (Student)	2014/07/17	Public Meeting	<p>I am study a NCV Level 4 in Building Construction and Civil Engineering and would like a job opportunity in the construction part.</p> <p>The project / process is educational and interesting. It will be beneficial to the environment, less fossil fuels will be used to generate electricity and is cheaper in the long term.</p>	<p>EIMS response:</p> <p>The following response was provided by Windlab:</p> <p>Wind energy can provide technical skills to South Africans and thus improve the technical skills profile of the country and the regions where wind energy facilities are located.</p> <p>Under the Renewable Energy Power Producer Procurement Programme (REIPPPP), bidders are incentivised to maximise the job creation potential of the project and additional points are available for employment opportunities created for members of the local communities surrounding the proposed projects. During the operation and maintenance phase of a successful REIPPPP project, a number of employment opportunities will be created. These opportunities may include site management, environmental management, facility operation and maintenance, community liaison, administration, monitoring, reporting, catering, cleaning and security. The exact number of jobs during operation (and construction) is not yet known, but will be defined in detail in the later stages of project development.</p> <p>Thank you for your comments, as a registered I&AP you will be kept informed of the project progress. If the Project is successful in the REIPPPP, the members of the community will be invited to register their skills to enable the project company to compile a skills database of the area.</p>	Employment

Martino Randall Tino Brouels – Community member and resident	2014/07/17	Public Meeting	My greatest concern is whether we will receive any benefit from the projects. Is the project trustworthy? If so, and the project is safe, and it is a manner of generating cheaper power, then I say that the community will benefit as a result. We would then welcome this. And if the project doesn't hamper farming then I think it is a good project.	<p>EIMS response: The DSR sets out, in section 2.7.5, that communities in the vicinity of successful projects under the Renewable Energy Power Producer Procurement Programme (REIPPPP) are required to have an equity stake in the project.</p> <p>Further information is provided by Windlab below:</p> <p>As a part of the REIPPPP, local communities are required to have a stake in the ownership of the project, which is either funded by financier or by the other equity shareholder (which is known as a 'free carry'). Community ownership of an operating wind farm is generally conducted via a broad-based community trust, with the surrounding communities as beneficiaries of the dividends paid to shareholders in the project company. The dividend revenue will be invested in community development initiatives which would be outlined in the community trust deeds.</p> <p>In addition, successful REIPPPP projects are required to invest a percentage of gross revenue in socio economic development and enterprise development, primarily in the surrounding local communities (currently defined in the REIPPPP as located within a 50 km radius of the wind farm's operational site). If the wind farm is constructed, a number of critical community development programmes would be established that would have the potential to positively impact the communities near the wind facilities. More information can be found in section 2.7.5 of the DSR.</p> <p>Wind energy can provide technical skills to South Africans and thus improve the technical skills profile of the country and the regions where wind energy facilities are located.</p> <p>The development process for a wind farm takes a number of years. The major benefits for the local</p>	Benefit for the community
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				<p>community including investment in economic development and enterprise development and the community's shareholding in the Project (should the project be constructed) would only be realized in approximately 2-4 years from now, so this would be after you have completed your studies.</p> <p>In this way, successful REIPPPP projects are required to invest a percentage of gross revenue in socio economic development and enterprise development, primarily in the surrounding communities. A number of critical infrastructure and social programmes could be developed to support and enrich the areas in which wind facilities are installed.</p> <p>Because of the competitive nature of the REIPPPP, the price of electricity from renewable energy projects is low in comparison to other conventional electricity production methods such as fossil fuelled electricity plants.</p> <p>Wind turbines across the world operate in area where the grazing of livestock and cultivation of crops continues. Wind energy facilities allow for these activities to continue concurrently as the wind energy facility only uses a small proportion of the total site area. Furthermore, an assessment of soil and agricultural impacts associated with the Project will be included in the Final EIA Report.</p>	
Darwell McKenzie – LMVM Construction (Partner)	2014/07/17	Public Meeting	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Interest is to learn more about the project, getting skilled and ply back to my community since we are a very poor community and also job creation. Thank you. 2. Please can it be possible that companies be given a fair chance of proving their worth. 	<p>EIMS response:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Thank you for your interest in the Umsinde Emoyeni project. A description of the Project can be found in Section 2 of the Draft Scoping Report (DSR). <p>The following response has been provided by Windlab:</p>	<p>Registration</p> <p>Project Description</p> <p>Tendering process</p>

		<p>3. Umsinde Emoyeni Wind Energy work with the community hand in hand to make this project a big success. When the project starts the company must please make use of the facilities here in Murraysburg such as the guest houses, the shops, and also try to do investment in our town especially now that this project is based nearby Murraysburg.</p> <p>4. My concern is that we as the community of Murraysburg are not well informed about such projects. I would be very pleased if our people get skills form this project.</p> <p>5. My other concern is that I don't hope that this will play a role in our animals to be left dead all over the place.</p> <p>6. The project will be for all people of Murraysburg and not only certain individuals.</p> <p>7. That at the end of the day this project will make it easier even for those less fortunate like the unemployed because the power is expensive and many people can't afford it. This will maybe bring back the hope we have as a society to have adequate electricity and so on. Thank you.</p> <p>8. I hope that I as a community member will get a sponsor from the project as I am busy with transporting Crèche children – to and from the Crèche since the distance is far. God bless you. Many thanks.</p>	<p>2. All contracts will be subject to competitive tendering processes where the use of local companies will be encouraged. The Project will be developed under the Department of Energy's Renewable Energy Independent Power Producers Procurement Program (REIPPPP). An explanation of the REIPPPP and its requirements can be found in Chapter 3 of the Draft Scoping Report.</p> <p>Wind energy can provide technical skills to South Africans and thus improve the technical skills profile of the country and the regions where wind energy facilities are located.</p> <p>Under the REIPPPP, bidders are incentivised to maximise the job creation potential of the project and additional points are available for employment opportunities created for members of the local communities surrounding the proposed projects. During the operation and maintenance phase of a successful REIPPPP project, a number of employment opportunities will be created. These opportunities may include site management, environmental management, facility operation and maintenance, community liaison, administration, monitoring, reporting, catering, cleaning and security. The exact number of jobs during operation (and construction) is not yet known, but will be defined in detail in the later stages of project development. Preference will be given to employing local people as far as possible.</p> <p>3. In addition to employment, there will be further indirect economic benefits associated with the Project. WEFs tend to be constructed in rural areas and the wind farm would create indirect jobs in accommodation, catering and other</p>	<p>Benefit for the Community</p> <p>Threat to Fauna</p> <p>Air Quality</p> <p>Economy</p> <p>Need for project</p> <p>Employment</p> <p>Quality of life, Safety and security</p>
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				<p>You are one of the I&AP's who registered for the informative sms service. In due course you will receive messages informing you of the status of the EIA process. We encourage all I&AP's to engage in the progress and pass information throughout the community.</p> <p>5. An assessment of ecological and avifaunal impacts associated with the Project will be included in the Final EIA Report. Where necessary mitigation measures or enhancement measures may be implemented to ensure that impacts arising from the Project are acceptable. The EIA team have experience of working with many Wind Energy Facilities in South Africa and internationally and will use our experience to inform the assessment of the impacts.</p> <p>6. We thank you for your comment, information relation to the community shareholding commitments the Project will make within the REIPPPP, as noted above.</p> <p>7. The power generated by the wind energy facility will be transferred to the national grid. Because of the competitive nature of the REIPPPP, the price of electricity from renewable energy projects is low in comparison to other conventional electricity production methods such as coal-fired electricity generation.</p> <p>8. We thank you for your comment; see above more info on the socio economic development commitments the Project will make within the REIPPPP.</p>	
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				<p>9. Conventional fossil fuelled electricity plants produce additional CO2 emissions from procurement and burning of fossil fuel energy sources during operation whilst wind turbines do not. No gasses will be dispersed by the Wind Energy Facility during operation.</p> <p>10. An assessment of socio economic impacts associated with the Project will be included in the EIA Report. At this stage no impacts have been assessed and we cannot make conclusions on this yet.</p> <p>11. The allocation of jobs will be carried out by the Developer. There will be a preference for jobs to be distributed locally but each job applicant will need to be appropriately qualified for the job they are applying for. Jobs will be provided to the best candidates.</p> <p>12. The impacts of the project in water resources will be assessed as described in Section 7 of the DSR. With specific regard to groundwater, the assessment does not propose to include a full assessment of groundwater as the project infrastructure is mainly surface mounted and hence is not proposed to have a significant impact on groundwater.</p> <p>13. The need for the Project is set out in Section 2.7 of the DSR including the strategy of the government to develop renewable energy projects as part of supplying electricity across South Africa. The need for the project includes consideration of combating climate change, diversifying existing supply, combating some of the constraints facing other energy generation sources and economic development.</p>	
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				<p>14. This would be included in an assessment of socio economic impacts associated with the Project, which will be included in the EIA Report.</p> <p>15. With regard to safety and security of the site, the site will have fencing and could have CCTV in place for security.</p>	
Vuyisile Desmond Mliwana Community member	2014/07/17	Public Meeting	<p>Since we have a problem with electricity. I see that wind energy is the way to go since we are in a rural area. Unemployment is a crisis, so this project will help a lot. We want to empower our children.</p> <p>Thank you Wind lab for bringing this project to the Karoo. It is a good thing. We have the sources to make this happen. If it is successful in other provinces why not here. I have suffered a lot the only thing I think about is my children's education. So I don't see that this project will have any obstacles environmentally or ecologically.</p> <p>I pray to God that all that all that will be involved that they can see that this project will be a good thing to do. Viva Windlab Viva. Go for it.</p>	<p>EIMS response: Thank you for your interest in the Umsinde Emoyeni project</p> <p>The power generated by the wind energy facility will be transferred to the national grid. Because of the competitive nature of the REIPPPP, the price of electricity from renewable energy projects is low in comparison to other conventional electricity production methods such as coal-fired electricity generation.</p> <p>The Project will be developed under the Department of Energy's Renewable Energy Independent Power Producers Procurement Program (REIPPPP). An explanation of the REIPPPP and its requirements can be found in Chapter 3 of the Draft Scoping Report.</p> <p>Further information from Windlab on the REIPPPP are provided below:</p> <p>As a part of the REIPPPP, local communities are required to have a stake in the ownership of the project, which is either funded by financier or by the other equity shareholder (which is known as a 'free carry'). Community ownership of an operating wind farm is generally conducted via a broad-based community trust, with the surrounding communities as beneficiaries of the dividends paid to shareholders in the project company. The dividend revenue will be invested in community</p>	<p>Unemployment</p> <p>Electricity Outages</p> <p>General</p>

				<p>development initiatives which would be outlined in the community trust deeds.</p> <p>In addition, successful REIPPPP projects are required to invest a percentage of gross revenue in socio economic development and enterprise development, primarily in the surrounding local communities (currently defined in the REIPPPP as located within a 50 km radius of the wind farm's operational site). If the wind farm is constructed, a number of critical community development programmes would be established that would have the potential to positively impact the communities near the wind facilities. More info can be found in section 2.7.5 of the DSR.</p> <p>Wind energy can provide technical skills to South Africans and thus improve the technical skills profile of the country and the regions where wind energy facilities are located.</p> <p>Under the REIPPPP, bidders are incentivised to maximise the job creation potential of the project and additional points are available for employment opportunities created for members of the local communities surrounding the proposed projects. During the operation and maintenance phase of a successful REIPPPP project, a number of employment opportunities will be created. These opportunities may include site management, environmental management, facility operation and maintenance, community liaison, administration, monitoring, reporting, catering, cleaning and security. The exact number of jobs during operation (and construction) is not yet known, but will be defined in detail in the later stages of project development.</p>	
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Ms. Zama - Manqele Agricultural Research Council	2014/08/08	Email and letter	<p>The Agricultural Research Council (ARC) hereby wishes to be identified and registered as an Interested Party.</p> <p>Amongst some of its activities, the ARC conducts research and development on the natural resources such as soil, climate and water, and to achieve this, the ARC has installed weather stations in Beestekraal (South of Colesburg), Murraysburg and Victoria West, and Beaufort West (Stolshoek Karoo Park) among other sites throughout the country.</p> <p>In accordance with the requirements for registration as an Interested and Affected Party, the following details are provided for the representation of the ARC:</p> <p>Mr. Frans Monkwe Tel: 012 427 9725 Email: monkwe@arc.agric.za</p>	The ARC has been included as an interested and affected party and will received corresponde on the projects moving forward.	Registration
Adri Smit - Secretary for Murraysburg Farmers Association	2014/08/08	Email	<p>Hello Nobuhle</p> <p>Sorry I almost forgot, I had to move again and things got busy.</p> <p>Here is a few webpages about the influence Wind turbines has on bees. But like I said, a lot more research/confirmed facts are needed. But if there is just the slightest change that bees will be negatively impacted, our beautiful landscape will disappear. Bees are crucial for most of the Karoo plant species that is indigenous to the Karoo and is not found anywhere else in the world!!!!</p>	<p>EIMS response: Good afternoon Adri,</p> <p>Please find below the response from the Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP – Arcus Consulting)</p> <p>Thank you for your interest in the Umsinde Emoyeni project and the submission of information sources relating to the impact of Wind Energy Facilities on bees. We have passed the queries onto our ecology specialist for the project. As such the Draft Scoping Report has been amended and the Final Scoping Report will contain consideration of bees specifically in the scope of the EIA phase to follow.</p>	Ecology

			<p>http://ufodigest.com/article/wind-farms-may-be-responsible-mass-honeybee-disappearance</p> <p>http://apisuk.com/Bees/2013/01/research-bees-and-wind-turbines/</p> <p>http://www.bio3.pt/en/press-and-media/news/Bees-and-Wind-Farms-Is-there-any-relation/78</p> <p>http://www.bluecollarbees.com/2012/02/cause-of-disappearing-bees-ccd-wind.html</p> <p>http://theresilientearth.com/?q=content/wind-power-green-and-deadly</p> <p>Heerlike dag!</p>	The information you have provided has been passed onto the Ecology Specialist who will include this for consideration at the EIA phase.	
Adri Smit - Secretary for Murraysburg Farmers Association	2015/02/14	Email and attached document.	<p>Hello Nobuhle,</p> <p>Hope all is well there, Here its not so great.</p> <p>It tried to find our conversation or any mention of my concern regarding the bees in the scopes you left at KVB in Murraysburg, but could not find either??</p> <p>To find something in that big file without proper index is not an easy task. Did I miss it maybe??</p> <p>What I did find was that the scope sad ie....will conduct surveys in autumn and winter of 2014" and the scopes date are December 2014?? Where those surveys conducted or should it be 2015??? Find page attached.</p>	<p>EIMS response: Dear Adri,</p> <p>In order to help locate changes made between the Draft and Final Scoping Report, Table 1.1 Amendments from the Draft to Final Scoping Report was included on Page 2 of the Final Scoping Report.</p> <p>Following your query bees have been scoped into the scope of the EIA and this is stated in Chapter 5 of the FSR including Section 5.4.2.2. Bees will now form part of the assessment of ecological impacts in the EIA phase of the project.</p> <p>Regarding the attachment, this is an extract from the avifaunal scope of work. It is correct. The avifaunal fieldwork has been ongoing and was completed in 2014. It will be reported on for assessment at the EIA stage of the project.</p>	Request for information
Andre van der Spuy on behalf of Mr Izak van	2014/08/18	Email	<p>Dear Ms. Nobuhle Hughes</p> <p>COMMENT ON THE DRAFT SCOPING REPORT AND EIA FOR THE PROPOSED</p>	<p>EIMS response: Dear Mr. Andre van der Spuy.</p> <p>Thank you for your comment in relation to the Umsinde Emoyeni Draft Scoping Report. Please</p>	Need for the project

<p>der Merwe (Badsfontein farm) and Mr Jan Pickard (Ratelfontein Private Game Reserve)</p>			<p>UMSINDE EMOYENI WIND ENERGY FACILITY PHASE 1 & 2 AND ASSOCIATED ELECTRICAL GRID CONNECTION PHASE 1 & 2, WESTERN CAPE & NORTHERN CAPE.</p> <p>Please find herewith our comment of objection on the Draft Scoping Report and Application for the Proposed Umsinde Emoyeni Wind Energy Facility and associated infrastructure. The submission comprises the following attached documents:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✍ The Comment of Objection document ✍ Annexure 1, consisting of 8 separate pages (i.e. 8 separate attached files) ✍ Annexure 2 ✍ Annexure 3 ✍ Annexure 4 <p>Please contact us should you have any queries.</p> <p>The following headings are included in the submitted comments and objections document, for the full submission please see Appendix R.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✍ Non-compliance with Fundamental Principles and Requirements Provided in NEMA and the EIA Regulations. ✍ Issues and Impacts of Concern ✍ Conclusions and Recommendations Regarding the Way Forward 	<p>find attached to the email a response to your concerns.</p> <p>The response addresses all your points in turn in a comprehensive manner. The EIA team have take time to fully consider your comments and how these will be incorporated into the Final Scoping Report as appropriate. This has of course taken some time to ensure all issues have been fully considered, with the input of the different specialist where needed, and hence has take longer than initially anticipated.</p> <p>This response will be included in the Final Scoping Report which is due for issue to the Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA) imminently. Should you have any queries on the Final Scoping Report you can address these to the DEA directly. The next commenting period for the Umsinde Emoyeni project will be in relation to the Draft EIA Report.</p>	<p>EIA Process</p> <p>Alternatives</p> <p>Livestock</p> <p>Noise</p> <p>Wind turbine syndrome</p> <p>Visual Impact</p> <p>Property Values</p>
<p>Andre van der Spuy on behalf of Mr Izak van der Merwe (Badsfontein farm) and Mr Jan Pickard (Ratelfontein</p>	<p>2014/11/13</p>	<p>Email</p>	<p>Dear Ms. Nobuhle Hughes,</p> <p>Thank you for your response.</p> <p>Please advise as to whom this correspondence was copied as we wish to be sure that DEA have also received a copy, as well as our clients.</p>	<p>EIMS response: Dear Mr. van der Spuy</p> <p>Thank you for acknowledging receipt of our response to your submitted comments.</p> <p>The response supplied is in response to your comment on the Draft Scoping Report during the relevant public consultation period. It has been</p>	<p>Request for information</p> <p>Land Value</p>

Private Game Reserve)			Secondly, please advise who authored the Document entitled "Literature Review: The Impact of wind Energy Facilities on Land Value" and what their qualifications are	<p>supplied only to yourself in response to your submission as an Interested and Affected Party (I&AP) on behalf of your clients, however it will be published in the Final Scoping Report along with all the other I&AP comments and responses and therefore submitted to the Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA).</p> <p>As you will note from the Land Values document provided the document was produced by Arcus Consulting, the consultancy services providing the EAP services, utilising the environmental impact assessment (EIA) team in both South Africa and international locations.</p> <p>Please note the comment period for the Draft Scoping Report has closed and all comments considered. Should you have any subsequent queries on the next phase, the Final Scoping Report when this is issued, these should be submitted to the DEA directly.</p>	
Andre van der Spuy on behalf of Mr Izak van der Merwe (Badsfontein farm) and Mr Jan Pickard (Ratelfontein Private Game Reserve)	2014/11/20	Email	<p>Dear Ms. Nobuhle Hughes</p> <p>Thank you for your response.</p> <p>You have failed to answer our question, vis;</p> <p>"...please advise who authored the Document entitled "Literature Review: The Impact of wind Energy Facilities on Land Value" and what their qualifications are."</p> <p>You have provided a company (Arcus Consulting) as (the) EAP yet, as a competent EAP yourself, you should know that such does not meet the legal requirements for an EAP. An EAP is required to be a natural person. The</p>	<p>EIMS response: Dear Mr van der Spuy</p> <p>Thank you for your comment on the Umsinde Emoyeni Project. The comment period on the Draft Scoping Report is closed and all comments received have been responded to. Taking into account the findings of the public consultation period, the Final Scoping Report is being prepared and will be submitted to the Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA) in due course. All comments and response made during the public consultation period in relation to the Draft Scoping Report will be included in the Final Scoping Report.</p> <p>As stated the Land Values report was prepared by Arcus, more specifically their environmental impact</p>	Request for Information Land Value

			<p>EAP is a fundamental component to the EIA process and this is why the required criteria for an EAP are specified under, <i>inter alia</i>, the NEMA EIA Regulations. Please answer this most critical question directly and without delay.</p>	<p>assessment team. As stated Arcus are providing the EAP services, through the appointment of Jennifer Slack (an employee of Arcus) as the EAP for the project as stated on the application forms and in the DSR. This is compliant with NEMA. Jennifer is a certified EAP-SA and has a Masters in Environmental Impact Assessment and Management.</p> <p>As a registered I&AP you will be notified of the submission and are welcome to submit your comments direct to the DEA.</p>	
<p>Andre van der Spuy on behalf of Mr Izak van der Merwe (Badsfontein farm) and Mr Jan Pickard (Ratefontein Private Game Reserve)</p>	2014/11/21	Email	<p>Dear Ms. Nobuhle Hughes</p> <p>Thank you for your answer.</p> <p>Noted that Jennifer Slack is the EAP and we agree that such is complaint. You have confirmed that the land values report was not done by Jennifer Slack (the EAP) but by a "team" from Arcus Consulting (you failed to identify the individuals on this "team"). However, you acknowledge that J. Slack is the responsible EAP. Therefore she must accept the associated strict liability and accountability for the report.</p> <p>We note from available information that the EAP has no apparent expertise in dealing with the critical specialist matter of land values and compensation and is also relatively inexperienced for a project of this scale and sensitivity. The EAP also appears to have only approximately one year of experience in South Africa and which ties in with our client's remark to us that he was astounded by the lack of basic understanding of the receiving natural environment by the EAP and others during the site visit.</p>	<p>EIMS response: Dear Mr. van der Spuy,</p> <p>We acknowledge your email receipt. The comment period on the Draft Scoping Report is closed and all comments received have been responded to. Taking into account the findings of the public consultation period, the Final Scoping Report is being prepared and will be submitted to the Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA) in due course. All comments and responses made during the public consultation period in relation to the Draft Scoping Report, including the Land Values Report, will be included in the Final Scoping Report.</p> <p>As a registered I&AP you will be notified of the submission of the Final Scoping Report after which you are welcome to submit your comments directly to the DEA.</p>	<p>General Land Value</p>

		<p>It is also noted that the land values report lacks the necessary rigorous application of scientific principles to which it holds its own references accountable as a measure of their credibility. Despite the clearly applicant-biased use of selective and limited methodology (e.g. the critical keyword of “compensation” was omitted from the literature search), literature types (e.g. exclusion of real life examples, court rulings etc.) and references the EAP’s own study confirms the existence of potential significant land value impact due to wind farms (4 of the 19 papers reviewed confirm this, or >20%). NEMA requires the EAP to apply a “risk averse approach” and which therefore dictates that the confirmed potential impact be assessed by a suitably qualified and independent specialist during the EIA. However, contrary to such this, the EAP has rather dismissed the issue from the EIA. Still further, the Applicant confirms the existence of such impacts (and mitigation by compensation) by providing a statement that its (International) company has engaged in compensation of adjacent non-participant land owners. Against this evidence (and much other omitted information) the issue of land value impacts and mitigation via compensation has to be addressed. The fact that the issue has not been addressed in any South African wind farm to date is irrelevant and unsurprising given the infancy of the industry (the issue has been identified in scoping for various other applications). The Applicant-favoured bias of the EAP is again noted here for the record and confirms earlier indications in this regard.</p>		
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			<p>We request that all further reports be clearly ascribed to the associated EAP, or specialist, who will need to accept accountability for same.</p> <p>Of concern is that Arcus Consulting Services Ltd. (and Jennifer Slack) appear to have an inappropriately close relationship with the South African Wind Energy Association (SAWEA) - same are even referenced on the SAWEA website (ref. http://www.sawea.org.za/click-here-to-join-sawea/1-business/41-arcus-consultancy-services-ltd.html). We must accordingly question the level of independence that can be maintained where such an apparently close business relationship exists between Jennifer Slack/ Arcus and SAWEA.</p>		
Andre van der Spuy on behalf of Mr Izak van der Merwe (Badsfontein farm) and Mr Jan Pickard (Ratelfontein Private Game Reserve)	2014/11/24	Email	<p>Dear Ms. Hughes,</p> <p>Thank you for your response. We trust that you and the EAP have taken note of the additional information provided and amended the Scoping Report accordingly in order to ensure that it meets the required level of EAP competence and compliance on the subject issues of land value impact and compensation as mitigation.</p>	This was noted by EIMS.	General Land Value
Andre van der Spuy on behalf of Mr Izak van der Merwe (Badsfontein farm) and Mr Jan Pickard (Ratelfontein Private Game Reserve)	2015/01/13	Email	<p>Please note that the office of AVDS Environmental Consultants has closed until 26 January 2015.</p>	This was noted by EIMS.	General

<p>Andre van der Spuy on behalf of Mr Izak van der Merwe (Badsfontein farm) and Mr Jan Pickard (Ratelfontein Private Game Reserve)</p>	<p>2015/01/26</p>	<p>Email</p>	<p><u>Proposed Umsinde Emoyeni Wind Energy Facility: Request for copies of documentation and extension of review period</u></p> <p>AVDS Environmental Consultants has recently been requested by our clients (Mr. Pickard and Mr. van der Merwe) to review the Final Scoping Report and associated documentation and provide a submission on their behalf.</p> <p>To this end it is requested that kindly provide us with hard copies of the documentation and provide a submission on their behalf.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) full Final Scoping Report with annexures; (ii) cover letter and other documentation submitted in association with the Final Scoping Report submission to DEA; (iii) copy of any and all other documentation of liaison, since dissemination of the Draft Scoping Report, between your company and DEA with regard to this project; (iv) copy of the review by DLA Cliffe Dikker Hofmyer, as referred to in your document entitled 'Response to AVDS Environmental Consultants in relation to the Document: "Comments and objection based on review of the Draft Scoping Report for the Proposed Umsinde Emoyeni Wind Energy Facility Phase 1 and 2 and Associated electrical Grid Connection Phase 1 and 3, Western and Northern Cape? (18 August 2014, AVDS Environmental Consultants)". <p>Please note that it will be necessary to avail ourselves of a 30 day period, from date of</p>	<p>EIMS response: Thank you for your comments, please find below responses to your queries:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) We will commence printing of the final Scoping Report (FSR) and all its appendices and arrange to have a copy sent to you. Please confirm the address for delivery. (ii) and (iii) We will also supply the cover letter and correspondence with the Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA) between the Draft Scoping Report (DSR) and the FSR. (iv) This review was part of the DSR development process, including through meetings. There is no review document to provide. <p>The timelines for the review of the FSR are in the control of the DEA and all correspondence on the FSR including those relating to review timelines should be addressed to the DEA.</p>	<p>Request for documentation</p> <p>Request for extension of FSR comment review period</p>
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			<p>receipt of the requested documentation, in order to prepare the submission on behalf of our clients whose properties would be negatively affected by the proposed project. Therefore, as a matter of formal procedure the said 30 day period is requested to the extent that it would amount to an extension of the advised review period which ends on 14 February 2015. Given the detailed and voluminous nature of the documentation; the time required to review and prepared our response (given the initial previous evidence of the unacceptable quality of the EAP's response), and the time required to liaise with 2 clients, the 30 day review period is considered the bare minimum required for us to adequately complete the intended submission.</p> <p>(All rights reserved without condition).</p>		
Andre van der Spuy on behalf of Mr Izak van der Merwe (Badsfontein farm) and Mr Jan Pickard (Ratelfontein Private Game Reserve)	2015/01/29	Email	<p>Thank you for your response. We provide following comment on your listed points:</p> <p>I) Thank you – please see our postal address below</p> <p>II) and III) Noted with thanks</p> <p>IV) The response by Arcus relies extensively upon the legal opinion yet you have failed to provide evidence thereof. We submit that, under the EIA Regulations, such legal expert opinion constitutes specialist input to the EIA and is therefore subject to the relevant criteria, inter alia, independence. However, no statement of independence has been provided. Please could you provide us with all documentation (complete or unaltered) in relation to this expert legal opinion (failing which it will be necessary for you to entirely discard the Arcus response and any derived and/or</p>	<p>EIMS response: Dear Mr. van der Spuy,</p> <p>Further to your request for an extension to the FSR comment period, we have notified the DEA that the comment period is to be extended to the 2nd March 2015 as you will note in the mail below (Email sent to Mr Essop Muhammad and Ms. Lydia Kutu). This provides 30 days from receipt of the FSR by DVDS for review. All comments on the FSR should be submitted to the DEA directly.</p>	Other

			<p>recorded conclusions and in which case our issues will remain unattended).</p> <p>Your last point re relevant timelines is noted but which differs from previous advice to us from DEA.</p> <p>Sincerely</p> <p>Andre van der Spuy AVDS Environmental Consultants</p> <p>42 Afrikander Road Simon's Town 7975 South Africa</p> <p>Tel: 021 786 2919 Fax: 021 786 2919 Mobile: 084 480 2464 Email: avdspuy@iafrica.com Web: www.advsec.com</p>		
Andre van der Spuy on behalf of Mr Izak van der Merwe (Badsfontein farm) and Mr Jan Pickard (Ratelfontein Private Game Reserve)	2015/02/17 03:43PM	Email	<p>Dear Ms. Hughes,</p> <p>The extension is appreciated however we received the FSR on 3rd February (at approximately 4pm from the courier). Therefore, we calculate the 30 day period to extend until 5 March 2015 (i.e. 4/2/2015 to 5/3/2015, last day included).</p>	<p>EIMS response: Dear Mr. van der Spuy,</p> <p>The Final Scoping Report comment period will be extended until the 2nd March 2015, this has been communicated to the DEA and other I&APs. Please submit your comments to the DEA.</p>	Request for extension of FSR comment review period
Andre van der Spuy on behalf of Mr Izak van der Merwe (Badsfontein farm) and Mr Jan Pickard (Ratelfontein	2015/02/17 05:34PM	Email	<p>Dear Ms. Hughes,</p> <p>We will utilize our legislated full 30 days and will expect the EAP to likewise abide by the law. Our comments will be submitted by 5 March 2015 and you will be required to consider them.</p>	<p>EIMS response: Dear Mr. van der Spuy,</p> <p>The Final Scoping Report comment period will be extended until the 2nd March 2015, this has been communicated to the DEA and other I&APs. Please submit your comments to the DEA.</p>	Request for extension of FSR comment review period

Private Game Reserve)			It should be noted that we previously advised that we would need 30 days from the time that the document are received. You were therefore made aware of this matter and the consequent timeframes well in advance.		
Andre van der Spuy on behalf of Mr Izak van der Merwe (Badsfontein farm) and Mr Jan Pickard (Ratelfontein Private Game Reserve)	2015/02/20 09:20AM	Email	<p>Dear EAP</p> <p>This below has reference.</p> <p>As twice previously advised we have, we will require a full 30 days review period from receipt of the documentation i.e. <u>until, and including 5 March 2015</u>. You expressed no objection to this advice, as was contained in our original email of 26/1/2015, and duly provided the documentation in hard copy (and which is appreciated). Our very busy work schedule was arranged accordingly (including an extended work/field trip out of the office next week until 2/3/2015) and it is therefore impossible for us to meet your date of 2 March 2015. We consider our approach to be "reasonable" under the law and trust that you, as the EAP, will likewise consider it so.</p> <p>It is noted that the below notification to I&APs was distributed <u>subsequent</u> to your email (of 17/02/2015) but within which you advised us that I&APS had already been notified of the extended review period. Your explanation for this would be appreciated.</p> <p>DEA are requested to note the contents of this email.</p>	<p>EIMS response: Dear Mr. van der Spuy,</p> <p>The comment period on the Final Scoping Report (FSR) has been extended until the 2nd March 2015, as notified to yourselves, the Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA) and all other I&APs.</p> <p>The FSR was received by the DEA on the 16th January 2015, and notifications of its availability for review in hardcopy and online were issued to all I&APs on 13th January 2015. All I&APs have been notified of the extension.</p> <p>Please direct all comments to the DEA.</p>	General

<p>Andre van der Spuy on behalf of Mr Izak van der Merwe (Badsfontein farm) and Mr Jan Pickard (Ratelfontein Private Game Reserve)</p>	<p>2015/02/20 04:03PM</p>	<p>Email</p>	<p>Dear EAP</p> <p>It is noted that you have ignored entirely our explanation and request below. Instead you have referred back to previous irrelevant notification/dates in January and which have no bearing on the subsequently extended review period, the latter of which is the subject of this correspondence. Furthermore, you are incorrect – we had no access to a hardcopy in January hence our request for same and the consequent extension of comment period. You know this.</p> <p>These are matters of procedure and are therefore correctly addressed to the EAP at this stage. While it would appear that you wish to exclude our clients' comments (and therefore participation in this Scoping process) through any means you are hereby advised that we will submit comment by 5 March 2015 which is per our original proposal and agreement</p>	<p>EIMS response: Dear Mr. van der Spuy,</p> <p>As per our previous correspondence the Final Scoping Report (DSR) comment period will be extended until the 2nd March, as has been informed to all I&APs and the Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA).</p> <p>The FSR was received by the DEA on the 13th January 2015, and notifications of its availability for review in hardcopy and online were issued to all I&APs on 13 January 2015. All I&APs have been notified of the extension.</p>	<p>General.</p>
<p>Andre van der Spuy on behalf of Mr Izak van der Merwe (Badsfontein farm) and Mr Jan Pickard (Ratelfontein Private Game Reserve)</p>	<p>2015/02/24</p>	<p>Email</p>	<p>Please note that I will be out of the office until 3/3/2015.</p>	<p>EIMS response: This was noted by EIMS.</p>	<p>General</p>

<p>Andre van der Spuy on behalf of Mr Izak van der Merwe (Badsfontein farm) and Mr Jan Pickard (Ratelfontein Private Game Reserve)</p>	<p>2015/03/03</p>	<p>Email</p>	<p>Dear Ms. Hughes</p> <p>Our 2 telephone conversations of this afternoon refer.</p> <p>These relate to my enquiry regarding the "Issues and Response Report" (IRR) of the Final Scoping Report (FSR). Thank you, Ms. Hughes, for your concerted efforts of this afternoon to ascertain from the EAP where exactly within the FSR (our hard copy report, as received) such is contained. Despite my own extensive efforts to locate this crucial component of the FSR within the untitled Appendices of the FSR, and your subsequent referral to me of the advice of the EAP, I wish it to be recorded that the <u>IRR is absent from the FSR which we have in our possession and we are therefore unable to review the document any further</u>, and, importantly, we are also unable to assess whether the response of the EAP to our issues (and those of others) is adequate. You have confirmed that the IRR is a substantial document which exists in a tabulated form.</p> <p>You have advised that the IRR is a large document (which may be the reason for it being excluded from our hard copy version of the FSR). Therefore please note that we would be satisfied to work with a hard copy version which is printed double-sided and half-A4 size in order to reduce the associated printing expense and environmental cost, on condition that same is reasonably legible. <u>Please could you therefore request the EAP to fulfill our original request for a hard copy version of the FSR for review purposes and which presently requires provision (by the EAP) of a hard copy of the IRR to us.</u> It is reiterated that the IRR is a crucial aspect of the FSR (per,</p>	<p>EIMS response: Dear van der Spuy</p> <p>As per advice issued telephonically yesterday a hardcopy of the Final Scoping Report (FSR) containing all appendices was issued to AVDS. This was checked against the master copy and all parts of the FSR were provided.</p> <p>We understand you are unable to locate the IRR as per the instruction issued, and as such we are sending you a duplicate hardcopy of the IRR with its appendices on CD, this is printed and will be dispatched today.</p> <p>The original package containing the documents was signed for by yourselves on 2nd February 2015. The Documents have been available online since 5th January 2015 and all I&APs were notified of their availability on the 13th January 2015. We have recorded hits on these links of these documents from the website and they have been tested.</p> <p>Your comment and this response will be sent to the Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA).</p>	<p>Other</p>
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		<p><i>inter alia</i>, EIA Regulation 28(1) (h) (iv)) and without which we are unable to complete our review of the FSR. It is also pointed out here that the EAP failed to advise us, at any stage, that the IRR was excluded from the hard copy version of the FSR which was sent to us (note that Appendix K is also absent) and, furthermore and as a consequence of the EAP's actions, that the associated delay in submission of our comment must reasonably be attributed to the actions of the EAP and not us. Consequently, we are here forced to pause our review to the FSR until receipt of this crucial component document of the FSR.</p> <p>Once we have received the IRR (in full hard copy version, as originally was requested) we shall resume our review of the FSR and we trust that the originally agreed comment period of up until 5 March 2015 will be extended by the same length of time until receipt of the IRR. Be therefore also advised that the review of the FSR on behalf of our clients has been in progress until this time and it is our intention to submit to the Competent Authority a resultant comment within the agreed deadline period, but as will now be required to be extended, by "reasonable" consideration, in equal measure to the current delay.</p> <p>Also, please note that this is the first opportunity today to relay the above information via email, as our email facility was, until now, non-operational for reasons beyond our control (and as was communicated to Ms. Hughes telephonically).</p> <p>(All rights reserved without condition)</p>		
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Andre van der Spuy on behalf of Mr Izak van der Merwe (Badsfontein farm) and Mr Jan Pickard (Ratelfontein Private Game Reserve)	2015/03/04 (11:12 AM)	Email	Dear Ms Hughes, Please could you advise us as possible as to when we could expect to receive the missing component of the FSR from the EAP. Thank you.	EIMS response: Dear Mr. van der Spuy, I hope you have received the EAP's response to your previous comment regarding the Issues and Responses Report, this was sent through a short while ago.	Request for information
Andre van der Spuy on behalf of Mr Izak van der Merwe (Badsfontein farm) and Mr Jan Pickard (Ratelfontein Private Game Reserve)	2015/03/04 (04:09PM)	Email	Dear Ms. Hughes/ EAP The below advice is factually and knowingly incorrect and to which we therefore take exception. As already advised, the FSR sent to us is missing the IRR. In your below email, you/the EAP still fail to provide any section or page reference as to exactly where the IRR is located within the FSR. Also, as already advised on 2 occasions previously, Appendix K is missing too. The FRS sent to us was not complete. You fail to accept our good word on the matter and are therefore urged to come and view the supplied FSR hard copy at our offices and to point out the missing documents personally. If necessary, we (I) will swear under oath that we have not removed any part thereof. We however record here that your advice and actions are indeed non-compliant with the required standards of honesty, independence and competence of an EAP under the EIA Regulations. We have previously addressed the unacceptability of the documents on your website for our review purposes. It is noted however that the website links recently provided	This comments and response (IRR Report) was delivered to Mr Andre van der Spuy.	Issues and Responses Report Other

			<p>also failed to function and have caused confusion amongst other I&APs.</p> <p>Contrary to our previous advice, you insist that we received, and signed for the FSR documents on the 2/2/2015 whereas we have advised you that they were received late on the 3/2/2015. Please note that we have today contacted the courier agent (Postnet, "Sandy") and now have in our possession a copy of the delivery slip which confirms receipt of the document on 3/2/2015.</p> <p>In our professional opinion, we would have expected a much greater level of competence, and honesty, in the management of this EIA process than is evidenced by these numerous recorded failures by the EAP. Such failures on the part of the EAP have already compromised this application and have resulted in significant extra costs to the account of our clients (and no doubt to other I&APs too).</p> <p>Thank you - we look forward to receiving the hard copy of the Issues and Responses Report where after we will resume with the review of the FSR.</p>		
Andre van der Spuy on behalf of Mr Izak van der Merwe (Badsfontein farm) and Mr Jan Pickard (Ratefontein Private Game Reserve)	2015/03/06	Email	<p>Dear Ms. Hughes,</p> <p>We received the IRR yesterday. Thank you. We will therefore endeavour to submit our comments to DEA by end of Monday (midnight) although this will now be subject to our other long-planned work commitments during this period.</p> <p>I note that the IRR has been prepared by EIMS while the FSR was drafted by Arcus. I confirm that this is the first time that we have had sight of the IRR. Please could you confirm the IRR formed part of the hardcopy documentation that</p>	The IRR was made available as hard copy at all public viewing venues.	General

			was made publically available to I&APs and the public at the various public venues as well.		
Andre van der Spuy on behalf of Mr Izak van der Merwe (Badsfontein farm) and Mr Jan Pickard (Ratelfontein Private Game Reserve)	2015/03/10	Email	<p>The Director-General</p> <p>Department of Environmental Affairs</p> <p>Dear Ms. N. Ngcaba</p> <p>COMMENT ON THE FINAL SCOPING REPORT AND ASSOICIATED DOCUMENTS FOR THE PROPOSED UMSINDE EMOYENI WIND ENERGY FACILITY PHASE 1 & 2 AND ASSOICIATED ELECTRICAL GRID CONNECTION PHASE 1 & 2, WESTERN CAPE & NORTHERN CAPE.</p> <p>Please find herewith our comment of objection on the Final Scoping Report and associated documents for the Proposed Umsinde Emoyeni Wind Energy Facility and associated infrastructure. Given the delay in receiving the full version of the Final Scoping Report this comment is here submitted at our earliest opportunity. The submission comprises the following attached documents:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Comment of Objection document 2. Annexure 1, consisting of 8 separate pages (i.e. 8 separate attached files) 3. Annexure 2 4. Annexure 3 5. Annexure 4 <p>On a separate but related important matter, we also refer to the letter signed by Mr. Sabelo Maleza of your Department and dated 8/2/2015 (as attached). Under point n) of this letter is stated the following:</p>	This was noted by EIMS.	FSR submission to the DEA

Commented [AB1]:

		<p><i>“Andre van der Spuy Environmental Consultants must provide a copy of power of attorneys should he wish to continue to represent his clients. This must be included in the reports.”</i></p> <p>Accordingly, please could you provide us with the following information:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Under which legislation is this requirement being placed upon us, and therefore, by implication, our clients too? 2) Please advise us which other I&APs or parties have also been required by DEA to provide such power of attorneys as we fail to see any such evidence in these applications and the associated documentation. Given that many of the registered Interested & Affected Parties are no doubt also “party” representatives, like us, we would expect the same requirements to be equally imposed in order to avoid any suggestion of victimization by the DEA of us or our clients. <p>As a voluntary action please find attached 3 letters of authorisation of representation by AVDS Environmental Consultants.</p> <p>Should there be any queries as to the authenticity of our representation you are requested to contact our client directly (the Department has their contact details) or ourselves.</p> <p>We look forward to receiving your urgent response on the matter of the power of attorney. Please contact us should you have any queries.</p>		
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			(All rights reserved without condition)		
Andre van der Spuy on behalf of Mr Izak van der Merwe (Badsfontein farm) and Mr Jan Pickard (Ratelfontein Private Game Reserve)	2015/03/11	Email	<p>The Director-General Department of Environmental Affairs</p> <p>Dear Ms. N. Ngcaba</p> <p>The below cover email refers. Please note that the recorded attachments to that email are not correct and are correctly listed as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Comment of Objection document. 2. Annexure 1 (note: Annexure 1 consists of 8 pages attached as separate files) 3. Annexure 2 4. Annexure 3 5. Annexure 4 6. Annexure 5 7. Annexure 6 8. Annexure 7 9. Annexure 8 10. Annexure 9 11. Authorisation of representation letter: J. Pickard and others. 12. Authorisation of representation letter: I.J van der Merwe and others. 13. Authorisation of representation letter: I.J van der Merwe and different others. 14. DEA letter of 5/2/2015 	This was noted by EIMS.	FSR submission to the DEA

			We apologise for the error.		
Andre van der Spuy on behalf of Mr Izak van der Merwe (Badsfontein farm) and Mr Jan Pickard (Ratelfontein Private Game Reserve)	2015/11/20	Email and attached documentation	<p>Dear Ms. Hughes</p> <p>The below email and its attachment, as sent to our client Mr. Izak van der Merwe of Badsfontein Farm and Country Guesthouse, refer.</p> <p>Please be reminded that also act for Mr. Jan Pickard of Ratelfontein Private Game Reserve.</p> <p>Notwithstanding the procedural flaws already advised of in this process we here point out to you that the course of action proposed in the attached notice is illegal in terms of the 2010 EIA Regulations under which this particular application for the proposed Umsinde Emoyeni WEF is being administered. Accordingly our clients reject the advice of the notice entirely and we instead respectfully advise you to proceed according to the correct and legally compliant manner.</p> <p>In regard to this matter, EIA Regulation 54(2)(b) (ii) and (iii) read as follows:</p> <p>The person conducting a public participation process ... must give notice to all potential interested and affected parties of the application which is subjected to public participation by...</p> <p>(b) giving written notice to...</p> <p>(ii) the occupiers of the site where the activity is or is to be undertaken or to any alternative site where the activity is to be undertaken;</p> <p>(iii) owners and occupiers of land adjacent to the site where the activity is or is to be</p>	<p>EIMS response: Dear Mr Van der Spuy,</p> <p>Many thanks for your correspondence on behalf of your clients Mr Izak van der Merwe and Mr Jan Pickard.</p> <p>We are aware of the requirements of the regulations in so far as they relate to the notification of both land owners and occupiers, on directly affected and adjacent properties. In this regard we are pursuing all reasonably available means to fulfil these requirements.</p> <p>With respect to the occupiers of your clients properties, we appreciate your suggestions in this regard, and will be in contact with your clients shortly.</p> <p>Once again, many thanks for your valued input in this consultation process, and please be informed that we intend issuing another project communication to all registered I&APs shortly.</p>	<p>EIA process.</p> <p>Land Occupiers.</p>

		<p>undertaken or to any alternative site where the activity is to be undertaken;</p> <p>(Bolding supplied)</p> <p>Therefore it is quite clear that no “landowner”, or other party, is permitted to fulfil the duty of “(t)he person conducting a public participation process”. The requirement is specific for the obvious reason that it seeks to prevent delivery of potentially biased advice to “occupiers” that could arise by the stipulated duty being carried out by any party (such as a landowner) other than the person conducting the public participation process (and which latter person is legally bound by the criteria for objectivity and independence as prescribed under EIA Regulation 17).</p> <p>Since, as you are aware, there exists a relatively high level of illiteracy within the local community it will not be sufficient for you, or the appointed person, to simply rely on giving “written notice” to occupiers. Therefore we suggest that you will need to address the dissemination of information by also “using reasonable alternative methods” so as to ensure that occupiers are properly acquainted with the details of the project and their full rights to participate in the EIA process and in this regard we refer you to EIA Regulation 54(2)(e) which reads as follows:</p> <p>The person conducting a public participation process must ... give notice to all potential interested and affected parties of the application which is subjected to public participation by— using reasonable alternative methods, as agreed to by the competent authority, in those instances where</p>		
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		<p>a person is desiring of but unable to participate in the process due to—</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) illiteracy; (ii) disability; or (iii) any other disadvantage. <p>(Bolding supplied)</p> <p>In so far as the duty of notifying the “occupiers” extends we also bring EIA regulation 54(7)(b) to your attention, per:</p> <p>When complying with this regulation, the person conducting public participation process must ensure that—</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) information containing all relevant facts in respect of the application is made available to potential interested and affected parties; and (b) participation by potential interested and affected parties is facilitated in such a manner that all potential interested and affected parties are provided with a reasonable opportunity to comment on the application. <p>We therefore suggest that you make contact with our clients directly and individually in order to establish suitable times and venues to hold an information sharing meeting with the occupiers on their respective properties. Obviously, the choice of date and venue will need to accommodate both the “occupiers”, as well as our clients, in so far as most of the “occupiers” are involved in the day to day operations of our clients’ operations and businesses. During the suggested meetings the preferred contact details of each “occupier”,</p>		
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			<p>who wishes to register as an I&AP, could be acquired for your I&AP database.</p> <p>We also recommend that the same legally-compliant approach be undertaken with all other properties referred to in the EIA Regulations and to which this project applies. Since the process has to date entirely excluded all the “occupiers” of the affected properties it will be necessary to scope the issues and concerns of the occupiers and include this potentially new information in a new Draft Scoping Report. The Draft Scoping Report will thereafter need to be made available for comment for public comment and an informed Final Scoping Report (and Plan of Study of EIA) produced for further comment and acceptance by the DEA.</p>		
Andre van der Spuy on behalf of Mr Izak van der Merwe (Badsfontein farm) and Mr Jan Pickard (Ratelfontein Private Game Reserve)	2015/12/07	Email	<p>Dear Miss Hughes</p> <p>Thank you for the notification. We do indeed have a concern which is stated hereunder:</p> <p>How can you anticipate already disseminating a Draft EIR when the Scoping Process is incomplete? The scoping process’s purpose is to identify the concerns, interest and alternatives of ALL sectors of the affected community which includes “occupiers”. However, your scoping process has entirely excluded this sector of the local community as if their concerns are of no importance. AVDS Environmental Consultants represent the “occupiers” during the Ishwati Emoyeni WEF EIA. However, should our clients wish for us to represent them in this Umsinde EIA process as well then our first advise to them will be to protest to DEA regarding their entire exclusion from the critically important scoping phase. Therefore, in light of the risk that exists in</p>	<p>EIMS response: Good afternoon van der Spuy,</p> <p>Many thanks for your confirmation of the previous notification.</p> <p>Your concern regarding the Scoping Phase and the land occupiers involvement is noted. It is the EIA teams’ understanding that the regulated EIA process is being followed. With respect to the land occupiers, we are continuing to conduct the consultation process, including extending efforts to further involve the land occupiers (including one-on-one focus groups). All concerns, interests, and alternatives raised will be raised and considered in the process.</p> <p>Many thanks for your continued and valued involvement in the process.</p>	<p>EIA process;</p> <p>Land occupiers.</p>

			pursuing the release of the Draft EIR before the Scoping process has been completed in a legally compliant manner which includes participation by “occupiers” we would advise you to return to the scoping process and complete it correctly.		
Andre van der Spuy on behalf of Mr Izak van der Merwe (Badsfontein farm) and Mr Jan Pickard (Ratefontein Private Game Reserve)	2015/12/12	Email	Dear Ms. Hughes It appears that you have misunderstood our enquiry although it was explicitly stated. The enquiry relates specifically to the <u>exclusion of “occupiers” participation in the Scoping Process</u> itself. You will no doubt be familiar with the relevant regulations that give effect to their rights to participate to the same extent as other landowners. We will await your informed answer.		Land occupiers.
Andre van der Spuy on behalf of Mr Izak van der Merwe (Badsfontein farm) and Mr Jan Pickard (Ratefontein Private Game Reserve)	2015/01/16	Email	Please note that this office is closed until 18 January 2016.	EIMS response: This was noted by EIMS.	General.
Andre van der Spuy on behalf of Mr Izak van der Merwe (Badsfontein farm) and Mr Jan Pickard (Ratefontein	2016/02/02	Email	Dear Ms Hughes Please be advised that after more than 30 minutes of interruption I have been unable to download even one of the DEIA reports and have terminated my efforts. There remain 3 other DEIRs which I will not even attempt to download plus numerous huge file size annexures and additional reports. I am not technically minded but these reports are appear	The project team made arrangements with Mr van der Spuy for an electronic copy of the Draft EIA report to be delivered to the address he provided. The proof of receipt is included in Appendix U.	Request for information/documentation.

Private Game Reserve)			to be essentially unavailable to I&APs unless an exceptional internet facility is at hand (which I do not have). My nearest access to this information is therefore approximately 600km away in Beaufort West and even then will be limited by unrealistic office hours viewing I expect.		
Andre van der Spuy on behalf of Mr Izak van der Merwe (Badsfontein farm) and Mr Jan Pickard (Ratelfontein Private Game Reserve)	2016/02/04	Focus group meeting	Mr Andre van der Spuy representing the landowner Mr Izak van der Merwe and the land occupiers at farm Badsfontein stated that his concerns about the involvement of land occupiers is well documented whereby he feels that the occupiers were excluded from the EIA process to date and were only included after his input about their exclusion, which is a fundamental flaw in the EIA process. Mr van der Spuy insisted that the only way to improve the process would be to re-do the Scoping phase. He also mentioned that he feels there is not enough time presented for occupiers to provide input.	Ms Nobuhle Hughes answered that the initial notification included site notices in and around the study area for the proposed Wind Energy Facilities and associated Grid Connection; advertisements in three newspapers, and landowners asked to assist with occupiers' contact details. The landowner details can be obtained from Deeds records whereas occupiers' contact details are more difficult to solicit. Registration of I&APs including landowners and occupiers has been continuous throughout the EIA process. Furthermore, Ms Hughes highlighted that today and the upcoming public meeting is not the only day for comments on the project, the commenting period is until the 24th February 2016. The comments received and responses issued will be included in the Issues and Responses Report compiled by collating all correspondence with I&APs and will be submitted to the DEA with the Final EIA Report. Occupiers are welcome to send Ms Hughes "please call me" notifications and she will call them back to record their comments. Ms Hughes added her cell phone number on the Comment Sheet copies left with the occupiers towards contacting EIMS. Mr Van der Spuy added that he would be the contact person for the landowners and occupiers should they wish to submit their comments (towards dissemination of information).	Land occupiers

Andre van der Spuy on behalf of Mr Izak van der Merwe (Badsfontein farm) and Mr Jan Pickard (Ratelfontein Private Game Reserve)	2016/02/04	Focus group meeting	Mr Andre van der Spuy voiced his concern about the map presented whereby the alternatives considered during the EIA were not reflected on the map, his other concern relates to the 98 turbines mentioned.	Ms Ashlin Bodasing showed Mr Van der Spuy and the meeting attendants some illustrations of the feasible alternatives considered and stated that the routes and turbine layouts presented are not yet final as considerations are still being made to identify the preferred layout. Further, Ms Bodasing stated that the 98 turbines mentioned in the report and during the meeting pertain to the unlikely (but possible) upper-limit of turbine numbers, but as mentioned with regards to technology alternatives investigated, the types of towers selected will make it possible to determine the final number of turbines as variations that can generate more power will be considered which may result in fewer than 98 turbines being required.	Alternatives
Andre van der Spuy on behalf of Mr Izak van der Merwe (Badsfontein farm) and Mr Jan Pickard (Ratelfontein Private Game Reserve)	2016/02/04	Focus group meeting	<p>Mr Andre van der Spuy further stated that he has various concerns. They are as follows:</p> <p>Work opportunities were mentioned during the meeting, from his experience and involvement in numerous such projects there are no such work opportunities. For example the Van Staden Wind Farm near Port Elizabeth - the July Farmers Weekly stated that only 9 jobs were available during construction (4 for overseas specialists and only 5 for the local community). There was also only 1 job during operation, which was for a maintenance manager. Therefore, the work opportunities from wind farms that usually get mentioned are not true.</p> <p>Further Mr van der Spuy commented that during the meeting it was mentioned that the operational phase of the wind farm will be approximately 20years which is a short time period for job security. He feels the work opportunities mentioned at the meeting for the project are just to make the community hopeful, but without any real benefits. There are a lot of</p>	<p>Ms Katherine Persson answered that as part of the tender process to the Department of Energy (DoE) should the project be approved by the Department of Environmental Affairs, the number of jobs to be created in both the construction and operational phases has to be stated, including any social commitments by the bidder. Should the job numbers presented and social commitments stated not be adhered to the DoE can shut down the project. To this effect it is to the developer's benefit to ensure that the stipulated job opportunities and social commitments are met.</p> <p>Ms Persson further stated that she appreciates the comment about expectations with regards to jobs and agreed that in the Draft EIA Report details regarding the jobs are more general than specific. This is because the specifics on the jobs and exact numbers are determined at a later stage in preparation for the bidding process. A survey of available skills within the surrounding community will be undertaken as part of the preparation to finalise the job details.</p>	Job opportunities

			positive benefits (including work opportunities) presented in the Draft EIA Report, but they are too vague (e.g. no specifics about which jobs and how many).	Mr Andre van der Spuy responded by saying he does not think that is the reason for not including the exact details on work opportunities in the Draft EIA Report, he believes it is a means to evade and mislead the community. He elaborated that such details should be presented during scoping and that critical statements cannot be broad.	
Andre van der Spuy on behalf of Mr Izak van der Merwe (Badsfontein farm) and Mr Jan Pickard (Ratelfontein Private Game Reserve)	2016/02/04	Public meeting	Mr Andre van der Spuy (representing the landowner and occupiers of Badsfontein as well as Rietfontein) stated that the presentation was very motivational however most of it was not true, particularly the mention that the Scoping Phase is completed. He added that everyone is legally entitled to participate in the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process but the project has a fundamental flaw as not all farm occupiers and workers. He further stated that the Ishwati project negative impacts have not been mitigated and he is also concerned about the cumulative impacts of the two projects combined.	Mr Ben Brimble answered that feasibility studies prior to the EIA process were undertaken to determine if the Umsinde Emoyeni project was potentially viable and if any fatal flaws existed. The outcomes of these feasibility or fatal flaw studies in no way prejudiced the EIA process.	Scoping phase; EIA process; Ishwati Emoyeni WEF; Cumulative impacts
Andre van der Spuy on behalf of Mr Izak van der Merwe (Badsfontein farm) and Mr Jan Pickard (Ratelfontein Private Game Reserve)	2016/02/04	Public meeting	Mr Andre van der Spuy raised his concerns that no specifics were provided on the operational phase number of job opportunities, these details are not included in the EIA reports. He added that people at the meeting should ask for these job details, as per the question he raised at the focus group meeting held earlier in the day regarding the information from the Van Staden wind farm. Mr Van der Spuy continued by stating that people should be careful of promises and should ask more questions. He mentioned that farm workers are satisfied with their current jobs in tourism and should the current businesses be affected by the proposed development, the workers will suffer. He stated that the proposed development is likely to result in job losses. Furthermore, Mr van der Spuy felt	Mr Ian Macdonald answered by mentioning that details regarding job opportunities are available on page 107 of the Draft EIA Reports. He added that wind farms create job opportunities and that this does not necessarily have to compromise existing jobs in other sectors.	Impact of the proposed development on existing sectors

			that there was no mention of an impact assessment on tourism and that 20 years operation of a wind farm is less than half of most workers' lifetime.		
Andre van der Spuy on behalf of Mr Izak van der Merwe (Badsfontein farm) and Mr Jan Pickard (Ratelfontein Private Game Reserve)	2016/02/12	Email	<p>Dear Ms. Hughes</p> <p>Our telecom 10 February 2016 refers.</p> <p>As mentioned then, this email constitutes the promised confirmation of that telephone conversation.</p> <p>Firstly, thank you to the EMS and Arcus personnel for meeting with us and our clients at Badsfontein Farm & Country Guesthouse on 4/2/2016. The unexpected presence of the Windlab representative (B. Brimble) at that meeting is noted.</p> <p>Secondly, in repeat of our telephonic request we request an extension of the current comment period pertaining to the Umsinde applications documents for following reasons:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ I was/ am unable to access the electronic copies of the information on the website (below email refers as well). ✓ I have taken possession of our client, Mr. Izak van der Merwe's, hard copy of the report at the late stage of 5/2/2016 but still request an electronic version (CD is fine). ✓ The relevant applications amount to 4 substantial and separate reports, with associated annexures. It is impossible for us to timeously review this amount of information within the current review period; thereafter engage in a process of consultation with our clients in the matter (since our communication facilities with 	<p>EIMS response: Good Afternoon Mr Van der Spuy,</p> <p>I hope you are well. Please advise if you have received your requested electronic copy of the Draft EIA Report yet.</p> <p>With regards to your request for an extended commenting period on the Draft EIA Report, the project team is only able to extend the commenting period until the 7th March 2016. We hope the electronic copy and the additional days will assist in your review of the report and providing comment. Please may you extend the additional time for commenting to the landowners and occupiers you represent.</p>	<p>Land occupier focus group meeting;</p> <p>Request for extension of DEIAR review comment period.</p>

			<p>them are somewhat limited), and prepare relevant submissions.</p> <p>For the reasons recorded above we would request that an additional 30 days be provided during which to prepare our submissions. Therefore it is requested that the comment period be extended to 24 March 2016.</p> <p>Please could you kindly send the CD copy to below postal address.</p> <p>We look forward to your favourable response in this matter.</p>		
Andre van der Spuy on behalf of Mr Izak van der Merwe (Badsfontein farm) and Mr Jan Pickard (Ratelfontein Private Game Reserve)	2016/03/03	Email	<p>Dear Ms. Hughes</p> <p>Please could you provide us with a copy of the <u>original letter of acceptance</u> of the Final Scoping report by the DEA as soon as possible.</p> <p>Thank you.</p>	<p>EIMS response: Good Afternoon Mr Van der Spuy, Please find attached as requested a copy of the letter received from the DEA accepting the Final Scoping Report and Plan of Study for EIA.</p>	Request for documentation.

<p>Andre van der Spuy on behalf of Mr Izak van der Merwe (Badsfontein farm) and Mr Jan Pickard (Ratelfontein Private Game Reserve)</p>	<p>2016/03/07</p>	<p>Email and attached letter</p>	<p>To: Ms. Ashlin Bodasing (the EAP) c/o Ms. N. Hughes (EIMS)</p> <p>Please find attached letter for your information.</p> <p>DEA is advised of the content thereof by way of copy of this correspondence.</p> <p>Attached letter:</p> <p>Dear Ms. Bodasing</p> <p>UMSINDE EMOYENI WIND ENERGY FACILITY APPLICATIONS (FOUR): REFUSAL OF REQUESTED EXTENSION PERIOD, AND OTHER MATTERS.</p> <p>The refusal of the requested extension to the comment period , on behalf of our clients', is noted. The extension granted by the so-called "Project Team" is noted but is rejected since it deprives our clients of the stipulated "reasonable opportunity" to submit their commits on the voluminous four applications to which the current comment period relates. The meaningless extension granted by the undefined "Project Team" therefore to be viewed as being a token gesture which is without effect and our clients refuse to lend their credibility to such tokenism.</p> <p>We hereby formally table the following points:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The material information related to the four applications, and which would be required in order for us to provide a submission to the extent of our clients' wishes and as provided by the law, has been provided late or not at all. 	<p>EIMS response: Dear Mr Van der Spuy,</p> <p>Please find attached responses to your submitted comments. Also attached are the minutes of the focus group meeting held at the Badsfontein farm on the 4th February 2016. These minutes and all other focus group and the public meeting minutes will be made available with the Final EIA Reports for the review of all registered I&APs. Comments on all EIA minutes and the reports can then be sent directly to the competent authority, the Department of Environmental affairs, and a copy sent to us.</p> <p>Attachment:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Thank you for your comments on the proposed development. The project team has reviewed your comments submitted and have responded accordingly. The project team disagrees that information has been provided "late or not at all." Numerous opportunities were provided , including the provision of a CD. Furthermore, all questions put to the project team were answered prior to the formulation of the IRR with the view of providing I&APs the opportunity to engage with the project team. 1.2 Notifications regarding the Draft EIA Reports (DEIAR) to be available in January 2016 were distributed to all I&APs in December 2015, and the actual DEIAR availability notification distributed in mid-January 2016. Reports were made available in hard copy as well as online. A hard copy of the report was sent to Mr van der Merwe and delivered at the agreed upon destination within 2 days of his request. 1.3 Due to the magnitude of the specialist studies and EIAR it was necessary for the reports to be this size. It would compromise the quality and accuracy of the Scoping / EIA process to make the EIAR smaller. An electronic copy 	<p>Request for extension of DEIAR review comment period;</p> <p>Difficulty downloading documents on the website;</p> <p>Request for information/documentation</p> <p>Cumulative impacts;</p> <p>Noise impact,</p> <p>Visual impact;</p> <p>Project team;</p> <p>EAP;</p> <p>Land occupiers;</p> <p>Scoping phase acceptance;</p> <p>Request for public meeting minutes;</p> <p>Ishwati Emoyeni WEF;</p> <p>Land value;</p>
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			<p>necessary information before the onset of the comment period and that which has been subsequently received was received very late into the comment period thereby effectively reducing the already short comment period (inclusive of the offered extension) to a meaningless gesture. Accordingly, we and our clients have not been provided with a “reasonable opportunity” to comment on the applications and raise objection thereto.</p> <p>3. The email of 23/2/2016 Nobuhle Hughes of EIMS refers. This email advises of the offered extension of comment period until 7/2/2016 and which it also advises is the decision of the “Project Team”. The offered extension is regarded as a mere token gesture which has no meaningful effect (and does not therefore amount to a “reasonable opportunity” to comment) and it also does not correctly consider the reasons tabled for our request. It is noted that the so-called “project team” has rejected our reasonable request for extension despite our well-founded reasons. In this regard we note that neither the NEMA nor the EIA Regulations refer anywhere to the existence of a “project team”, and more importantly, do not provide for such entity to make any management or other decisions related to applications submitted under this legislation. Therefore, please advise;</p> <p>3.1 Please advise who specifically comprises the parties (including individuals) on this “project team” ;</p> <p>3.2 Please advise as to whether the applicant and / or any of its employees is represented on this “project team” and,</p>	<p>3.1 The project team does not make management decisions, these decisions are solely the responsibility of the EAP managing the project. Decisions are made, and responses issued, following consultation with the relevant members of the project team. The table below as presented in the EIA reports, comprises the project team:</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Name</th> <th>Organisation</th> <th>Role</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Ashlin Bodasing</td> <td>Arcus Consulting</td> <td>Project Leader (EAP)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Liam Whitlow and Nobuhle Hughes</td> <td>EIMS</td> <td>Public Participation Coordination and Management of I&AP process.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Andrew Pearson and Mike Armitage</td> <td>Arcus Consulting</td> <td>Bird Impact Assessment and Monitoring</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Kate McEwan</td> <td>NSS Environmental</td> <td>Bat Impact Assessment and Monitoring</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Simon Todd</td> <td>Anchor Environmental</td> <td>Terrestrial Ecological Impact Assessment (Flora and Fauna)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Dr Tim Hart</td> <td>ACO Associates</td> <td>Heritage Impact Assessment</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Dr Almond</td> <td>via ACO Associates</td> <td>Palaeontology Assessment</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Dr Brian Colloty</td> <td>Scherman Colloty and Associates</td> <td>Aquatic/ Wetland Assessment</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Morne de Jager</td> <td>Enviro-Acoustic Research</td> <td>Noise Impact Assessment</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Name	Organisation	Role	Ashlin Bodasing	Arcus Consulting	Project Leader (EAP)	Liam Whitlow and Nobuhle Hughes	EIMS	Public Participation Coordination and Management of I&AP process.	Andrew Pearson and Mike Armitage	Arcus Consulting	Bird Impact Assessment and Monitoring	Kate McEwan	NSS Environmental	Bat Impact Assessment and Monitoring	Simon Todd	Anchor Environmental	Terrestrial Ecological Impact Assessment (Flora and Fauna)	Dr Tim Hart	ACO Associates	Heritage Impact Assessment	Dr Almond	via ACO Associates	Palaeontology Assessment	Dr Brian Colloty	Scherman Colloty and Associates	Aquatic/ Wetland Assessment	Morne de Jager	Enviro-Acoustic Research	Noise Impact Assessment	
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		<p>secondly, whether the applicant was engaged in anyway regarding our request for an extension of the comment period;</p> <p>3.3 Given that strict liability lies with the EAP, please advise what the decision of the appointed EAP, and no other, is regarding our request..</p> <p>4. The draft minutes of the stakeholder meeting held with us and our clients (Mr. Frans Harvoor and others of Badsfontein Farm & Country Guesthouse) have not been provided to us yet for review, as was agreed. Likewise the public meeting/ Windlab “road show” draft minutes from the meeting of the same day have neither been provided to us for review. Therefore (notwithstanding the need to reverse the EIA process) it will be necessary for you to include these in a second draft EIR in order to provide for their approval and finalization by participants and thereafter to amend the draft reports according to the significant procedural and substantive issues raised by us and others at both meetings. In fact, as advised at the stakeholder meeting of 4/2/2016, you will be required to reverse the entire EIA process so as to include the “occupiers” of Badsfontein Farm & Country Guesthouse, and other “occupiers”, in order to properly define the scope of the EIA applications within the scoping process and as is required in terms of EIA Regulations 28(1)(h); 27(a) and 54(b)(ii), (iii) all read together. Failure to act accordingly will mean that you, and the DEA, have excluded our clients (and all other “occupiers”) from participation in the critically important scoping process.</p>	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>Bernard Oberholzer</td> <td>Bernard Oberholzer Landscape Architects</td> <td rowspan="2">Visual Assessment</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Quinton Lawson</td> <td>Meirelles Lawson Burger Architects</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Dr JH van der Waals</td> <td>Terrasoils</td> <td>Soil and Agriculture</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Tony Barbour</td> <td>Tony Barbour Environmental Consulting and Research</td> <td>Social Impact Assessment</td> </tr> </table> <p>3.2 The applicant is not part of the project team, as highlighted above. The applicant was consulted with regards to the request for extension of the comment period. Section 56 of the EIA regulations state 56 (1) (a) (ii)...any extension of a timeframe agreed to by the applicant or EAP.</p> <p>3.3 According to the EAP, 50 days is considered a reasonable timeframe for public review and comment, as per the provided response regarding the request for an extension.</p> <p>4. The focus group meeting minutes will be forwarded to AVDS for review and comment prior to finalizing and including in the Final EIA report. The public meeting minutes will be made available in the Final report submitted to DEA for authorisation. Notifications – site posters, where placed on the affected as well as surrounding land, including one at the at the Badsfontein gate, proof of which is included in the public participation report. Furthermore, focus groups were held at surrounding and adjacent farms (in addition to Badsfontein) where-in the EIA process was explained, questions answered and it made clear that communication (via cell phone / email) on any issue was encouraged.</p>	Bernard Oberholzer	Bernard Oberholzer Landscape Architects	Visual Assessment	Quinton Lawson	Meirelles Lawson Burger Architects	Dr JH van der Waals	Terrasoils	Soil and Agriculture	Tony Barbour	Tony Barbour Environmental Consulting and Research	Social Impact Assessment	
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		<p>5. The EAP, Ms. Ashlin Bodasing, has never visited our clients' properties (Badsfontein Farm & Country Guesthouse and Ratelfontein Private Game Reserve), apart from main house of Badsfontein Farm (on 4/2/2016) for a brief stakeholder meeting with Mr. Frans Harvoor and others), despite our comprehensive submissions identifying the numerous concerning potential impacts on our clients' properties and operations and which extend over the whole extent of their properties (and beyond). The EAP is therefore not in a position to issue any impact statement until she has thoroughly acquainted herself with our clients' physical properties (and the issues related to them, as have been raised by our clients). She will therefore need to arrange with our clients to undertake thorough site visits in order to assess the potential negative impacts.</p> <p>6. It is pointed out that many of the potential impacts and concerns identified by our clients during the scoping process have not been properly and honestly investigated by the requisite specialists and therefore, on this account (and others), the current Draft EIR does not represent our clients' concerns, as adjacent landowners, despite these having been tabled early on in the EIA process. The EAP has sought rather to dismiss the issues raised through dishonest argument and sometimes unmandated inputs of unidentified parties. The actions of the DEA towards condoning same, through inter alia acceptance of the Final Scoping Reports, makes the DEA complicit in such non-compliant action. It is noted that the EAP/ EIMS have variously</p>	<p>5. All issues raised by your client Mr Izak van der Merwe were taken into consideration by the various specialists (including social impact assessment) who have been to site and the potentially affected surrounding properties. It should be noted that the previous EAP did visit your Mr Van der Merwe's property during Scoping. Furthermore, your clients were present at the focus group meeting and articulated their concerns at that time as well as at the public meeting at the Murraysburg town hall. An offer for a focus group meeting was extended to Ratelfontein occupiers, but was declined by the landowner.</p> <p>6. All the specialists took the concerns raised during Scoping into consideration while compiling their EIA reports, and this in turn was included and outlined in the draft EIA reports. Their recommendations have influenced the layout of the proposed development. For example, the social impact assessment states the following: "Based on the findings of the specialist Visual Impact Assessment (VIA) the significance of the visual impact associated with the WEF with mitigation was rated Moderate Negative.....The findings of the SIA also indicate that the key affected property in terms of potential visual impacts is Badsfontein Farm owned by Mr Izak van der Merwe. In this regard Badsfontein is also impacted by the wind turbines associated with the Ishwati Emoyeni WEF to the north of the farm. If the wind turbines associated with the Umsinde Emoyeni WEF are located in such a way as they are not visible from Badsfontein Farm the significance rating will be Low Negative. " "A proposed new 132kV overhead transmission line would need to be constructed</p>
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		<p>referred to the acceptance of the Final Scoping Reports by the DEA as being tolerant of the dismissal by the EAP/ EIMS of these identified potential impacts. However, such collaborative agreement between the EAP/ EIMS and DEA does not constitute fulfillment of the relevant legal directives which require that such matters be competently, independently and honestly investigated (under application of the "risk-averse approach"). Such potential impacts and concerns of our clients' include, but are not limited to, the following:</p> <p>6.1 The impact of the Umsinde Emoyeni WEF and infrastructure (and its cumulative impact with Ishwati Emoyeni WEF) on property values and associated operations and which have been entirely excluded (no doubt under influence of the Applicant) despite the negative impacts being inadvertently confirmed by the appointed consultancy's (Arcus) own report "Literature Review: The Impact of Wind Energy Facilities on Land Value" and in which 4 of the 19 carefully selected references actually confirm this negative impact. While the EAP then used the majority finding (i.e. of no significant issue) to dismiss the potential impact, the EAP did not consider her obligation under NEMA to adopt a "risk-averse approach" in her dealings and which then dictates that the potential impact must be properly assessed within the EIA phase of the process. The fact that the EAP's own biased study actually confirmed this negative impact on land values (by approximately 21%) has not prevented the DEA from ignoring our client's protests in this regard and the DEA proceeded to</p>	<p>between the on-site substations and the planned Ishwati Emoyeni WEF located ~ 38km to the west of the Umsinde WEF site. The transmission line will link up with the Eskom Gamma substation located to the west of the Ishwati Emoyeni WEF site. None of the affected landowners interviewed indicated that they had any issues with the proposed transmission line. However, they did indicate that it should be located at a distance from homesteads. Mr Izak van der Merwe also indicated that the overhead transmission line should not be visible from Badsfontein Farm. The findings of the specialist Visual Impact Assessment (VIA) found that the significance rating can potentially be mitigated to Medium Negative significance by means of careful alignment to avoid scenic features and sensitive receptors. Based on the findings of the SIA the significance rating from a social perspective would be Low Negative if the transmission line route addresses the concerns raised by Mr van der Merwe and other local farm owners."</p> <p>6.1 It is disputed that the literature review confirmed the negative impact on surrounding land values to the amount of 21 percent. The Review concluded by saying that there is no common trend of findings that support the theory that WEFs negatively impact on property prices. It was also found that it would not be reliable to transfer findings from one locality to another, and since WEFs can be considered a new industry in this country it would not be feasible or accurate to assign this impact to a proposed South African WEF. DEA agreed with the Literature Review and the conclusions contained therein and for this reason, the question of land values being</p>	
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			<p>approve the Final Scoping Report without acknowledgement of this valid negative potential impact and for which mitigation (by way of compensation to our clients and others) must be required. The complicit action of the DEA must be noted.</p> <p>6.2 Noise impacts: Noise impact on animals (including that of low frequency noise and infrasound) has not been assessed despite our repeated tabling of the concern. Our clients have stated numerous their concerns that the noise impacts may have on the predator-prey relationship (as concerns also Mr. Izak van der Merwe's sheep farming activities) and on game breeding behaviour. This is despite our advice to the EAP of this very impact having been confirmed by the ecological specialist, Mr. Simon Todd, during the EIA process for the adjacent Ishwati Emoyeni wind farm.</p> <p>6.3 Cumulative impacts of all relevant WEFs have not been properly addressed and the finding of an overall positive socio-economic impact is ridiculous considering that the Applicant itself (and the EAP) was, when queried directly, unable to provide any job descriptions for the alleged employment opportunities nor was the Applicant able to provide even a single example of a specific "downstream" business which has resulted from for ANY South African wind farm! This needs to be measured against the sustainable and long-term jobs provided by our clients' Ratelfontein Private Game Reserve and Badsfontein Farm & Country Guesthouse and which will be significantly jeopardized should this irresponsible and environmentally-unsustainable Umsinde</p>	<p>negatively impacted on was scoped out of the EIA.</p> <p>The EAP is not nor has been under any influence of the Applicant, the EAP remains independent, as is required by the EIA regulations.</p> <p>6.2 The noise specialist assessed the referenced document (the FEIR for Ishwati Emoyeni) to try and source the origin of the statement, he found a few references to the potential of noise impact on animals, but none confirming an impact on the predator-prey relationship or even game breeding behaviour. From the document the following statements were found: Pg. 12-17: (Ishwati FEIAR) "Some farmers in the area have raised a concern regarding the noise generated by the turbines and the possible impact this would have on mammalian communities. The levels of noise generated by the turbines and the distance this would carry are important considerations in this regard, but are not simple and vary with turbine type, operating conditions and wind speed and direction. The actual noise generated by modern turbines is relatively low, but within a natural environment without existing noise pollution, the impact of even small amounts of noise can be relatively high in terms of the ability of fauna to detect specific noises out of the background noise." Although little research has addressed this issue with specific regard to wind turbines, in general many fauna respond to noise through behavioral adaptations such as changing the pitch of their calls to fall outside the range affected by the noise. A specific concern raised was the possibility that noise would result in species such as jackal and caracal turning to</p>	
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			<p>Emoyeni WEF be approved. The EAP has been advised of the long-standing socio-economic benefits associated with our clients' ecotourism (and farming) operations yet has failed to properly account for same in a balanced and unbiased approach. It is also known to our clients' that significant social problems have arisen around recently constructed renewable energy developments where temporary foreign personnel have resulted in a spate of unwanted pregnancies amongst the vulnerable local population during the construction phases. It is also necessary to record that the calculated exclusion of "occupiers" (not "landowners") of participant and adjacent properties, by the EAP, from the scoping process and entire EIA process (and which is also illegal i.t.o. various EIA Regulations) means that the real socio-economic impact on the local population cannot be assessed anyway.</p> <p>On page 93 of the Draft Environmental Impact Assessment Report Umsinde Emoyeni Wind Energy Facility Grid Connection Phase 1 regarding avifaunal impacts it is noted that "... the significance of some cumulative impacts is likely to remain high negative even after mitigation". This is an obvious concern to our clients. Even so, the vagueness of this statement and its contribution to understatement must be noted and belies a much greater negative impact than is being presented.</p> <p>The reports carefully avoid statement of any cumulative visual impact (see for instance Section 6.3.4.1 of the Draft Environmental</p>	<p>local livestock to supplement their diet. This is extremely unlikely to occur. Pg 12-17 (Ishwati FEIAR) "Provided that the sensitive faunal habitats such as the rocky dolerite hills can be avoided, the major impact on fauna at the site is likely to occur during the construction phase, when the large amounts of activity and noise generated at this time would deter many species from the vicinity. However, this phase is transient and during the operational phase, noise and activity would be a lot lower and the majority of species would be likely to return to the area. Furthermore, although many animals may be wary of the turbines at first, they would be likely to become habituated to the presence and noise generated by the turbines and would return to normal activity after some time." As discussed in the noise report for Umsinde Emoyeni, scientific studies showed that anthropogenic noise can cause auditory masking, it can result in cochlear damage, changes in individual and social behaviour, altered metabolisms, hampered population recruitment and can subsequently affect the health and service functions of ecosystems. This however is species dependent, it depends on the character of the sound (impulsive versus constant sound), the intensity of the sound as well as the environment where it takes place (impact on doves in a quiet area would be higher than the impact on doves in an urban environment). It is likely that human activity would be the main reason why animals will relocate, and not noise. Once the activities reduce animals will return to their normal behaviour. During construction the more sensitive animals may relocate to areas less impacted by noise (again, species dependent, depending on the</p>	
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		<p>Impact Assessment Report Umsinde Emoyeni Wind Energy Facility Grid Connection Phase 1) since such is probably the most obvious and significant negative impact associated with this proposed development. The clear manipulation by Ms. Ashlin Bodasing, the EAP, of the negative impacts which are detrimental to the Applicants interests (for approval) are noted and are illegal (i.t.o. EIA Regulation 17 which requires that the EAP act impartially).</p> <p>7. The DEIRs do not represent our clients' interests and have not properly investigated the potential impacts identified by our clients. The reports also do not present a truthful and independent assessment of the numerous highly significant environmental impacts that will be associated with this development.</p> <p>8. Our clients', Mr. Frans Harvoor and others, as "occupiers" of Badsfontein Farm & Country Guesthouse where they are variously residents and/ or employees, explicitly advised the EAP at the stakeholder meeting of 4/2/2016 at Badsfontein Farm & Country Guesthouse of their objection to having been excluded (through non-notification) from the scoping process for the applications and also stated their demand that the process be reversed and that the scoping process be correctly and legally undertaken according the EIA Regulations. The EAP and DEA were both advised of this critical and fatal general procedural flaw during the scoping process (via our submissions) but both failed to heed our warning. The current draft reports therefore contain no input from ANY occupiers, including farm labourers and</p>	<p>type of noise and whether the animals feels threatened by the sound, or, as in most cases, the increased people/activities causing this noise), but will return as long as their habitat/food is not compromised. Even sensitive animals would live happily in an area if they feel safe (refer to numerous mining activities observed where game are kept close to the active mining area – personal observations (Noise Specialist). I do not see any potential that noise will impact on animals during the operational phase, not with the levels of noise that the wind turbines will generate.</p> <p>Unfortunately, to date no studies exist that can define noise levels that disturb different species of animals, neither the spectral character which may influence animals. Neither are there any guidelines defining permissible noise levels before animals may be disturbed.</p> <p>6.3 As stated during the focus group and public meeting, the exact job descriptions (which are specific to each area where the development will be taking place) will be finalized if the project is submitted to the Department of Energy's renewable energy procurement programme. Projects in this programme are incentivized to maximize job creation opportunities, particularly for South African citizens, black South African citizens and members of the local community (which is currently defined in the programme as communities within a 50km radius of the project). However based on currently operational wind farms in South Africa, the following examples of potential businesses and jobs were mentioned at the public meeting:</p>
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			<p>farm (non-owner) residents. This is a fatal flaw in the process.</p> <p>The above record is a very brief repeat of our clients' positions of objection with regard to the inappropriate development being pursued, via an illegal EIA process, under cover of the four applications. The EAP is accordingly advised to heed the advice in this submission and to restore the rights of our clients. This letter will be forwarded to the DEA for correct administration (given the significant noted flaws in substance and procedure).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Women-owned catering businesses for the workers; ✓ Guest houses; ✓ Security services (construction and operational phases); ✓ General construction services (e.g. vegetation clearing, digging, etc.); ✓ Support for various local enterprises. <p>Successful projects in the Department of Energy's programme are incentivised to invest a percentage of project revenue in enterprise development, which would be utilized to support start-up companies, small and micro enterprises, in particular.</p> <p>In addition, successful projects are required to invest a minimum of 1% of gross revenue in socio-economic development for the full 20 year operational period of the project.</p> <p>Renewable energy projects in South Africa bring significant socio-economic benefits to the communities where they are situated.</p> <p>During the public meeting when a question was raised regarding the type of jobs that the facility would create and the potential for enterprise development, a representative of the developer (applicant) gave examples of jobs and businesses that have been created as a direct result of other wind farm projects in South Africa. The developer also confirmed that whilst the exact details of job creation for this project have not been finalized at this time (as discussed above) it can be expected that similar jobs and businesses may result from the Umsinde Emoyeni project, should it go ahead.</p> <p>The issue and ramifications of migrant labour was addressed and assessed in depth within</p>
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				<p>the Social impact report.(Section 4.3.4), with the following ratings.</p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>Without Mitigation/Enhancement</td> <td>Medium (Negative for community as a whole)</td> <td>Negative</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Presence of construction workers and potential impacts on family structures and social networks</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>With Mitigation/Enhancement</td> <td>Low (Negative for community as a whole)</td> <td>Negative</td> </tr> </table> <p>In addition it is considered unreasonable to make blanket claims for an entire community; the SIA referenced the Abengoa project in the Northern Cape in this regard but this is one project and cannot be considered sufficient evidence to point towards a direct correlation between unwanted pregnancies and all infrastructure developments. Furthermore, the SIA outlines mitigation programs to be implemented should the project go ahead. These would include developing a code of conduct, an HIV/AIDS awareness programme as well as an “an accredited training and skills development programme aimed at maximising the opportunity for local workers to be employed for the low and semi-skilled positions should be initiated prior to the initiation of the construction phase.”</p> <p>It is therefore the conclusion of the SIA that the social issues associated with the development of a WEF are real but can be mitigated to within reasonable levels. In addition, any identified negative impacts (besides the fact that they</p>	Without Mitigation/Enhancement	Medium (Negative for community as a whole)	Negative	Presence of construction workers and potential impacts on family structures and social networks			With Mitigation/Enhancement	Low (Negative for community as a whole)	Negative
Without Mitigation/Enhancement	Medium (Negative for community as a whole)	Negative											
Presence of construction workers and potential impacts on family structures and social networks													
With Mitigation/Enhancement	Low (Negative for community as a whole)	Negative											

				<p>can be mitigated) are more than offset by the positive and beneficial economic development opportunities that the project would present, as outlined above.</p> <p>It is our understanding that reasonable measures were taken to notify and consult with affected land occupiers. These include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✎ Placing of site notices in the study area. ✎ Placing of advertisement's in the area. ✎ Requests were sent out to all identified landowners requesting that they inform their occupiers of the project and also to provide details of these land occupiers. ✎ This was followed up with telephonic consultation with the landowners to further obtain land occupiers details. ✎ Comment sheets were issued to identified land occupiers, to solicit their inputs. ✎ Specific requests were sent out to identified land occupiers advising them of the EIR as well as opportunities for public/ focus group meetings (all reasonable efforts were taken to accommodate these occupiers- including scheduling numerous focus group meetings at the respective farms). <p>The quoted sentence is from the section on cumulative impacts of the combined Umsinde Emoyeni WEF, Ishwati Emoyeni WEF and all proposed nearby developments. As stated in the same section "it is therefore difficult to say at this stage what the cumulative impact of all the proposed developments will be on birds because there is no cumulative baseline to measure against. The extent of actual impacts will only become known once a few wind farms are developed and operational data becomes available, and because</p>	
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				<p>the developments considered may not all be constructed."</p> <p>Therefore the questioned statement "... the significance of some cumulative impacts is likely to remain high negative even after mitigation" is a precautionary approach and is based on available information, and is not deemed an understatement or too vague.</p> <p>It is also stated that "If all proposed projects are implemented and the appropriate mitigation measures applied as well as the implementation of the post-construction monitoring programmes required, then the overall significance of the discussed impacts can be reduced." Operational monitoring as well as adaptive management will be a cornerstone of the mitigation strategy of the WEF should it go ahead. Cumulative impact will therefore be continuously addressed as operational data becomes available.</p> <p>There has been no manipulation by the EAP. The assessment was done by the visual specialists appointed and took into account cumulative impact.</p> <p>7. The project team does not agree with this. The Scoping and EIA reports and the specialists studies, have taken into account all potential impacts.</p> <p>8. With reference to the response provided in Section 6.3 of this response, it is our understanding that all reasonable measures were taken to identify, notify and consult with the land occupiers. Opportunity was provided for the occupiers to review the EIR and to provide comment. The comments of the occupiers from the focus group meeting will be included in the final EIA to be submitted to the Department. Their main</p>	
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				<p>concern was that they will no longer have employment if the proposed project is developed. No other comments from the occupiers themselves have been received beyond those recorded during the focus group meeting, which was held at Badsfontein Farm (main farm house), in the presence of Mr van der Merwe and Mr van der Spuy.</p> <p>We request that you please provide proof of your authority to act on behalf of each of the "occupiers" that you reference above, in the form of a duly executed Power of Attorney. This proof will be forwarded to the DEA.</p> <p>9. Thank you for your comments and input into this process. All further comments received will be sent directly to the DEA.</p>	
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<p>Andre van der Spuy on behalf of Mr Izak van der Merwe (Badsfontein farm) and Mr Jan Pickard (Ratelfontein Private Game Reserve)</p>	<p>2016/04/05</p>	<p>Email</p>	<p>Dear Ms Hughes</p> <p>Your below email refers. The information has been received.</p> <p>It is noted in the "Response" column of the one attached document that the following is recorded: We request that you please provide proof of your authority to act on behalf of each of the "occupiers" that you reference above, in the form of a duly executed Power of Attorney. This proof will be forwarded to the DEA.</p> <p>5. In order for us to respond please advise re the following important points: Which party is requesting such Power of Attorney?</p> <p>In order for the request to be considered legitimate, and to respond correctly to it if necessary, please request the relevant party to provide the legislative directive(s) upon which this request is based.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Also, EIA Regulation 16(1) reads as follows, "<u>Before</u> conducting ... S&EIR, an <u>applicant</u> must <u>appoint</u> an <u>EAP</u> at own cost to manage the application." (Underlining supplied) NEMA Section 1 dictates that the legal entity for an EAP must be an "individual" (i.e. a natural person) re, ""environmental assessment practitioner", when used in Chapter 5, means <u>the individual</u> responsible for the planning, management and coordination of environmental impact assessments, strategic environmental assessments, 	<p>This comment was noted by EIMS. It was received after the end of the comment period and therefore no response was formulated. This correspondence is included in Appendix V, as it falls outside of the EIA process.</p> <p>It has been previously noted and is common knowledge that the DEA has requested this information as part of the application processes for other WEF EIAs. In light of this, the project team requested a duly executed power of attorney so that this can be included in the FEIAR submission to the DEA.</p> <p>With regard to the applicant's appointment of the EAP, confirmation that the applicant appointed Jennifer Slack as the initial EAP is provided by virtue that the applicant signed the application for Environmental Authorisation (which was submitted to the DEA at the start of the EIA process). This application form was provided in the Draft and Final Scoping Reports.</p> <p>An updated application form is included with this FEIAR submission, in order to confirm that the project details and listed activities applied for are correct, and to provide the DEA with a copy of Ashlin Bodasign's declaration of independence. The applicant has signed this application form.</p> <p>A change of EAP during a long EIA process is not uncommon. We do not see any requirement to submit further documented evidence that the relevant Regulation has been complied with. If the DEA requires additional information to inform the decision-making process we are happy to respond to their request for such.</p>	<p>Correspondence outside the EIA process.</p>
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		<p>environmental management plans or any other appropriate environmental instruments introduced through regulations;”.</p> <p>(Underlining supplied)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Applicant for these subject applications is given as Emoyeni Wind Farms Propriety Limited. • The EAP is most recently given as Ashlin Bodasing and, previous to her, Jennifer Slack. • Therefore, please provide us with signed and <u>appropriately dated</u> copies of the two letters of appointment recording the respective appointments by Emoyeni Wind Farms Propriety Limited (as the declared Applicant) of respectively Ashlin Bodasing and, previous to her, Jennifer Slack, as the appointed EAPs. • Please also advise us where specifically (i.e. with page numbers) copies of these critical letters of appointment can be viewed in the EIA documentation in order for us <u>and the DEA</u> to be satisfied that the legal requirement of EIA Regulation 16(1) has been complied with. <p>Thank you, we look forward to receiving the requested advice, information and copies of the 2 letters of appointment of the EAP(s) in order to formulate our response.</p>		
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<p>M. Bloem – Chief Director: Eastern Cape Provincial Operations</p> <p>Department of Water and Sanitation</p>	2014/08/28	Email and Letter	<p>This office acknowledges receipt of the project. This Department concurs with the This Department concurs with the Assessment Methods indicated on page 86 of the Scoping Report.</p> <p>Additionally, the following should be submitted</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Licence application forms for all water use activities ✓ Section 21 (c) and (i) water use supplementary information questionnaire ✓ Legible map ✓ Design drawings ✓ EMP Report ✓ EIA Report ✓ Stormwater Management Plan ✓ Method Statements ✓ Rehabilitation Plan (wetland, rivers and watercourses) ✓ Monitoring Programme ✓ Environmental Authorisation ✓ Section 27 Motivation <p>The submission of the application should be made to this office.</p> <p>Please do not hesitate to contact this office should you have any queries.</p>	<p>EIMS response: Thank you very much for the correspondence below and attached letter regarding the Umsinde Emoyeni Wind Energy Facility EIA. We acknowledge receipt of your office's comments and confirm that you have been registered as an Interested and Affected Party (I&AP) for the project.</p>	Department of Water and Sanitation Specific Issues
<p>Dr David Harding - Invader plants Specialist</p>	2014/09/05	Email	<p>Good day to you,</p> <p>I have just been reading your scoping report as a section is of interest to me. The section being that on Invasive plants. The paragraph reads:</p> <p><i>5.4.2.1 Alien Plant Invasion Risk</i></p> <p><i>The large amount of disturbance created during construction will leave the site vulnerable to alien plant invasion. This would be a particular concern if it resulted in the spread of large</i></p>	<p>EIMS response: Thank you for your comments on the Umsinde Emoyeni project. We note your comments on invasive plant species and these have been passed onto the Ecology Specialist for the project who is an experienced botanist. As a registered Interested and Affected Party (I&AP) you will be kept informed of the progress of the project.</p> <p>The output of the environmental impact assessment (EIA) process will include an environmental management programme which may, if the findings of the EIA indicate it is required,</p>	Alien Plant Invasion Risk

		<p><i>woody species such as Prosopis which can have ecosystem-level consequences for hydrology as well as biodiversity and the delivery of ecosystem services.</i></p> <p><i>This impact is more likely to occur where extensive or recurrent disturbance takes place and as such is more likely to occur within the WEF. Disturbance along the grid connection would be limited and of much shorter duration. Consequently it is proposed that alien plant invasion impacts be assessed only for the WEF.</i></p> <p><i>If significant impacts are predicted in the EIA, mitigation will be proposed to minimise such effects through management measures.</i></p> <p>The above raises some inaccuracies as the plants likely to “invade” construction areas would be ruderal weeds. Prosopis is unlikely to invade these areas.</p> <p>My interest in writing to you is that my company specialises in the field of vegetation management. We are well placed to assist in Invasive Alien Plant (IAP) and weed management plans for you at this or any other site. We are also experienced in managing the control programmes for these plants. My company has been in operation (profitably) for more than 12 years based on more than 35 years experience.</p> <p>An additional service that we offer is aerial photography of the site including development and construction phases through the use of Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (often called drones). This equipment allows us to take high quality images at a fraction of the cost of using manned rotor wing craft.</p>	<p>include management of invasive plants. We note your experience and contact details in this regard and they have been passed onto the developer should these services be required.</p>	
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<p>Cor van der Walt – LandUse Management</p> <p>Western Cape Department of Agriculture</p>	2014/09/16	Letter	<p>PROPOSED UMSINDE EMOYENI WIND ENERGY FACILITY AND SUPPORTING ESKOM TRANSMISSION AND ESKOM DISTRIBUTION GRID: DIVISION MURRAYSBURG VARIOUS FARMS</p> <p>The Western Cape Department of Agriculture wishes to kindly inform you that due to capacity constraints and processes to be followed (for filing and audit purposes), this office will no longer assess or discuss applications received via e-mail (or internet).</p> <p>Please furnish this office with hard copies of the above mentioned application to our postal address for comment.</p> <p>Please note:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✎ Kindly quote the mentioned reference number (20/9/2/3/5/008) in any future correspondence in respect of the application; ✎ The Department reserves the right to revise initial comments and request further information received. 	<p>EIMS response: Good afternoon Mr. van der Walt,</p> <p>UMSINDE EMOYENI WIND ENERGY FACILITY EIA PROJECT – Ref # 20/9/2/3/5/008</p> <p>Thank you for the letter received (dated 2014-07-28) regarding the above-mentioned project (see also your reference number above). This serves to acknowledge receipt of the letter and to confirm that you have been registered as an I&AP for the project.</p> <p>I called the Department earlier today for clarification regarding the contents of the letter received. The letter states that the Department will not be accepting documents submitted electronically via mail or internet, we are about to make the Final Scoping Report available for comment, please advise if this report will be sufficient or if you would still like to receive the Draft Scoping Report. However, the comment period for the Draft Scoping Report already ended on the 18th of August 2014 and therefore we will not be able to incorporate your comments into the Finalised Scoping Report.</p> <p>During my telephonic conversation with Brendan at the Department, he stated that submitting the Final Scoping instead of the Draft is acceptable, please may you confirm. Furthermore, during our conversation with Brendan, I suggested sending the Department a CD-copy of the Final Scoping Report once it is available for comment as the document is already very large and may be more than one volume in hard copy. Brendan agreed that</p>	General

				we may send the next report in the form of a CD-copy, please may you also confirm that this will be acceptable to the Department.	
Cor van der Walt – LandUse Management Western Cape Department of Agriculture	2014/09/20	Email	<p>We prefer the hard copy. If nothing had change in the Final Scoping Report, a CD is acceptable. And if something has changed, please indicate it on a letter accompanying the CD so that I can know where to look for ease of reading and assessing.</p> <p>I would someday like to arrange a site visit. Please let me know when it would be possible or when you are in that area again.</p>	<p>EIMS response: Thank you very much for returning my telephone call this morning and for the continued correspondence regarding the Umsinde Emoyeni Wind Energy Facility and associated Grid connection EIA project, near the town of Murraysburg.</p> <p>As per our telephonic conversation, we will be distributing the Final Scoping Report (FSR) shortly, and will prepare a hard copy for the Department. The hard copy of the FSR will exclude the Public Participation component t of the report, this part will be submitted on a CD as greed upon during our discussion. The Public Participation component of the FSR contains public consultation information such as proof of adverts and site notices placed, landowner an key stakeholder databases, proof of initial and Draft Scoping Report notification distribution; minutes of various meetings held with I&APs; I&APs correspondence record and comments and Responses Report.</p> <p>I have updated the project's I&APs database with your contact details once the FSR is ready, will send the hard copy and accompanying CD to the said address. We will continue to follow up with you thereafter to confirm receipt of the documents.</p>	General.
Caroline Makhetha – Directorate: Environmental Planning Services National Department of	2014/11/17	Email and attached letter	<p>Dear Ms. Hughes</p> <p>REGARDING APPLICATIONS FOR ENVIROMENTAL AUTHORISATION FOR THE PROPOSED UMSINDE EMOYENI WIND ENERGY FACILITY AND ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE, IN THE WESTERN</p>	EIMS response: This was noted by EIMS.	Receipt/ Acknowledgem ent of notification.

Rural Development and Land Reform			<p>CAPE AND NORTHERN CAPE PROVINCES: EIMS REF LE/NH/1999</p> <p>I hereby acknowledge receipt of your letter dated 16 May 2014.</p> <p>The Department of Rural Development and Land Reform would like to convey its gratitude for being notified about the above mentioned project.</p> <p>The Department has perused the Interested and Affected Party notice for the proposed Umsinde Emoyeni Wind Energy Facility and associated infrastructure and will be at liberty to give substantive commentary on the development once the exact land parcel has been disclosed during the Environmental Impact Assessment Process.</p>		
Manie Abrahams – District Manager Western Cape Department of Health	2014/11/19	Registered post	<p>REGARDING APPLICATIONS FOR ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION FOR THE PROPOSED UMSINDE EMOYENI WIND ENERGY FACILITY AND ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE, IN THE WESTERN CAPE AND NORTHERN CAPE PROVINCES. REF: 19/3/1/R</p> <p>Your letter under reference LW/nh/0999 dated 16th May 2014 concerning the above mentioned refers:</p> <p>You are kindly requested to register this office as well as:</p> <p>Mr. G van Zyl, Central Karoo District Municipality, Private Bag X560, Beaufort West 6970 as I&AP for the duration of the project.</p> <p>Your application in this regard will be greatly appreciated.</p>	EIMS response: Mr. G van Zyl was registered on the I&AP database for this project.	Registration

Anton Wagner – Community member	2015/01/16	Registered mail – Completed Comment Sheet	As a resident of the town I would like to see progress with technological development. It will provide skills in our town. With this project there will also be advantages for the local economy and will solve local community problems, such as unemployment and crime. Tourism will be improved. Infrastructure will improve.	This was included as part of the issues trail.	Technological, Economical and Social Development
Busisiwe Magazi – Western Cape Department of Mineral Resources	2015/01/13	Email	Good day, Please be advised that I will be on maternity leave as from the 1 st September 2014 until the 2 nd February 2015. Kindly forward any inquiries for the office of the Regional Manager to Ms. Ronda Naik on 021 427 1003 or 1000 (switchboard)	This was noted by EIMS.	General
Nomava Notshe – Secretary to the Minister of Rural Development and Land Reform	2015/01/13	Email	My new email address is: nomava.notshe@drdlr.gov.za.	EIMS response: Thank you very much for the revised email address. We will update the project's database accordingly.	Registration
Ronda Naik – Regional Manager Western Cape Department of Mineral Resources	2015/01/13	Email	Please note that I will be on leave and will return on 29 January 2015. Kindly direct any enquiries for the Regional Manager to Mr. Jan Brier; he can be contacted on (021) 427 1051.	This was noted by EIMS.	General
Gail Jacobs – Community member	2015/01/13	Email	Greetings and thank you for your email. Kindly note that I am on leave and will be in office on 21 January 2015.	This was noted by EIMS.	General

Gail Jacobs – Community member	2015/12/04	Email	Greetings and thank you for your e-mail! Kindly note that I am out of office till 7 December and might not respond to e-mails immediately. Please contact Nolundi Henry on 021 808 5417 or NolundiH@elsenburg.com. Regards, Gail.	EIMS response: This was noted by EIMS.	General.
Carl Opperman – Agri Western Cape	2015/01/13	Email	I will be out of the office from the 22/12/2014 until the16/01/2015.	EIMS response: This was noted by EIMS.	General
Carl Opperman – Agri Western Cape	2016/01/15	Email	Thanks for the e-mail. I will be back in the office on the 18/01/2016	EIMS response: This was noted by EIMS.	General.
Ntombiyamayirha Xalabile – Eastern Cape Department of Water and Sanitation	2015/01/13	Email	Good day colleagues, Can we please have the hard copy of the Final Scoping Report posted or send to us via courier to any of the following addresses: 140 Govan Mbeki Avenue 6 th Floor, Starport Building Port Elizabeth 6000	EIMS response: Good afternoon, Thank you for responding to our notification regarding the availability of the Final Scoping Report (FSR) for the Umsinde Emoyeni Wind Energy Facility EIA project. As per our telephonic conversations earlier today, we are making arrangements to send you a hardcopy of the FSR (with the Public Participation component, Appendix 1.1 on CD as agreed) to the contact details provided below.	Request for documentation
Ntombiyamayirha Xalabile – Eastern Cape Department of Water and Sanitation	2015/01/26	Email	Good day Nobuhle, This is to confirm that we have received the Report.	This was noted by EIMS.	General
Annette Stoltz – South Africa Civil Aviation Authority	2015/01/13	Email	Good day, The application was sent to our registry. You will receive an acknowledgement of receipt shortly.	This was noted by EIMS.	General

Zulfah Mohamed – Ministry of Transport and Public Works	2015/01/14	Email	Good morning, Please can Hector Eliot be removed from your email / contact database. Please confirm that this has been done.	EIMS response: Thank you for contacting us. This serves to confirm that Mr. Hector Eliot has been removed from the project's Interested and Affected Party (I&AP) database as per your request.	De-registration
John Geeringh - Eskom	2015/01/14	Email and attached document	DEA Ref:14/12/16/3/3/2/684 DEA Ref:14/12/16/3/3/2/685 DEA Ref:14/12/16/3/3/2/686 DEA Ref:14/12/16/3/3/2/687 Please find herewith attached Eskom requirements for infrastructure development or at near Eskom Infrastructure. <u>Eskom requirements for work at or near Eskom infrastructure</u> 1. Eskom's rights and services must be acknowledged and respected at all times. 2. Eskom shall at all times retain unobstructed access to and egress from its servitudes. 3. Eskom's consent does not relieve the developer from obtaining the necessary statutory, landowner or municipal approvals. 4. Any cost incurred by Eskom as a result of non-compliance to any relevant environmental legislation will be charged to the developer. 5. If Eskom has to incur any expenditure in order to comply with statutory clearances or other regulations as a result of the developer's activities or because of the presence of his equipment or installation within the servitude restriction area, the developer shall pay such costs to Eskom on demand. 6. The use of explosives of any type within 500 metres of Eskom's services shall only occur	This was forwarded to the applicant for their information and inclusion into design.	Eskom specific conditions

			<p>with Eskom's previous written permission. If such permission is granted the developer must give at least fourteen working days prior notice of the commencement of blasting. This allows time for arrangements to be made for supervision and/or precautionary instructions to be issued in terms of the blasting process. It is advisable to make application separately in this regard.</p> <p>7. Changes in ground level may not infringe statutory ground to conductor clearance or statutory visibility clearance. After any changes in ground level, the surface shall be rehabilitated and stabilised so as to prevent erosion. The measures shall be to Eskom satisfaction.</p> <p>8. Eskom shall not be liable for the death of or injury to any person or for the loss of or damage to any property whether as a result of the encroachment or of the use of the servitude area by the developer, his/her agent, contractors, employees, successors in title, and assignees. The developer indemnifies Eskom against loss, claims or damages including claims pertaining to consequential damages by third parties and whether as a result of damage to or interruption of or interference with Eskom's services or apparatus or otherwise. Eskom will not be held responsible for damage to the developer's equipment.</p> <p>9. No mechanical equipment, including mechanical excavators or high lifting machinery, shall be used in the vicinity of Eskom's apparatus and/or services, without prior written permission having been granted by Eskom. If such permission is granted the developer must give at least seven working days' notice prior to the</p>		
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			<p>commencement of work. This allows time for arrangements to be made for supervision and/or precautionary instructions to be issued by the relevant Eskom Manager. Note: Where an electrical outage is required, at least fourteen work days are required to arrange it.</p> <p>10. Eskom's right and duties in the servitude shall be accepted as having prior right at all times and shall not be obstructed or interfered with.</p> <p>11. Under no circumstances shall rubble, earth or other material be dumped within the servitude restriction area. The developer shall be liable to Eskom for the cost of any remedial action which has to be carried out by Eskom.</p> <p>12. The clearance between Eskom's live electrical equipment and the proposed construction work shall be observed as stipulated by Regulation 15 of the Electrical Machinery Regulations of the Occupational Health and Safety Act, 1993 (Act 85 of 1993).</p> <p>13. Equipment shall be regarded electrically live and therefore dangerous at all times.</p> <p>14. In spite of the restrictions stipulated by Regulation 15 of the Electrical Machinery Regulation of the Occupational Health and Safety Act, 1993 (Act 85 of 1993), as an additional safety precaution, Eskom will not approve the erection of houses, or structures occupied or frequented by human beings, under the power lines or within the servitude restriction area.</p> <p>15. Eskom may stipulate any additional requirements to highlight any possible exposure to Customers or Public to coming into contact or be exposed to any dangers of Eskom plant.</p>		
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			<p>16. It is required of the developer to familiarise himself with all safety hazards related to Electrical plant.</p> <p>17. Any third party servitudes encroaching on Eskom servitudes shall be registered against Eskom's title deeds at the developer's own cost. If such servitude is bought into being, its existence should be endorsed on the Eskom servitude deed concerned, while the third party's servitude deed must also include the rights of the affected Eskom servitude.</p>		
Andiswa Ndlela – Western Cape Department of Human Settlements	2015/01/16	Email	<p>By the direction of Mr. T. Mguli, Head of Department: Human Settlements, I acknowledge with thanks receipts of your letter, the content of which has been noted.</p> <p>This matter will receive the attention it deserves.</p>	This was noted by EIMS.	Acknowledgment of receipt of Notification
Tshegofatso Honama – Square Kilometre Array	2015/01/16	Email	<p>1. EIMS received a phonecall from Mr. Tshegofatso Monama from SKA to inform EIMS that he is having trouble downloading Appendix 1.2 of the Umsinde Emoyeni WEF Final Scoping Report (FSR) from the EIMS website because the file would not open.</p> <p>2. Mr. Monama thanked EIMS for the quick response</p>	<p>1. EIMS response: EIMS thanked Mr. Monama for his phonecall and apologised for any inconvenience caused. EIMS let Mr. Monama know that they will report the matter to EIMS's IT specialist so that it can be rectified. EIMS informed Mr. Monama that the FSR is also available on the Environmental Assessment Practitioner's (EAP's) website for download. EIMS furnished Mr. Monama with the EAP's website address so that Mr. Monama could download the FSR.</p> <p>2. This was noted by EIMS.</p>	Request for information.
Ms. L. Tools Bernado Northern Cape Department of Environment	2015/01/21	Email	The Department confirms having received the Final Scoping Report for environmental authorisation of the above mentioned project on the 13 th January 2015. As required in term of the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulation, 2010.	This was noted by EIMS.	Acknowledgment of receipt of FSR .

and Nature Conservation			The application has been assigned the reference number NC/NAT/NAM/UMS1/2014 . Kindly quote this reference number in any future correspondence in respect of the application. Please note the responsible officer is going to be Ms. O Ndzumao and can be contacted at 027 718 8800.		
Ms. L. Tools Bernado Northern Cape Department of Environment and Nature Conservation	2015/02/20	Registered letter	<p>ADDITIONAL PUBLIC CONSULTATION OPPORTUNITY – ESTENSION OF COMMENT PERIOD FOR THE FINAL SCOPING REPORT</p> <p>The Department confirms having received the Final Scoping Report for environmental authorisation of the above mentioned project on the 19th February 2015. As required in terms of the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations, 2010.</p> <p>The application has been assigned the reference number NC/NAT/NAM/UMS1/2014. Kindly quote this reference number in any future correspondence in respect of the application. Please note the responsible officer is going to be Ms. O Ndzumao and can be contacted at 027 718 8800.</p>	This was noted by EIMS.	Acknowledgment of receipt of FSR
Ms. L. Tools Bernado Northern Cape Department of Environment and Nature Conservation	2016/01/22	Letter	<p>The Department confirms having received the Draft EIA Report for environmental authorisation for the above mentioned project on the 21st January 2016. As required in terms of the EIA, 2010.</p> <p>The application has been assigned the reference number NC/NAT/NAM/UMS1/2014. Kindly quote this reference number in any future correspondence in respect of the application. Please note the responsible officer is going to be Mr. Isaac Gwija can be contacted at 053 631 0601/16.</p>	This was noted by EIMS.	Acknowledgment of receipt of DEIAR.

Mr. Richard Moya Lucas	2015/02/16	Registered letter - Completed Comment form	<p>Im very sorry to sent this letter to you at this time but its for the sake of our town, veld and our plants and to know about every progress you make and just to keep me informed please! Please.</p> <p>Accordingly to the power intervals and saving of power it will be better for job creation, alleviation of poverty and hunger but mostly my main concern is to know what's going on around us and please let me know when you let the others but Im very sorry for my letter at this time later. I'm find this from others whom were at the meeting last year when you held the last meeting.</p> <p>I'm begging you to let me know also about every little progress you make that's I'm asked you to forgive me for the letter this late / after due time or deadline.</p> <p>I'm deeply concern about our town developing and economy.</p> <p>Yours in Development.</p>	This was noted by EIMS and included as part of the issues trail.	Flora Job creation
Edwards Daniels – Community member	2015/01/26	Email	Thanks for your update (regarding the availability of the Final Scoping Report). I just start with my N2 theory at Africa Skill College in George. Goodluck.	EIMS response: This was noted by EIMS.	General.
Edwards Daniels – Community member	2016/03/01	Email	Good morning, Edward Daniels. I would like to wish you good luck with your way foward.	<p>EIMS response: Good Morning Edward</p> <p>Thank you very much for responding to our notification and for your comment, it has been noted by the project team.</p>	General.
Mr. Jan Pickard, Surrounding landowner	2016/02/04	Telephone	EIMS phoned Mr. Pickard regarding arrangements for a focus group meeting with the land occupiers.	<p>Dear Mr Pickard,</p> <p>My colleague Simone has informed us that you and the occupiers of your property Ratelfontein will not be available for the proposed focus group</p>	Focus group meeting with land occupiers

				<p>meeting on Friday 5th February 2016 (08h00 – 09h00). We had previously requested your assistance with the contact details of the occupiers of your property in an effort to include them in the project's Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process. You were not willing to provide us with the occupiers contact details and recommended that we meet with the occupiers in person on your property to inform them about the project and get their comments.</p> <p>However, since you and the occupiers will not be available for the proposed focus group meeting, please may you provide us with the occupiers' contact details so that we may be able to provide us with the occupiers' contact details so that we may add them to the Interested and Affected Party database and include in future correspondence.</p> <p>We appreciate your assistance in this matter.</p>	
<p>Modisa Rabapane – Admin clerk for Dr NP Makgalemele</p> <p>National Department of Rural Development and Land Reform</p>	2015/02/19	Email and attached letter	<p>Good day,</p> <p>Please find attached letter for your information.</p> <p><u>Regarding Applications for Environmental Authorisation for the Proposed Umsinde Emoyeni Wind Energy Facility and Associated Infrastructure, in the Western and Northern Cape Provinces: EIMS Ref: LW/NH/0999</u></p> <p>I hereby acknowledge receipt of your letter dated 16 May 2014.</p> <p>The Department of Rural Development and Land Reform would like to convey its gratitude for being notified about the abovementioned project.</p>	<p>EIMS response: Dear Dr. NP Makgalemele,</p> <p>Thank you for your communication.</p> <p>As a registered I&AP you will be kept informed as the project progresses and further reports are released.</p>	Acknowledgment of receipt of Notification

			The Department perused the Interested and Affected Party notice for the proposed Umsinde Emoyeni Wind Energy Facility and associated Infrastructure and will only be at liberty to give substantive commentary on the development once the exact land parcel has been disclosed during the Environmental Impact Assessment Process.		
Andiswa Somketile - Correspondence Hub Department of Human Settlements	2015/02/26	Email	Good day Ms Hughes I hereby acknowledge receipt of your correspondence, the contents of which have been noted.	This was noted by EIMS.	Acknowledgment of receipt of Notification
Ronelle Visagie - Platberg Karoo Raptor Project Endangered Wildlife Trust	2015/02/26	Email	Dear Sir Is it possible to send me the electronic version of the Scoping Report? I cannot find it on your website.	EIMS contacted Ms. Ronelle Visagie to assist her with accessing the Final Scoping Report (FSR) from the EIMS website as she was not able to find the FSR on the website. EIMS informed Ms. Visagie that since during the telephonic conversation she was not near her computer, she would let EIMS know if she had any further problems accessing the FSR documents.	Request for Documentation

<p>Guy Thomas - Heritage Officer (Archaeology)</p> <p>Heritage Western Cape</p>	<p>2015/04/24</p>	<p>Email and attached letter</p>	<p>Dear Applicant</p> <p>Please find the attached response regarding your application.</p> <p>The hard copy will be sent via post, or can be collected from the HWC offices.</p> <p>Attachment:</p> <p>CASE NUMBER: 14120410GT0119E NID PROPOSED UMSINDE EMOYENI WIND ENERGY FACILITY, MURRAYSBURG</p> <p>The matter has reference.</p> <p>Your NID received on 19 Dec 2015 was tabled and the following was discussed:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The application is for the construction of a large Wind Energy Facility in the central Karoo. 2. Various construction activities will occur, notably including the construction of turbines, access roads and cable trenches. These activities may likely to impact heritage resources in the ground. The character of the site will be altered in terms of its visual character, as well as other potential below ground heritage resources. <p>Requirement:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Since there is reason to believe that heritage resources will be impacted upon, HWC requires an HIA in terms of S. 38.(3) of the NHRA (Act 25 of 1999) assessing the impacts on the following heritage resources which it has identified; historical structures, cultural landscape, archeology, Paleontology 		
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			<p>2. An HIA is required consisting of an archaeological study, a paleontological study, a study describing the cultural landscape as well as a visual impact assessment.</p> <p>3. An integrated set recommendations is required.</p>		
Dr. M.E. Tau – Acting Deputy Director – General; Forestry	2015/07/08	Registered letter	<p>PROPOSED UMSINDE EMOYENI WIND ENERGY FACILITY AND ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE: REMAINDER OF FARM NO. 28 (SWAVEL KRANSE); PORTION 2 (HAARTEBEESTFONTEIN) OF FARM SWAVEL KRANSE NO.28; PORTION 1 OF FARM NO. 29 (HOUT KLOOF); REMAINDER OF PORTION 1 (SPRINGFONTEIN) OF FARM DE HOOP NO. 30, PORTION 2, 3 AND PORTION 4 OF THE FARM DE HOOP NO. 30; PORTION 1 OF THE FARM MATJES KLOOF NO. 27; THE FARM VOETPAD NO. 51; PORTION 4 (PORTION OF PORTION 1), PORTION 7 (DE TAFEL) (PORTION OF PORTION 2 OF THE FARM DRIEFONTEIN NO. 26; PORTION 1 OF THE FARM MIDDEL VALY NO. 52; REMAINDER AND PORTION I OF THE FARM LKEIN DRIEFONTEIN NO. 152, THE FARM RHENOSTERFONTEIN NO. 50; PORTION 7 (PORTION OF PORTION 6) AND PORTION 2 (PORTION OF PORTION 9) OF THE FARM WITTEKLIP NO. 32; PORTION 2, REMAINDER OF PORTION 1 (ZWAGGERSHOEK-SUCCESS), PORTION 3</p>	This was noted by EIMS and forwarded to the applicant.	General.

			<p>(VOORSPOED) (PORTION 2 OF PORTION 1) AND THE REMAINDER OF THE FARM LEEUWENFONTEIN NO. 6; PORTION 2 (PORTION OF PORTION 1) AND PORTION 4 (SPES BONA) (PORTION OF PORTION 1) OF THE FARM ALLEMANSFONTEIN NO. 7; THE FARM KLEIN LOSKOP NO. 5; PORTION 3 (ROOIKOPIES), PORTION 1 (KRIEGER'S FONTEIN) AND THE REMAINDER OF THE FARM DRIEFONTEIN NO. 8; THE FARM RIET POORT NO. 9; PORTION 3 OF THE FARM BADFONTEIN NO. 10; THE REMAINDER AND PORTION 2 OF THE SCHIETKUIL NO. 3, DIVISION MURRAYSBURG, PORTION 1, PORTION 3 (PORTION OF PORTION 2), PORTION 4 (ANNEX KLIPPLAAT) (PORTION OF PORTION 2), PORTION 7 (MIDDELSTE RIVIER), PORTION 6, REMAINDER OF PORTION 2 AND REMAINDER OF THE FARM KLIPPLAAT NO. 109, DIVISION RICHMOND, WESTERN CAPE PROVINCE.</p> <p>With reference to the above-mentioned matter, the department wishes to inform you that the portions are still under the jurisdiction of the Subdivision of Agricultural Land Act, 70 of 1970 and the application will be considered upon the formal application in terms of the Act 70 of 1970.</p> <p>The decision does not exempt any property from the provisions of any other law, with special reference to the Conservation of Agricultural Resources Act, 1983 (Act 43 of 1983) and does not purport to interfere with the rights of any person who may have an interest in the agricultural land.</p>		
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Lana Ignjatović - Branch Administrator Cape Town Leads 2 Business	2015/08/27	Email	Good afternoon, Has the EA been issued yet? Your kind assistance will be greatly appreciated.	EIMS response: Good Morning Lana, Thank you for your continued interest and involvement with the above-mentioned project. The project is still in the EIA phase, notification about the availability of the Draft EIA Report will be distributed to registered I&APs such as yourself, prior to the report being made available for public review.	Request for Information
Lana Ignjatović - Branch Administrator Cape Town Leads 2 Business	2015/09/03	Email	Good morning, Thank you. Your kind assistance is always appreciated	EIMS response: This was noted by EIMS.	General.
Lana Ignjatović - Branch Administrator Cape Town Leads 2 Business	2015/11/26	Email	Good morning, Thank you for this mail. I also received a fax from you for this Notification. Please delete my fax number, as I prefer to receive these notifications via email and not facsimile. Many thanks. Have a marvellous day further.	EIMS response: Hi Lana, Thank you for your feedback, I have removed your fax number from the database to ensure that you do not get fax notifications in the future. Have a wonderful week ahead too!	General.
Lana Ignjatović - Branch Administrator Cape Town Leads 2 Business	2015/12/04	Email	Good afternoon, Thank you. Please don't worry to send me a facsimile. The email is perfect. Thank you. Have a wonderful Christmas and New Year.	EIMS response: This was noted by EIMS.	General.

Jacques Theron - Landowner	2015/11/03	Email	<p>Good afternoon;</p> <p>On Leeufontein farm the following reside in the main house:</p> <p>Jaco van Heerden - Tel: 072 356 9199 – jacovastrap@gmail.com</p> <p>Sophia van Heerden – Tel: 082 759 9715 – somesugarsophia@gmail.com</p> <p>Worker: Stefaans – 078 444 8466.</p>	EIMS response: Thank you very much for responding to our request and for the contact details provided. We have added the contact details to the Interested and Affected Party Database for the above mentioned project.	Land Occupier Contact Details
Nicole Abrahams – Environmental coordinator SANRAL – Western Region	2015/11/16	Email	<p>Good day Ms Nobuhle Hughes</p> <p>I would herewith like to register as IAP for the above listed project. Locality plans can be forwarded to myself.</p>	<p>EIMS response: Good morning Nicole</p> <p>Thank you for responding to the notification regarding the Umsinde Emoyeni Project, this serves to confirm that you have been registered as an Interested and Affected Party (I&AP) as requested. The project is currently in the EIA Phase, all registered I&APs will be notified about the availability of the draft EIA Report shortly.</p> <p>Please also find attached the locality map for the proposed project for your review, I hope it is helpful. Previous correspondence (Scoping Phase) with SANRAL Western Region has been with Ms. Colene Runkel and Ms. Rene De Kock, should you wish for some background on the project.</p> <p>Please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any queries or concerns.</p>	Registration Request for Documentation
Mrs. Karen Hoogendijk - Landowner	2015/12/09	Telephone	Mrs. Karen Hoogendijk requested for more information regarding the proposed and EIMS's role in the project.	<p>EIMS response: Good Afternoon Mrs Hoogendijk,</p> <p>My colleague Simone Smit has been in contact with you requesting for the contact details of occupiers on your property and informed me you requested some more information regarding the project and our role, towards determining if you can assist us with the occupiers' details. Please find</p>	Land Occupier Contact Details

				<p>attached the Background Information Document regarding this proposed development for your information, as well as the letter recently distributed to landowners regarding assistance with regards to ensuring occupiers' inclusion in the project process.</p> <p>We are following up on this letter by asking landowners to provide us with occupiers contact details for inclusion on the project database as well as so that we can consult them and inform them about the project verbally. Your assistance with the contact details of occupiers of your property will be greatly appreciated.</p> <p>Please do not hesitate to contact us should you have any queries or concerns.</p>	
Mrs. Karen Hoogendijk - Landowner	2015/12/14	Email	<p>Dear Nobuhle</p> <p>We refer to your letter dated 9 December 2015.</p> <p>The tenant on the farm is 'n Mr. Martin Hesselning. His e-mail address is: trouberg@vodamail.co.za.</p>	This was noted by EIMS and Mr. Martin Hesselning was added to the I&AP Database for this project.	Land Occupier Contact Details
Lindiwe Franks – Northern Cape Department of Water and Sanitation	2016/01/15	Email	<p>Good Day</p> <p>I am on leave from 13 to 20 January 2016 for urgent matters kindly contact Ms Colleen Smuts on 053 830 8831 or email smutsc@dws.gov.za.</p>	This was noted by EIMS.	General.

Morgan Griffiths - WESSA PE Office	2016/01/19	Email	<p>The Northern Cape Regional Office of WESSA in not dealing with EIA and development matters.</p> <p>Please address letters, registered letters, faxes or hard copies of documents to Morgan Griffiths, Environmental Governance Programme Manager. His contact details are:</p> <p>WESSA PE Office Tel: +27 (0)41 585 9606 Fax: +27 (0)86 6149701 Cell: +27 (0)72 4175793 Email: morgan.griffiths@wessa.co.za URL: www.wessa.org.za Street: 2 Lawrence Street, Central Hill, Port Elizabeth, 6001 Post: PO Box 12444, Centrahil, Port Elizabeth, 6006, South Africa</p>	<p>EIMS response: Good Afternoon,</p> <p>Thank you very much for your feedback, we will send the notification and future correspondence regarding EIA projects to Mr Griffiths.</p>	General.
Mr. Izak van Heerden – Surrounding landowner	2016/01/28	Telephone	<p>EIMS phoned Mr. van Heerden regarding making arrangements for a focus group meeting with the land occupiers.</p>	<p>EIMS response: Good Day Mr Van Heerden</p> <p>As per your telephonic conversation with my colleague Simone earlier this week, we are preparing to travel to Murraysburg next week for the scheduled public meeting on the 4th February 2016 (from 3pm to 5pm). We would like to arrange a focus group meeting at your property with your land occupiers/workers as they will not be able to attend the scheduled public meeting.</p> <p>We will be available for a focus group meeting at your farm Schietkuil on Thursday 4th February 2016 from 11h30 to 12h00. We will be having several meetings on the day and travelling to various farms and thus the proposed times may vary slightly on the day. Please may you confirm that you are happy with the proposed time by 4pm tomorrow if possible so that we may finalise travel arrangements. We look forward to hearing from you</p>	Focus Group Meeting Arrangements.

				as well as to see you next work to discuss the proposed project.	
Mr. Kobus van Heerden – Surrounding landowner	2016/01/28	Telephone	EIMS phoned Mr. van Heerden regarding making arrangements for a focus group meeting with the land occupiers.	<p>Good Morning Mr Van Heerden,</p> <p>As per your telephonic conversation with my colleague Simone earlier this week, we are preparing to travel to Murraysburg next week for the scheduled public meeting on the 4th February 2016 (from 3pm to 5pm). We would like to arrange a focus group meeting at your property with your land occupiers/workers as they will not be able to attend the scheduled public meeting.</p> <p>We will be available for a focus group meeting at your farm Klipplaat on Thursday 4th February 2016 from 09h30 to 10h00. We will be having several meetings on the day and travelling to various farms and thus the proposed times may vary slightly on the day. Please may you confirm that you are happy with the proposed time by 4pm tomorrow if possible so that we may finalise travel arrangements. We look forward to hearing from you as well as to see you next work to discuss the proposed project.</p>	Focus Group Meeting Arrangements.
Mr. Martin Hesselink – Surrounding landowner	2016/01/28	Telephone	EIMS phoned Mr. Hesselink regarding making arrangements for a focus group meeting with the land occupiers.	<p>EIMS response: Good Day Mr Hesselink,</p> <p>As per your telephonic conversation with my colleague Simone earlier this week, we are preparing to travel to Murraysburg next week for the scheduled public meeting on the 4th February 2016 (from 3pm to 5pm). We would like to arrange a focus group meeting at your property with your land occupiers/workers as they will not be able to attend the scheduled public meeting.</p> <p>We will be available for a focus group meeting at your farm Driefontein on Wednesday 3rd February 2016 from 18h15 to 18h45. We will be having several meetings on the day and travelling</p>	Focus Group Meeting Arrangements.

				to various farms and thus the proposed times may vary slightly on the day. Please may you confirm that you are happy with the proposed time by 4pm tomorrow if possible so that we may finalise travel arrangements. We look forward to hearing from you as well as to see you next work to discuss the proposed project.	
Mr. Martin Hesselink - Surrounding landowner Farm Driefontein	2016/02/04	Focus group meeting	Mr Hesselink, the landowner who was also present for the meeting stated that he has no problem with the proposed development as long as he can keep farming. He elaborated that he would have preferred to sell his property to the project and go start somewhere new if it were possible. He further mentioned that he has seen specialists doing assessments in the vicinity of his property in the past. Mr Hesselink stated that he currently struggles with power supply from Eskom.	This was noted by the project team.	General; Struggles with current power supply.
Mr. Kayne Kingwill - Surrounding landowner	2016/01/28	Telephone	EIMS phoned Mr. Kingwill regarding making arrangements for a focus group meeting with the land occupiers.	EIMS response: Good Day Mr Kingwill, As per your telephonic conversation with my colleague Simone earlier this week, we are preparing to travel to Murraysburg next week for the scheduled public meeting on the 4th February 2016 (from 3pm to 5pm). We would like to arrange a focus group meeting at your property with your land occupiers/workers as they will not be able to attend the scheduled public meeting. We will be available for a focus group meeting at your farm Middelvlei on Wednesday 3rd February 2016 from 14h30 to 15h00 . We will be having several meetings on the day and travelling to various farms and thus the proposed times may vary slightly on the day. Please may you confirm that you are happy with the proposed time by 4pm	Focus Group Meeting Arrangements.

				tomorrow if possible so that we may finalise travel arrangements. We look forward to hearing from you as well as to see you next work to discuss the proposed project.	
Mr. Christoffel Slabbert – Surrounding landowner	2016/01/28	Telephone	EIMS phoned Mr. Slabbert regarding arrangements for a focus group meeting with the land occupiers.	<p>EIMS response: Good Day Mr Slabbert,</p> <p>As per your telephonic conversation with my colleague Simone earlier this week, we are preparing to travel to Murraysburg next week for the scheduled public meeting on the 4th February 2016 (from 3pm to 5pm). We would like to arrange a focus group meeting at your property with your land occupiers/workers as they will not be able to attend the scheduled public meeting.</p> <p>We will be available for a focus group meeting at your farm Voetpad on Wednesday 3rd February 2016 from 15h45 to 16h15. We will be having several meetings on the day and travelling to various farms and thus the proposed times may vary slightly on the day. Please may you confirm that you are happy with the proposed time by 4pm tomorrow if possible so that we may finalise travel arrangements. We look forward to hearing from you as well as to see you next work to discuss the proposed project.</p>	Focus Group Meeting Arrangements.
Mr. Fanus van der Merwe – Surrounding landowner	2016/01/28	Telephone	EIMS phoned Mr. Slabbert regarding making arrangements for a focus group meeting with the land occupiers.	<p>EIMS response: Good Day Mr Van der Merwe,</p> <p>As per your telephonic conversation with my colleague Simone earlier this week, we are preparing to travel to Murraysburg next week for the scheduled public meeting on the 4th February 2016 (from 3pm to 5pm). We would like to arrange a focus group meeting at your property with your land occupiers/workers as they will not be able to attend the scheduled public meeting.</p>	Focus Group Meeting Arrangements.

				<p>We will be available for a focus group meeting at your farm Badsfontein on Thursday 4th February 2016 from 08h00 to 09h00. We will be having several meetings on the day and travelling to various farms and thus the proposed times may vary slightly on the day. Please may you confirm that you are happy with the proposed time by 4pm tomorrow if possible so that we may finalise travel arrangements. We look forward to hearing from you as well as to see you next work to discuss the proposed project.</p>	
Mr. Jan Pickard – Surrounding landowner	2016/01/28	Telephone	EIMS phoned Mr. Pickard regarding making arrangements for a focus group meeting with the land occupiers.	<p>EIMS response: Good Day Mr Pickard,</p> <p>As per your telephonic conversation with my colleague Simone earlier this week, we are preparing to travel to Murraysburg next week for the scheduled public meeting on the 4th February 2016 (from 3pm to 5pm). We would like to arrange a focus group meeting at your property with your land occupiers/workers as they will not be able to attend the scheduled public meeting.</p> <p>We will be available for a focus group meeting at your farm Ratelfontein on Friday 5th February 2016 from 08h00 to 09h00. We will be having several meetings on the day and travelling to various farms and thus the proposed times may vary slightly on the day. Please may you confirm that you are happy with the proposed time by 4pm tomorrow if possible so that we may finalise travel arrangements. We look forward to hearing from you as well as to see you next work to discuss the proposed project.</p>	Focus Group Meeting Arrangements.
Mr. Jan Pickard – Surrounding landowner	2016/02/02	Email	EIMS phoned Mr. Pickard regarding making arrangements for a focus group meeting with the land occupiers.	<p>EIMS response: Dear Mr Pickard,</p> <p>My colleague Simone has informed us that you and the occupiers of your property Ratelfontein will not be available for the proposed focus group meeting on Friday 5th February 2016 (08h00 –</p>	Focus Group Meeting Arrangements.

				<p>09h00). We had previously requested your assistance with the contact details of the occupiers of your property in an effort to include them in the project's Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process. You were not willing to provide us with the occupiers contact details and recommended that we meet with the occupiers in person on your property to inform them about the project and get their comments.</p> <p>However, since you and the occupiers will not be available for the proposed focus group meeting, please may you provide us with the occupiers' contact details so that we may be able to provide us with the occupiers' contact details so that we may add them to the Interested and Affected Party database and include in future correspondence.</p> <p>We appreciate your assistance in this matter.</p>	
Land occupiers of Farm Voetpad	2016/02/03	Focus group meeting	Ariel Oosthuizen asked the farm occupiers if they had any questions or comments. The farm occupiers stated that they understood what had been explained to them during the meeting and had no questions at that stage.	Ms Nobuhle Hughes from EIMS informed the farm occupiers that the commenting period for the public and registered Interested and Affected Parties regarding the project was open until the 24th February 2016. Ms Hughes added that, should the farm occupiers have any questions or comments after the meeting, they could contact her using the contact details provided in the comment sheet. Ms Hughes offered to call the occupiers back when contacted towards recording their queries or comments. Ms Hughes gave the farm occupiers copies of the project's comment sheet which had the contact details.	General.
Land occupiers of Farm Voetpad	2016/02/03	Focus group meeting	Ms Ariel Oosthuizen asked the farm workers if they had any questions or comments, and there were none.	Ms Nobuhle Hughes from EIMS informed the farm occupiers that the commenting period for the public and registered Interested and Affected Parties regarding the project will be open until the 24th February 2016. Ms Hughes added that, should the farm occupiers have any questions or comments after the meeting, they could contact her using the	General.

				contact details provided in the comment sheet. Ms Hughes offered to call the occupiers back when contacted towards recording their queries or comments. Ms Hughes gave the farm workers copies of the project's comment sheet with the contact details.	
Mr. Clive Community member	– 2016/02/04	Public meeting	Mr Clive asked for clarification on the precise manner in which the community would become shareholders for the development.	Mr Ian Macdonald informed the meeting that as part of the Renewable Programme at least 2.5% of the shares in an operating project must be owned by the local community, which is defined as being within a 50km radius of the project. The local community ownership varies from project to project and has been as high as 40% in some projects. Mr Macdonald said that the vehicle for the community ownership would likely be a broad-based community trust and that the project owners and local community members would serve as trustees of the community trust to determine how the dividend revenue would be invested in the local community	Community Trust and Shareholding.
Mr. Clive Community member	– 2016/02/04	Public meeting	Mr Clive wanted to know if the facts and details pertaining to the Community Trust and shares would be made know to the layman in the community.	Mr Ian Macdonald confirmed that the community will be consulted in this regard if the project is successful in the renewable energy programme.	Community Trust and Shareholding
Mr. Clive Community member	– 2016/02/04	Public meeting	Mr Clive asked for examples business opportunities that can arise from the proposed development from operational wind farms.	Ms Katherine Persson from Windlab answered that exact businesses vary from area to area however based on examples from operational farms, such businesses can include: women owned catering businesses whereby they provide catering for the construction workers; guest house businesses, security services during construction and operation of the wind farm; general construction activities such as vegetation clearing, etc. Ms Persson reiterated that bidding for the project to the Department of Energy has a preference to projects that can demonstrate local community benefits especially B-BBEE and women involvement.	Business opportunities.

Mr. Clive – Community member	2016/02/04	Public meeting	Mr Clive asked for an explanation of the high, medium, and low reference to impacts as different people can have different views and interpretations of what high, medium, and low is	Ms Ashlin Bodasing from Arcus answered that all specialists that assessed impacts in their various fields of study for the project, were given the same methodology to follow for the assessments as per the Department of Environmental Affairs (e.g. extent, duration, etc. and it is these parameters that determined the impact scores according to high, medium, and low.	Impacts assessment ratings (Methodology)
Mr. Baartman – Community member	2016/02/04	Public meeting	Mr Baartman asked when a similar meeting would be undertaken in Richmond.	Ms Nobuhle Hughes from EIMS answered that the current meeting was the only planned meeting and the Murraysburg town hall was selected as a venue for the meeting as it is most central and has the facilities to house a large number of people for a meeting. Furthermore the largest portion of the proposed development will be in the Murraysburg area.	Additional public meeting
Mr. Lolwana - Pixley Ka Seme District Executive mayor	2016/02/04	Public meeting	<p>Mr John Lolwana, who is the executive mayor for the Pixley Ka Seme District Municipality in the Northern Cape, stated that he supports the proposed development as he has first-hand experience on the benefits that can arise from such developments. He added that renewable energy is a 'game-changer', and invited anyone from Murraysburg to visit De Aar to see a similar project about 54km from De Aar (Flipstaal). He elaborated that since the beginning of the renewable energy project in De Aar to date, things have improved.</p> <p>Mr Lolwana mentioned that on the following dates: the 15th, 25th and the end of the month, there is no trouble in the streets because everybody is busy. Also in De Aar there was no KFC until the renewable energy project and now there is one, this means for every 10 people that arrive, 7 people get work. He added that when opportunities are presented to local communities such as providing transportation,</p>	This was noted by the project team and included as part of the issues trail..	Local community Benefits;

				that is a contract signed which results in an income for that family. He asked the Murraysburg community to welcome and utilise the opportunities brought by renewable projects such as the one presented at the meeting. He further asked that should the development go ahead, the developer must not bring in transport or concrete suppliers (and other services) from outside but rather utilise local community services. Moreover, Mt Lolwana mentioned that he has a friend who lives in Saldanna where another renewable project is operating that friend's business is doing very well since the project started operation. He reiterated that the people of Murraysburg should not be scared of the proposed development rather give it a chance and see for themselves. He also stated that although most of the energy produced from the renewable projects goes to other parts of the country through the national grid, benefits will reach the local communities. He added that since the renewable project in De Aar has been operational, there has not been any load-shedding. He finished by asking that Richmond not be excluded from the opportunities that may arise from the proposed development should it be approved.		
Mr. Kivedo	Martin	2016/02/04	Public meeting	Mr Martin Kivedo stated that his experience is such that business opportunities from projects/developments such as the proposed Umsinde Emoyeni wind farm go to white people. He gave examples of Bed and Breakfast (BnB's). He added that people from Richmond and Beaufort West are also at the meeting, and he was concerned that the EIA impact assessment only focused on Murraysburg and should also include Richmond and Beaufort West.	Mr Ian Macdonald from Windlab answered that as stated previously most of the job opportunities will be for the construction phase of the development and Windlab can provide ideas on what the jobs may be for planning purposes. However, the community also needs to take advantage of the proposed development and Windlab will rely on individuals identifying opportunities and being entrepreneurial in this regard. During the operational phase, revenue from the project will be made available for enterprise development as this	Business opportunities; General

				is required in the Department of Energy's renewable energy programme.	
Mr. Martin Kivedo	2016/02/04	Public meeting	Mr Martin Kivedo mentioned that the proposed development involves a maximum of 98 turbines and only approximately 300 job opportunities during construction, he is concerned that the number of workers will be too few for that number of turbines and as such the work pressure may be hard on workers isolated out on a wind farm	Mr Ian Macdonald from Windlab stated a skills transfer plan similar to what is being undertaken at the Bedford project will be followed. This is such that at the initial stages of the development international workers will be employed and over time these workers will be replaced with black South African workers as per skills transfer plan. This is because there are a limited number of people in the country at present that have the required skills to install wind turbines but as the industry matures this will change.	Job opportunities
Mr. Izak van Heerden Farm Schietkuil landowner	2016/04/05	Focus group meeting	Mr Izak van Heerden asked for information regarding where his property was located in relation to the proposed grid connection.	A map of the proposed development area was shown to the Mr Van Heerden, and the location of Schietkuil farm was pointed out in relation to the location of both the wind energy facilities and the associated grid connections. Furthermore, photographs of operational wind farms were presented to the occupiers, showing what the turbines look like as well as completed and operational wind farms (turbines and maintenance roads around them).	Request for information.
Mr. Izak van Heerden Farm Schietkuil	2016/04/05	Focus group meeting	Mr Izak van Heerden wanted to know what happened if a landowner within the proposed development site said no, could the applicant force the landowner to say yes.	The project team informed Mr Van Heerden that only the competent authority, which was the national Department of Environmental Affairs, could make a decision on whether or not the proposed project was approved and grant Environmental Authorisation. However, with regards to landowner negotiations towards land acquisition, the developer handled that aspect outside of the Environmental Impact Assessment process.	EIA process.
Mr. Izak van Heerden	2016/04/05	Focus group meeting	Mr Izak van Heerden stated that he has the following main concerns:	a) Dust pollution will only be an issue during the construction period and this would be mitigated through the dampening of roads by	Dust pollution; and

<p>Farm Schietkuil landowner</p>		<p>a) Dust and air pollution – his main business was selling sheep and the price of the sheep depended on a clean yield. Therefore dust and air pollution impacted on the wool of his sheep and if this was dirty, the price of his sheep was lowered (e.g. 2% in the cleanliness of wool could make a big difference). Furthermore, the amount of area utilised for the proposed development and well as trying to avoid dusty areas from construction may affect the grazing rotation systems for his sheep and this may lead to overgrazing of the remaining areas.</p> <p>b) He also had a hunting business and timing was very important for hunting (this happens in the winter). Mr Van Heerden stated that the timing for the commencement of the construction period would be important.</p> <p>c) He added that game capturing which was a very costly and a tricky activity could also be affected by construction activities if not planned properly (e.g. game can be scared away from the direction they were being led in towards capturing by the farmer).</p> <p>d) Security and safety was his other concern, opening and closing of gates was important for his livestock which could go into other properties should the gates be left open. Potential for theft was also a worry. He had previous experience with construction activities as his property was located next to the existing Gamma Substation and the existing power lines linked to it. In that regard he was not concerned about having new lines near his property, but previous</p>	<p>water tank. Also, the development footprint will be ~2% of the whole area and sheep can continue grazing between the turbines</p> <p>b) This was noted by the project team.</p> <p>c) This was noted by the project team.</p> <p>d) This was noted by the project team.</p> <p>Mr Izak van Heerden's concerns and comments were noted by the project team. Ms Nobuhle Hughes further asked Mr Van Heerden to share the information presented to him at the meeting with his farm occupiers / workers and should any have any comments, to contact Ms Hughes.</p>	<p>Overgrazing; Hunting business; Safety security; General</p> <p>and</p>
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			<p>experience with regards to security made him weary (e.g. some of his sheep were stolen and slaughtered during the construction of the Gamma Substation, and when the N1 construction was taking place his gates were left open which led to fatality of cattle that were hit by a bus. Due to such experiences he was very concerned about new developments.</p> <p>e) Mr Van Heerden overall stated that he did not have issues with the proposed development, except the concerns specified above. He said that he was a very easy going farmer. However, he was weary that developers / construction companies were very nice at the beginning of these developments and make many promises, but these did not get delivered in the long term.</p>		
Lucas Booi - Land occupier Farm Springfontein	2016/02/05	Focus group meeting	Mr Booi Lucas stated that he felt that the development was a good idea but negotiations with the landowners had to be undertaken.	Ms Ashlin Bodasing from Arcus (the EAP) explained that landowners within the proposed development site had already been consulted by the applicant, and that no construction would be undertaken without consent by the affected landowners.	Land occupier consultation
Dennis Deba Kivido – Community member	2016/2/09	Comment Sheet	I am interested in the project as it will provide job opportunities, not just for me, but for all community members and adjacent towns. I would like to work under an employer.	Thank you very much for your comment, it has been noted by the project team and you have been registered as an Interested and Affected party (I&AP) for the project.	Job opportunities.
Charles Bosman – Community member	2016.02/09	SMS	Charles Bosman's interest in this project is that his responsibilities include a house of which services must be paid, a wife and two children – one in Primary School and the other in High School.	This was noted and forwarded onto the applicant.	General

			<p>Life in the countryside is difficult with a high percentage of unemployment and dependence on child grants. Remarks are made in everyday society, of which previously disadvantaged people are affected the most. People like us are not easily involved and accommodated in projects like this, as it generally includes things we do not know of. We do not know whether we should cry or laugh about this matter. If our interests are also taken into account, it will provide Charles Bosman (ID no. 6507185192083) the opportunity to pay outstanding bills on services and to provide food on the table for his family, as a man should be able to do.</p> <p>Those who benefit most are the ones with large incomes, where the ones that are dependent on child grants usually stand at the back of the line. For this reason, we have lost most of our trust in our organisation leaders, as we start to realize we are only being used. We are never taken into account until our services are needed. Once they are satisfied with what they received from you, they no longer want anything to do with you and you are no longer taken into account; until your services are needed again.</p> <p>I hope this project does not have the same intention to playing with our emotions, and never giving feedback again.</p> <p>I hope and trust that we will also benefit from this project and that we will also receive feedback.</p>		
Natasha Higgitt Heritage Officer: Archaeology, Palaeontology	2016/01/25	Email and SAHRIS letter	Proposed Umsinde Emoyeni Wind Energy Facility and Associated Infrastructure Grid, in the Western and Northern Cape Provinces.	This was noted and corrected on the website. .	General.

and Meteorites Unit South African Heritage Resources Agency			<p>Good afternoon,</p> <p>SAHRA received a letter from your office regarding the Draft EIA for the Proposed Umsinde Emoyeni Wind Energy Facility and Associated Infrastructure Grid, in the Western and Northern Cape Provinces.</p> <p>The case is on SAHRIS, however, the case was left in the draft status. Please note that cases left as DRAFT will not be processed. In future, please ensure that once all relevant documents have been uploaded to the case file, the status of the case is changed to SUBMITTED. There is no Heritage Scoping Report attached to the case file, though the Draft Scoping Report does discuss a report written by ACO. Please ensure that all heritage reports are submitted under the section HERITAGE REPORTS in the case file.</p> <p>As for the draft EIA, please ensure that all relevant documents are uploaded to the case file so that SAHRA may issue comments on the case, including a kml file of the location of the project. Additionally, as the project overlaps into the Western Cape, comments will also need to be provided by Heritage Western Cape.</p> <p>Should you have any further queries, please contact the designated official using the case number quoted</p> <p>above in the case header</p>		
Natasha Higgitt Heritage Officer: Archaeology, Palaeontology and Meteorites Unit	2016/02/22	Email	<p>Good morning,</p> <p>With regards to the SAHRIS Case ID: 6021 (Umsinde Emoyeni Wind Energy Facility), please ensure that the project is mapped correctly. This can be achieved by uploading a kml file to the LOCATION INFO tab on the case</p>	This was noted by the project team and the kml location file uploaded on SAHRIS.	Request for Information/Documentation.

South African Heritage Resources Agency			file. This is must be completed before the case can be processed.		
Natasha Higgitt Heritage Officer: Archaeology, Palaeontology and Meteorites Unit South African Heritage Resources Agency	2016/02/25	Email and SAHRIS letter	<p>Good afternoon,</p> <p>Please see SAHRA's response to the letter delivered to our office in Cape Town regarding the Proposed Umsinde Emoyeni Wind Energy Facility and Associated Infrastructure Grid, in the Western and Northern Cape Provinces.</p> <p>http://www.sahra.org.za/sahris/cases/umsinde-emoyeni-wind-energy-facility</p> <p>Please feel free to contact me should you have any queries.</p> <p>SAHRA's response letter</p> <p>Case Discussion:</p> <p>Arcus Consultancy Services was appointed by Emoyeni Wind Farm Project Proprietary Limited (EWFP) to conduct the relevant studies for Environmental Authorisation for the Umsinde Emoyeni Wind Energy Facility (WEF) and associated infrastructure near Murraysburg, Western Cape. A small section of the project area is located within the Northern Cape Province. It must be noted that SAHRA cannot comment on the section of the development within the Western Cape. Comments from Heritage Western Cape (HWC) must be sought for the areas of the proposed development located within the Western Cape Province. As such SAHRA will only comment on the Umsinde Emoyeni WEF Phase 2 Project and the</p>	EIMS response: Good Afternoon Natasha, Thank you for the interim comments received from SAHRA (as attached for reference), these have been noted by the project team including the Heritage Specialist. We are in correspondence with Heritage Western Cape with regards to the requirements and comments on the Western Cape component of the proposed development.	Archaeology and Palaeontology

		<p>Umsinde Emoyeni Grid Connection Phase 1 Project.</p> <p>The proposed project will comprise two phases, which will include 98 wind turbines each and associated grid connections. According to the maps provided, the Umsinde Emoyeni WEF Phase 2 Project has approximately 10 turbines located within the Northern Cape Province. A section of the Phase 1 Umsinde Emoyeni Grid Connection traverses the Northern Cape Province. Arcus appointed ACO Associates to conduct the Heritage Impact Assessment.</p> <p>Hart and Almond, 2015. Heritage Impact Assessment for the Proposed Umsinde Emoyeni Wind Energy Facility.</p> <p>According to maps provided, a total of seven heritage resources were identified within the Northern Cape section of the Umsinde Emoyeni WEF Phase 2 Project. These included L019, N041-044 and N057-058. These heritage resources include an engraved boulder, stone walled structures and a site with both Later Stone Age and Historical remains. These sites were either ungraded or given a 3B or 3C rating of significance.</p> <p>It is unclear whether these heritage resources are to be impacted by the proposed turbine positions or access roads as no map providing the location of the identified heritage sites in relation to the proposed development was supplied. Additionally, photographs and detailed descriptions of all the identified heritage resources was lacking in the report. It is noted that no GPS co-ordinates were provide citing the need to protect the heritage resources from illegal collections of artefacts; however an indication of how far each heritage site is</p>		
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		<p>located from a proposed development activity is required.</p> <p>Highly significant palaeontological resources were identified within the larger Umsinde Emoyeni WEF Project area; however the location of these resources is unclear as no map providing the location of the identified palaeontological sites in relation to the proposed development was supplied. It is noted that this was intentionally omitted citing the need to conserve the fossils, however an indication of how far each fossil site is located from a proposed development activity is required. As such, it is unclear whether any palaeontological resources were identified within the Northern Cape and if such palaeontological resources will be impacted by the proposed development.</p> <p>Recommendations in the submitted report include the following (as they pertain to the Northern Cape):</p> <p>Powerlines to avoid visually sensitive peaks, major ridgelines, scarp edges and slopes steeper than 1:5 gradient;</p> <p>Access roads to be in sympathy with the contours, avoid steep 1:5 slopes and drainage courses, and kept as narrow as possible;</p> <p>Mountain peaks and ridges as identified in the Visual Impact Assessment (VIA) must be avoided;</p> <p>Once the final layout of the WEF and associated transmission line is determined, a pre-construction palaeontological study must be undertaken over areas underlain by the Lower</p>		
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		<p>Beaufort Group bedrocks. The study must be conducted by a qualified palaeontologist;</p> <p>The employment of a palaeontologist during the construction phase, establishment of on-site curation facilities and identification of a repository for specimens;</p> <p>A Fossil Chance Finds Procedure must be implemented during the construction phase of the project. The Environmental Control Officer (ECO) must safeguard exposed fossils and alert the relevant Heritage Resources Authority;</p> <p>Conduct a final walk down of roads and check turbine positions for archaeological material. Should archaeological material be identified, they will be subject to sampling and removal from site (a permit must be applied from either HWC or SAHRA depending on where the heritage resources are located);</p> <p>Dolerite cluster and flat dolerite rafts must be checked for rock engravings. The location of these sites must be noted, sites photographed and recorded and moved out of harm's way, or the road should be re-aligned to avoid them;</p> <p>All of the above recommended mitigation measures must be included and implemented as part of the EMPr for the project.</p> <p>Interim Comment</p> <p>While several omissions have been noted from both the Archaeological and Palaeontological components in the HIA, the Archaeology, Palaeontology and Meteorites (APM) Unit does not object to the proposed development. It must be emphasized that SAHRA can only comment on the section of the development located</p>		
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		<p>within the Northern Cape (Phase 1 Grid Connection and Phase 2 WEF). Comments from HWC must be sought regarding the areas of the proposed development located within the Western Cape Province. SAHRA APM unit promotes the recommendations in the HIA. The following additional recommendations must be included in the final EIA and EMPr for the project:</p> <p>A Walk-Down of the final positions of the turbines and access road routes must be completed prior to construction by a qualified archaeologist and a qualified palaeontologist. The locations of construction camps and laydown yards must also be assessed as part of the walk-down report. The report must CLEARLY state which heritage resources are located within the Northern Cape and Western Cape Provinces to allow the relevant Heritage Resource Authority (HRA) to provide comments. The report must also clearly state the distance between each proposed project activity and identified resources via detailed descriptions, photographs and a map;</p> <p>A bufferzone of 50 m must be maintained from all identified heritage resources. A Conservation Management Plan (CMP) must be developed for all heritage resources that are to be retained in-situ. The CMP must include and is not limited to details regarding on-going monitoring and access controls for affected interested and affected parties i.e. family member related to the graveyards. This CMP must be submitted to SAHRA for comment;</p> <p>Turbine placements must avoid areas underlain by the Lower Beaufort Group rocks. Should this not be possible, a Watching Brief must be conducted during the construction phase of the</p>		
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			<p>project. This must include the on-site presence of a qualified palaeontologist who will monitor excavations for turbine foundations, access roads and underground cables within the Lower Beaufort Group rocks. A Watching Brief Report detailing the results of the monitoring must be submitted to SAHRA for comment;</p> <p>Chance Finds and Fossil Finds Procedures must be developed and implemented for the project. These procedures must include standard protocol, steps and reporting structures to be followed should any heritage and/or fossil heritage is uncovered during all phases of development;</p> <p>Should comments from HWC require the re-alignment of the Phase 1 Transmission line and the route through the Northern Cape be amended, the revised Heritage report assessing the new route must also be submitted to SAHRA for comment; and</p> <p>The applicant is responsible for ensuring that comments from HWC are received regarding the areas of the proposed development located in the Western Cape Province.</p> <p>Final comments will be issued once the above requested reports have been submitted to SAHRA along with the Final EIA and EMP.</p>		
<p>Milicent Solomons - Department of Environmental Affairs</p> <p>National Department of</p>	2016/02/02	Email	<p>To Whom it may concern</p> <p>The attached documents send to the Office of our Director-General refers. Please refrain from sending such documents directly to the DG.</p> <p>You are welcome to email documents directly to EIAAdmin@environment.gov.za; however please note that the Department is the</p>	EIMS response: This was noted by EIMS and the database updated accordingly..	General.

Environmental Affairs			Competent Authority for the said applications and not a stakeholder.		
Amanda Willett - Deputy Director Western Cape Provincial Government	2016/02/03	Email	Dear Mr Hughes We acknowledge receipt of your correspondence dated 14 January 2016, the content of which has been noted. Your correspondence has been referred to the office of the Head of Department for necessary attention. Please quote our tracking number (2016/180) as reference in all correspondence and enquiries.	EIMS response: Good Afternoon Amanda, Thank you very much for the correspondence below and tracking number. We will await comments (should there be any) from the office of the Head of Department.	Acknowledgement of receipt of notification.
Farm worker – Farm Driefontein	2016/02/03	Focus group meeting	One of the farm workers asked if the electricity from the wind farm would go to Eskom.	Ms Ashlin Bodasing affirmed that the electricity generated by the proposed wind farm would go to an Eskom Substation for further distribution through the national grid network.	Power supply
Moshibudi Mawasha - Office of the Director-General: Transport Western Cape Department of Transport	2016/02/04	Email	Good day Re: REF LW/nh/0999 (Emoyeni Wind Facility & Associated Infrastructure) On behalf of the Director-General, I wish to acknowledge receipt of your letter dated 14 January 2016, regarding the above matter. Please be informed that the letter is receiving the required attention and further response will be communicated to you in due course	This was noted by the project team.	Acknowledgement of receipt of notification.

Pastor James Jonas	2016/02/08	Email and attached Comment Sheet	<p>It is well known that unemployment is a serious problem land wide. Our town is one of the poorest towns, for this reason I support project development in this area as the community will benefit from this initiative.</p> <p>I feel the committee must comprise of church- and community leaders that will put the interests and needs of the community first, and not municipal members who will transform it into a political committee.</p>	EIMS response: This serves to acknowledge receipt of your submitted comment sheet. You have been added to the project's Interested and Affected Parties database for future notifications regarding the Environmental Impact Assessment. Your comments have also been noted by the project team.	Benefit for the community.
Eugene Curth	2016/03/02	Email	Good day I just want to know are our names on the database for work related or just for admin purpose . Have a nice day	EIMS response: Your names are on the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) project database for notification and involvement regarding the Environmental Assessment and not work related purposes. This means we will notify you about the Final EIA Reports being available for review and comment as well as when we get a decision from the Department of Environmental Affairs about the application for Environmental Authorisation which the Applicant/Developer needs in order to proceed with their bid to develop the wind farm.	Registration
Vince Steyn	2016/02/09	Email and attached Comment Sheet	My interests are to see this project succeed and create employment opportunities for unemployed community members in Murraysburg.	EIMS response: Good Afternoon Gino, Thank you very much for yours as well as Mr De Water, Mr Neville Steyn, and Mr Vince Steyn's submitted forms. I have forwarded your comments to the project team. We have also added all your contact details to the project database for future correspondence regarding the project.	Job opportunities
Neville Steyn	2016/02/09	Email and attached Comment Sheet	I would like to see employment opportunities and for the project to succeed.	EIMS response: Thank you very much for your submitted form. I have forwarded your comments to the project team. We have also added your contact details to the project database for future correspondence regarding the project.	Job opportunities

Ronel Qukwana – Community member	2016/02/09	Email and attached Comment Sheet	Services must be good.	EIMS response: Good Afternoon Ronel, Thank you for your submitted form, it has been received and your comment has been noted by the project team. We will also add your contact details to the project database for future correspondence regarding the project.	General.
Jarome Jonkers – Community member	2016/02/09	Email and attached Comment Sheet	All will go well. Hoping to start as soon as possible so that we can make a success of this project.	EIMS response: Good Afternoon Jarome, This serves to acknowledge receipt of your submitted comment sheet. You have been added to the project's Interested and Affected Parties database for future notifications regarding the Environmental Impact Assessment. Your comments have also been noted by the project team.	General.
Hendrik Danny Hagenaar - Community member	2016/02/09	Email and attached Comment Sheet	I am very interested in this project, as I have been an employee at Telkom for more than 35 years. For this reason I have a acquired a lot of experience, and will be able to acquire even more experience with this project.	EIMS response: Good Afternoon Jarome, Thank you very much for your comment, it has been noted by the project team and you have been registered as an Interested and Affected party (I&AP) for the project.	General.
Belinda Ordman - Community member	2016/02/15	Email and attached Comment Sheet	All will go well. We will make a success of this.	EIMS response: Good Afternoon Belinda, This serves to acknowledge receipt of your submitted comment sheet. You have been added to the project's Interested and Affected Parties database for future notifications regarding the Environmental Impact Assessment. Your comments have also been noted by the project team.	General

Lucia Rodrigues	2016/02/22	Email and attached Comment Sheet	<p>I have been monitoring Verreaux's Eagle populations throughout the Western Cape since 2004.</p> <p>The project has well over 200 active nest sites plotted. Many of these are the subject of a long term research project into their breeding biology.</p> <p>The objective is to determine key factors contributing towards the sustainability of the Verreaux's Eagle population into the future.</p> <p>I would like to comment on the Draft Environmental Impact Assessment Report under separate cover.</p> <p>I received notification of this report being available for comment late last week and have taken note that the deadline for submitting comment is the 24th February.</p>	<p>EIMS response: Good Morning Lucia,</p> <p>This serves to acknowledge receipt of your comments on the Draft EIA report for the proposed Umsinde Emoyeni Wind Energy facilities Project. The comments have been forwarded to the EIA team for their attention.</p>	Avifauna specialist study
Lucia Rodrigues	2016/02/24	Email and Attached letter	<p>Attachment:</p> <p>As documented in the draft EIA report Verreaux's Eagles are the most commonly recorded target species with over 53% of recorded flights being those of Verreaux's Eagles.</p> <p>The draft report also reminds us that due to a significant decline in population numbers the 2015 Eskom Red Data Book of Birds has upgraded the Verreaux's Eagle status to vulnerable. A direct quote from this publication: <i>"The species is somewhat susceptible to collisions with and resultant electrocutions from power lines and related infrastructure. Development of wind farms, especially in</i></p>	<p>EIMS response: Good Afternoon Lucia,</p> <p>Thank you once again for your submitted comments, please find below the responses (in bold) from the project team.</p> <p>As documented in the draft EIA report Verreaux's Eagles are the most commonly recorded target species with over 53% of recorded flights being those of Verreaux's Eagles.</p> <p>The draft report also reminds us that due to a significant decline in population numbers the 2015 Eskom Red Data Book of Birds has upgraded the Verreaux's Eagle status to vulnerable. A direct quote from this publication: <i>"The species is somewhat susceptible to collisions with and</i></p>	Avifauna specialist study

		<p><i>mountainous areas poses a future threat to this species which may prove significant."</i></p> <p>To support this claim, the draft EIA report mentions <u>three</u> Verreaux's Eagle fatalities at a single wind energy facility. The WEF in question is in the Eastern Cape and to date there have been <u>four</u> recorded fatalities. (a fifth fatality has been recorded at another WEF in the Northern Cape, not far from the proposed Umsinde Emoyeni development)</p> <p>To further illustrate exactly how prone to collision Verreaux's Eagles are with wind turbines, I am quoting Jon Smallie from Wild Skies, (environmental consultant for the Eastern Cape WEF), as he quantifies the amount of Verreaux's Eagle activity observed during the pre-construction monitoring phase. ".....low VE flight activity. In total across the full site, we recorded 12 VE flights during 240 hours of vantage point observation. Each bird was considered separately, so where a pair was recorded flying this would result in two records. Eleven of these 12 records were within 2km of the turbines which are now operational. The closest of these records to a turbine position was 280m." Jon Smallie c: 082 444 8919 f: 086 615 5654 e: jon@wildskies.co.za</p> <p>When one compares this description of flight activity to the flight data collected during the preconstruction monitoring at the Umsinde Emoyeni WEF site ; "of the 472 flights recorded (by 665 different target species), 252 were by Verreaux's Eagles" alarm bells should start ringing. This volume of flight activity is not surprising when one takes into account that the Umsinde Emoyeni site is surrounded by 21 active Verreaux's Eagle nest sites, 5 of which fall within the boundary of the WEF.</p>	<p><i>resultant electrocutions from power lines and related infrastructure. Development of wind farms, especially in mountainous areas poses a future threat to this species which may prove significant."</i></p> <p>To support this claim, the draft EIA report mentions <u>three</u> Verreaux's Eagle fatalities at a single wind energy facility. The WEF in question is in the Eastern Cape and to date there have been <u>four</u> recorded fatalities. (a fifth fatality has been recorded at another WEF in the Northern Cape, not far from the proposed Umsinde Emoyeni development). Noted, the specialist cited a report (Smallie, 2015) which dealt with three collisions. We are now aware of the additional collisions.</p> <p>To further illustrate exactly how prone to collision Verreaux's Eagles are with wind turbines, I am quoting Jon Smallie from Wild Skies, (environmental consultant for the Eastern Cape WEF), as he quantifies the amount of Verreaux's Eagle activity observed during the pre-construction monitoring phase. ".....low VE flight activity. In total across the full site, we recorded 12 VE flights during 240 hours of vantage point observation. Each bird was considered separately, so where a pair was recorded flying this would result in two records. Eleven of these 12 records were within 2km of the turbines which are now operational. The closest of these records to a turbine position was 280m." Jon Smallie c: 082 444 8919 f: 086 615 5654 e: jon@wildskies.co.za</p>
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The proposed buffers will fall far short of offering the eagles protection from collision. The number of fatalities will be beyond significant; they will be catastrophic. In regions as densely populated by Verreaux's Eagles as at Umsinde, areas beyond their core nest territories are heavily patrolled by the resident population.

In March 1994 Rob Davies submitted his thesis for a PhD on the Verreaux's Eagle of the Karoo National Park. (Black Eagle *Aquila Verreauxii* predation on rock hyrax *procavia capensis* and other prey in the Karoo by R A G Davies 1994) He had spent 5 years studying this population, which in number and terrain mirrors the "Umsinde population". The maps below are all copied from his thesis and I am inserting them into my comments to graphically illustrate the amount and extent of flight activity one can expect in an area such as the Umsinde site. The one immediately below plots the 23 nests sites of his study.

Twenty three pairs of black eagles were located in and around the Karoo National Park at Souderton West (Fig. 41). Three of these pairs are excluded from most of the following analyses either because of poor data (TG), or because the pair were seldom in occupation of their territory and never bred (BP), or because the pair occupied a different habitat outside the main study area (LX).

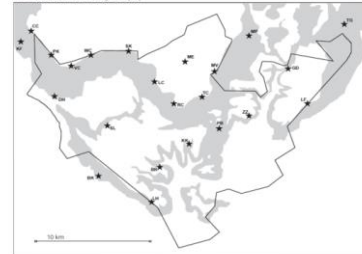


Figure 41. The distribution of eagle pairs resident in and around the KNSP. Symbols mark their principal nest sites. Shaded areas represent residential sites as opposed to plains and plateau. Full names of each pair and their respective breeding histories are provided in Appendix 3.

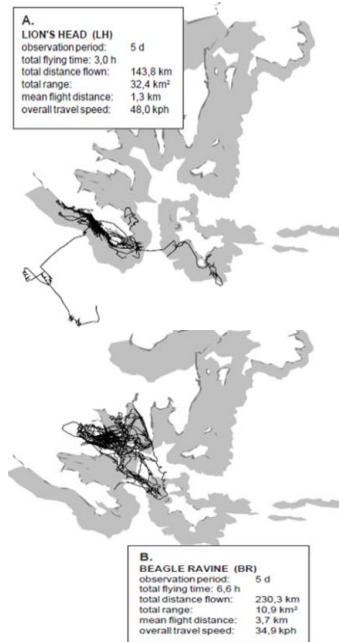
When one compares this description of flight activity to the flight data collected during the preconstruction monitoring at the Umsinde Emoyeni WEF site ; "of the 472 flights recorded (by 665 different target species), 252 were by Verreaux's Eagles" alarm bells should start ringing.

While we do not deny that flight activity of Verreaux's Eagle is high, the incidents reported by Smallie may be isolated and are possibly influenced by extenuating, site specific circumstances (e.g. an increase in prey availability on the site, as indicated by Smallie, 2015). It should also be noted that the observational effort at Umsinde was far greater, with approximately 900 hours of VP monitoring conducted, as opposed to 240 hours by Smallie on the Eastern Cape WEF you have cited.

This volume of flight activity is not surprising when one takes into account that the Umsinde Emoyeni site is surrounded by 21 active Verreaux's Eagle nest sites, 5 of which fall within the boundary of the WEF. **There are no active Verreaux's Eagle nests within 3 km from any turbine locations. The majority of VE nests are located some distance from the turbines. 16 nests are more than 7 km from turbines, 12 nests are more than 10 km from turbines, while five nests are more than 15 km from turbines.**

The proposed buffers will fall far short of offering the eagles protection from collision. The number of fatalities will be beyond significant; they will be catastrophic. **We do not deny that collisions may**

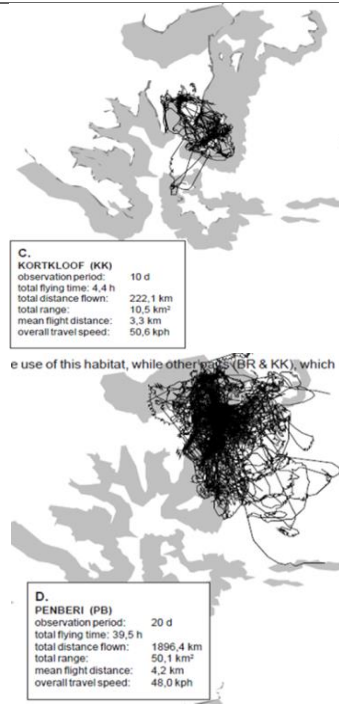
The following four maps show the flight activity of four different pairs. Rob spent 40 days watching these four pairs and plotting their flight paths.



occur, but we do not believe they will be 'catastrophic' In regions as densely populated by Verreaux's Eagles as at Umsinde, areas beyond their core nest territories are heavily patrolled by the resident population.

In March 1994 Rob Davies submitted his thesis for a PhD on the Verreaux's Eagle of the Karoo National Park. (Black Eagle *Aquila Verreauxii* predation on rock hyrax *procavia capensis* and other prey in the Karoo by R A G Davies 1994) He had spent 5 years studying this population, which in number and terrain mirrors the " Umsinde population". **We are aware of this study and it was referenced in the report. The Karoo National park population was more dense than the Umsinde population. The report stated "The density (approximately 1 pair/57 km²) of the Verreaux's Eagle population of the WEF site and it's surrounds is broadly comparable with other relatively high density populations of this species studied in other parts of the region (e.g. Nuweveld escarpment, Beaufort West: mean density 1 pair/24 km² (Davies,1994)". We did recognise the Verreaux's Eagle population as important and stated "this population, together with the Martial Eagle pair located to the west of the WEF site, represent an important biodiversity asset of the site, and are likely to be important components of the local ecology".**

The maps below are all copied from his thesis and I am inserting them into my comments to graphically illustrate the amount and extent of flight activity one can expect in an area such as the



e use of this habitat, while other pairs (BR & KK), which

In this map below, I have indicated the four pairs whose flight paths Rob plotted as well as providing a rough idea of the extent of terrain these pairs inhabit.

Umsinde site. The one immediately below plots the 23 nests sites of his study.

Twenty three pairs of black eagles were located in and around the Karoo National Park at Beaufort West (Fig. 41). Three of these pairs are excluded from most of the following analyses either because of poor data (TS), or because the pair were solitary in occupation of their territory and never banded (BP), or because the pair occupied a different habitat outside the main study area (LX).

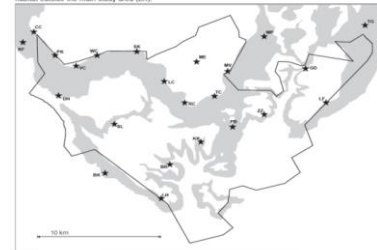
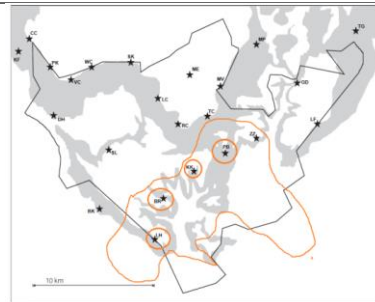
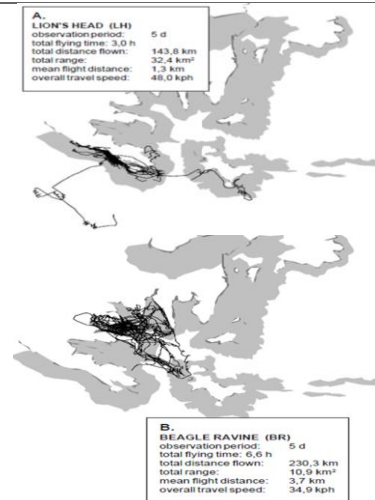


Figure 41. The distribution of eagle pairs resident in and around the K23MP. Symbols mark their principal nest sites. Shaded areas represent mountain slopes as opposed to plains and plateaus. Full names of each pair and their respective breeding habitats are provided in Appendix 3.

The following four maps show the flight activity of four different pairs. Rob spent 40 days watching these four pairs and plotting their flight paths.



I have been studying Verreaux's Eagles for over a decade. There is no reason to believe the Umsinde eagles behave differently. The Umsinde site lies approx. 100km north east of this study site. Same terrain, same number of pairs; I do not foresee nest buffers providing adequate protection for the Umsinde eagles. No mention is made in the reports how wind turbines would affect the dispersal of the juvenile Verreaux's Eagle chicks. Collectively they would be at a higher risk of collision. Exploring new terrain, wandering into the territories of other raptors hostile to their intrusion, honing their flight skills, learning to hunt and pouncing onto everything that moves; all this makes them very susceptible to blundering into spinning turbines. To adequately mitigate for this, one would have to shut down the turbines during juvenile dispersal. To further exacerbate this grim prediction, the proximity of another WEF, Ishwati Emoyeni, proposed for development just a few kilometres to the west of Umsinde,



will accumulate the negative impact on the Verreaux's Eagle population in this region.

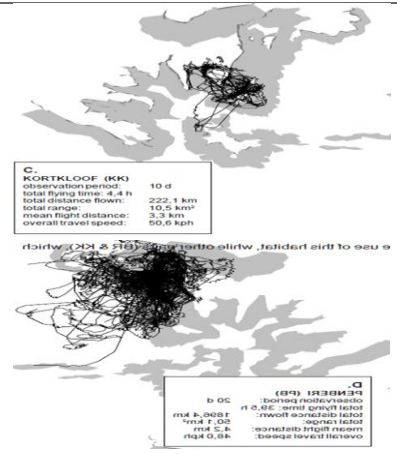
All these issues have been highlighted in the Draft Environmental Impact Report; I just do not share the view that adequate mitigation is possible. I am happy to acknowledge that data emerging from operational wind farms in South Africa have resulted in a more cautious approach when assessing negative impacts. I do however want to stress, that in general post construction monitoring is not transparent and if it were not for the efforts of "regulatory organisations" these reports would never see the light of day. It is also a given that fatalities are either accidentally or purposely under recorded.

I am highlighting this because we cannot consider post construction monitoring an important tool in our bouquet of mitigation measures. Once those wind turbines are up and spinning, very little can be done to reverse their effect.

In my opinion this is not a suitable site for a wind energy facility. It may have a good amount of wind, but it will (at best) critically diminish the numbers of an apex predator, namely the Verreaux's Eagle, which will have negative implications for the biodiversity of the whole region.

Lucia Rodrigues

Western Cape Black Eagle Project
Birds of Prey Programme
Endangered Wildlife Trust



In this map below, I have indicated the four pairs whose flight paths Rob plotted as well as providing a rough idea of the extent of terrain these pairs inhabit. **It is unclear how the polygon in orange, matches up with the flight paths recorded by Davies? For example, flights from PB do not appear to extend as far south east (and beyond the park boundary), as indicated by the polygon below.**

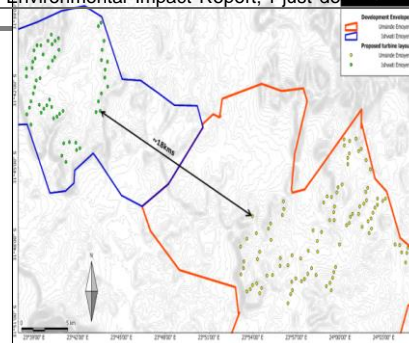
			<p>proposed at other WEFs; observed flight activity; recorded flight behaviour of Verreaux's Eagles in the Cedarberg (pers. Com. Dr. Andrew Jenkins (supervisor to Megan Murgatroyd)); and consideration of the draft Verreaux's Eagle guidelines by Birdlife SA.</p> <p>These draft guidelines state:</p> <p><i>“There have been few empirical studies disturbance distances for Verreaux's Eagles and to date, specialists in South Africa have relied on expert opinion when recommending buffers. For Verreaux's Eagles proposed buffers have ranged from 800m up to 2.5km (mean = 1.45km). Few specialist reports have provided empirical justification for the extent, although an analysis of activity around eagle nests in the Karoo found that activity was generally higher within 1km of the nest sites, marginally higher between 1 and 1.5km, with no clear pattern beyond that (Percival 2013). BirdLife South Africa recommends a non-negotiable no-go buffer of a minimum of 1km, in order to minimise risk of disturbing breeding birds and to reduce the risk of juveniles colliding with turbines. An additional precautionary buffer of 3 km is recommended around nests to reduce the risk of collisions and displacement. This precautionary buffer may be reduced (or increased) should the results of monitoring indicate that this is desirable. In the event that a change in the extent of the precautionary buffer is contemplated, it must be clearly demonstrated</i></p>
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			<p><i>that there is a low risk of collisions. In order to protect areas around alternate nests and reduce any incentive to disrupt nesting and/or breeding, these buffers should be applied to all inactive nests. It is important to be aware that a nest buffer alone is unlikely to be adequate to mitigate potential impacts on Verreaux's Eagles. Bird may move great distances away from the nest and may regularly use habitat kilometres away. It is therefore important to consider the spatial extent and relative use of the territory."</i></p> <p>We believe that the spatial extent and relative use of the territory has been considered in the almost 900 hours of VP observations, which in turn created a sensitivity map which has advised turbine placement. No mention is made in the reports how wind turbines would affect the dispersal of the juvenile Verreaux's Eagle chicks. Collectively they would be at a higher risk of collision. Exploring new terrain, wandering into the territories of other raptors hostile to their intrusion, honing their flight skills, learning to hunt and pouncing onto everything that moves; all this makes them very susceptible to blundering into spinning turbines. Although not directly referred to, during monitoring such flights of juvenile birds were recorded, and were thus considered in the impact assessment.</p> <p>We have recommended that during construction, nests within 5 km of turbine positions be monitored. The report states that the developer must "Appoint a specialist to</p>
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			<p><i>design and conduct monitoring of the breeding of Verreaux's Eagle and Martial Eagle at all identified nest sites that are within 5 km of a turbine position. This should be done at least three times during a calendar year during construction, optimally spaced before, during and after the breeding season of large eagles."</i></p> <p><i>We will include the monitoring of juvenile flight patterns at nests in this construction phase monitoring (and in the recommended operational phase monitoring. It is also recommended to "implement a 12 to 24 month post-construction bird activity monitoring program that mirrors the pre-construction monitoring surveys completed by Arcus and is in line with the South African post-construction monitoring guidelines. This program must include thorough and ongoing nest searches and nest monitoring"</i></p> <p><i>Furthermore, in order to find any nests that were not located during the initial two surveys, it is stated that "An avifaunal specialist must conduct nest searches of all suitable cliffs and/or tree nesting sites within 1 km of the Phase 1 and Phase 2 WEFs footprints that were not surveyed as part of the pre-construction cliff surveys. This additional survey must preferably be prior to construction commencement or as soon as possible thereafter. The aim will be to locate nest sites, so that these may continue to be monitored during the construction and operation phase,</i></p>
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				<p><i>along with the monitoring of already identified nest sites.”</i></p> <p>Finally we also recommend that the developer must <i>“implement a carcass search programme for birds during the first two years of operation, in line with the South African monitoring guidelines (Jenkins et al., 2015).”</i></p> <p>To adequately mitigate for this, one would have to shut down the turbines during juvenile dispersal. Such a consideration could be made if the results of operational mortality monitoring indicate a need for action. The extent and timing of such ‘shutdowns’ would need to be determined by thorough operational monitoring, and would only be necessary if significant impacts occur. Adaptive management will be an important part of the mitigation policy should the facility become operational. Related to this issue we recommended:</p> <p><i>“Frequent and regular review of operational phase monitoring data (activity and carcass) and results by the bird specialist. This review should also establish the requirement for continued monitoring studies (activity and carcass) throughout the operational and decommissioning phases of the development.</i></p> <p><i>The above reviews should strive to identify sensitive locations at the development including turbines and areas of increased collisions with power lines that may require additional mitigation. If unacceptable impacts</i></p>
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			<p><i>are observed (in the opinion of the bird specialist), the specialist should conduct a literature review specific to the impact (e.g. collision and/or electrocution) and provide updated and relevant mitigations to be implemented.</i></p> <p><i>As a starting point for the review of possible mitigations, the following may need to be considered: Assess the suitability of using deterrent devices (e.g. DT Bird and ultrasonic/radar/electromagnetic deterrents for bats) to reduce collision risk. Identify options to modify turbine operation to reduce collision risk.”</i></p> <p>To further exacerbate this grim prediction, the proximity of another WEF, Ishwati Emoyeni, proposed for development just a few kilometres to the west of Umsinde, will accumulate the negative impact on the Verreaux’s Eagle population in this region.</p> <p>Although the farm boundaries of these developments are adjacent, the developments should not actually be labelled as adjacent. There is in fact a very large corridor, with no proposed turbines between these two developments. The closest proposed turbines are 18 km away from each other (see picture below). Ishwati Emoyeni was also included in the Cumulative Impact section of the EIA and was assigned a significance rating that took into account that facility.</p> <p>All these issues have been highlighted in the Draft Environmental Impact Report; I just do not see</p>
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			<p>the view that adequate mitigation is possible. I am happy to acknowledge that data emerging from operational wind farms in South Africa have resulted in a more cautious approach when assessing negative impacts. I do however want to stress, that in general post construction monitoring is not transparent and if it were not for the efforts of “regulatory organisations” these reports would never see the light of day. It is also a given that fatalities are either accidentally or purposely under recorded.</p> <p>I am highlighting this because we cannot consider post construction monitoring an important tool in our bouquet of mitigation measures. Once those wind turbines are up and spinning, very little can be done to reverse their effect. It will be a condition of the Environmental Authorisation that operational monitoring, for a minimum of 2 years must occur; adaptive management will therefore be a cornerstone of the mitigation policy at the site should the project go ahead. Discussions with DEA have confirmed that ongoing compliance, within the context of adaptive management, will occur at the site. Should specialists recommend that curtailment occur at certain turbines (based on sound, peer-reviewed operational monitoring that is grounded on scientific methods) this will be accepted by the proponent.</p> <p>In my opinion this is not a suitable site for a wind energy facility. It may have a good amount of wind, but it will (at best) critically diminish the numbers of an apex predator, namely the Verreaux’s Eagle,</p>
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				which will have negative implications for the biodiversity of the whole region.	
Lucia Rodrigues	2016/04/05	Email and Attached letter	<p>Dear Andrew,</p> <p>Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the avifaunal report and trust you will understand that my motivation is purely to ensure the continued presence of a thriving Verreaux's Eagle population in their chosen natural habitat.</p> <p>In this document, I have copied (<i>in italics</i>) those passages from your response to my first tranche of comments, I wish to discuss at greater length.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <i>While we do not deny that flight activity of Verreaux's Eagle is high, the incidents reported by Smallie may be isolated and are possibly influenced by extenuating, site specific circumstances (e.g. an increase in prey availability on the site, as indicated by Smallie, 2015).</i> <p>Post the fatalities, subsequent surveys at Dorper found a minimum of ten active VE pairs surrounding the WEF. Jon is of the opinion that the fatalities all occurred during autumn. This is just before egg laying and in my opinion, the fatalities occurred because at this time of year resident pairs use their display flights to establish their presence and "mark their boundaries". It is furthermore my belief that this is also a time when floaters are more actively engaged in trying to oust a resident eagle. I witnessed just such an event in the Cederberg.</p>	This comment was noted by EIMS. It was received after the end of the comment period and therefore no response was formulated. This correspondence is included in Appendix V, as it falls outside of the EIA process.	Correspondence outside the EIA process.

		<p>Two males relentlessly chased each other from one end of the horizon to the next. This continued for the two days we were on site. It is therefore highly likely that during the autumn months resident pairs frequent areas well beyond their core territories. Monitoring is continuing at Dorper which will hopefully contribute towards better understanding the spatial requirements of the VE.</p> <p>2. <i>It should also be noted that the observational effort at Umsinde was far greater, with approximately 900 hours of VP monitoring conducted, as opposed to 240 hours by Smallie on the Eastern Cape WEF you have cited.</i></p> <p>I am not sure I grasp the implication. Dorper has 40 turbines. Umsinde is planning 98 and I would assume that means a larger terrain with many more VP's. Extrapolating those data, would increase observational effort for Umsinde. Dorper also conducted a 12 month pre construction monitoring programme.</p> <p>3. <i>There are no active Verreaux's Eagle nests within 3 km from any turbine locations. The majority of VE nests are located some distance from the turbines. 16 nests are more than 7 km from turbines, 12 nests are more than 10 km from turbines, while five nests are more than 15 km from turbines.</i></p> <p>The issue of concern is the amount of flight activity recorded. The number of nests explains why. I have studied the maps on page 89, 90 and 92 of your avifaunal report. Substantial flight activity has been recorded at vantage points 14-4-5-6-8-9, all of which are positioned</p>		
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			<p>right in the middle of the turbines, with no indication of any buffering. How are these birds going to be protected from collision?</p> <p>4. <i>We do not deny that collisions may occur, but we do not believe they will be 'catastrophic'</i></p> <p>Do you have a number of fatalities per annum in mind that you would deem non catastrophic? Have you come across data that determine sustainable fatalities?</p> <p>5. <i>It is unclear how the polygon in orange, matches up with the flight paths recorded by Davies? For example, flights from PB do not appear to extend as far south east (and beyond the park boundary), as indicated by the polygon below.</i></p> <p>It is meant to be a rough illustration that the furthest distances flown by two of the four pairs were out over uncontested territory, or beyond core territory. The current thinking seems to be that outside of core territories there is little chance of collision. I am of the opinion that in prime VE habitat like the Umsinde site, these areas are frequently utilised by resident pairs. I studied the KRNP VE population during the 2010 and 2011 breeding season. The distances indicated in Rob Davies' study for the Penberi pair is 7 kms from its nest cliff in a southerly direction and between 4 and 5 kms in a northerly direction.</p> <p>6. From the BLSA guidelines, currently still in draft format,(I think), you copy the section that deals with buffers and ends with the following sentence.</p>		
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		<p><i>Bird may move great distances away from the nest and may regularly use habitat kilometres away. It is therefore important to consider the spatial extent and relative use of the territory."</i> to which you comment;</p> <p><i>We believe that the spatial extent and relative use of the territory has been considered in the almost 900 hours of VP observations, which in turn created a sensitivity map which has advised turbine placement.</i></p> <p>I am assuming that the map on page 90 of the avifaunal report shows the proposed turbine layout. I fail to see what mitigation measures have been put in place to protect the birds in flight around VP's 14-4-5-6-8-9.</p> <p><i>7. Although not directly referred to, during monitoring such flights of juvenile birds were recorded, and were thus considered in the impact assessment.</i></p> <p>Well it's a pity these movements were not shown separately. Contrasting their flight patterns with those of the adults would have contributed towards our understanding of juvenile movement, as well as providing productivity data before construction and operation.</p> <p>1. <i>8. I have taken note of all the proposed surveys and monitoring programmes (pages 38 and 42) during and after construction, however I am not optimistic they will be adhered to. If the current climate around wind farms is anything to go by, these undertakings will become a gesture at compliance and I would have to</i></p>		
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			<p><i>witness it happening before believing that the concern around fatalities caused by spinning turbines prioritises improving mitigation measures.</i></p> <p>2. The corridor you refer to between Ishwati and Umsinde...</p> <p><i>There is in fact a very large corridor, with no proposed turbines between these two developments. The closest proposed turbines are 18 km away from each other</i></p> <p>....is populated by other eagles and therefore offers no refuge to the residents of either wind farms. I have been studying the behaviour of VE populations throughout the Western and Northern Cape since 2004 and from what I have learnt one cannot assume that should life within a wind farm become unbearable to an eagle they can just move into the corridor. This will already be highly contested area. Having said that, I am of the opinion they won't move. Resident eagles are more likely to stay. I don't think it's within their capacity to recognise the hazards wind turbines present. They will stay and continually be killed and be replaced by floaters, with little chance of the juveniles ever making it out alive.</p> <p>8. I conclude with another extract from the avifaunal report, page 41;</p> <p><i>Relatively high collision mortality rates have been recorded at several large, poorly-sited wind farms in areas where large concentrations of birds are present (including IBAs), especially among migrating birds, large raptors or other large soaring species,</i></p>		
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			Umsinde is just such a poorly-sited wind farm.		
Dr Shadrack Meophuli – President and CEO	2016/02/22	Email and attached Letter	<p>Attachment:</p> <p>FEEDBACK FROM THE AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH COUNCIL, ON THE APPLICATION FOR ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION FOR THE PROPOSED UMSINDE EMOYENI WIND ENERGY AND ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE NEAR MURRAYSBURG IN THE WESTERN CAPE AND NORTHERN CAPE</p> <p>Firstly, I would like to thank you for affording the Agricultural Research Council (ARC) the opportunity in reviewing and commenting on the key strategic initiative, which aims to diversity and augment our country's energy generation capacity and capabilities.</p> <p>After having consulted both the formal communication send to the ARC, which was received by my office on 4 February 2016, and all other related documentation found on the relevant website, I present you with the following feedback:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The proposed intended site, for the development of the Umsinde Emoyeni Wind Energy Facility, were not located in close proximity to any of the ARC properties or activities, and therefore it will not have have any direct impacts on the operations of the ARC. 2. However, the ARC wants to raise a concern relating to the potential impact the project would pose on the biodiversity of 	<p>EIMS response: Thank you very much for the Agricultural Research Council's submitted comments with regards to the Draft EIA Report for the proposed Umsinde Emoyeni Wind Energy Facilities project. Please find below the project team's responses (in bold) to the received comments.</p> <p>FEEDBACK FROM THE AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH COUNCIL, ON THE APPLICATION FOR ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION FOR THE PROPOSED UMSINDE EMOYENI WIND ENERGY AND ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE NEAR MURRAYSBURG IN THE WESTERN CAPE AND RICHMOND IN THE NORTHERN CAPE</p> <p>Firstly, I would like to thank you for affording the Agricultural Research Council (ARC) the opportunity in reviewing and commenting on this key strategic initiative, which aims to diversify and augment our country's energy generation capacity and capabilities.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. After having consulted both the formal communication send to the ARC, which was received by my office on 04 February 2016, and all other related documentation found on the relevant website, I present you with the following feedback: The proposed intended site, for the development of the Umsinde Emoyeni Wind Energy Facility, were not located in close proximity to any of the ARC properties or activities, and therefore it will not have any direct impact on the operations of the 	Biodiversity; Avifauna.

			<p>the area, as the proposed site / area is considered to be a known hotspot for endemic biodiversity. To this extent, the ARC is proposing the following to be considered:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) A detailed survey on the biodiversity of the area be undertaken, in order for local endemic species to be identified; b) An investigation be undertaken by a professional ornithologists on the possible impact of the turbines on large migratory birds such as the White Stork and Blue Crane; and c) An investigation to be undertaken by Weed Scientists, in the susceptibility of the area to weed invasions, which are to be followed-up with close monitoring into the future. <p>3. Finally, an additional suggestion is to consider complementing the wind energy facility with Solar Thermal Technologies or PV panels, in order to ensure continued energy provision under most weather conditions / patterns.</p> <p>In conclusion, I wish your organisation all of this process and hope that you can derive benefits from the inputs contained in this communication.</p>	<p>ARC.</p> <p>Noted</p> <p>6. However, the ARC wants to raise a concern relating to the potential impact the project would pose on the biodiversity of the area, as the proposed site / area is considered to be a known hotspot for endemic biodiversity. To this extent, the ARC is proposing the following to be considered:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) A detailed survey on the biodiversity of the area be undertaken, in order for local endemic species to be identified; Please see the specialist studies that were undertaken and included in the Draft EIA. <p>A specialist flora and fauna study was undertaken for the proposed development. Prior to construction of the Wind Energy Facility, a site walk-through of the area will be undertaken by the specialist to identify species of concern and ensure they are not impacted upon.</p> <p>Agreed, this was covered in the Draft EIA</p> <p>An investigation be undertaken by a professional ornithologists on the possible impact of the turbines on large migratory birds such as the White Stork and Blue Crane; and</p> <p>A specialist avifaunal study was undertaken for the proposed development, which included 12 months pre-construction monitoring. The specialist's report notes the following:</p> <p>The report states "Flat open areas of the WEF site were utilised by relatively high numbers of large terrestrial species such as Blue Crane,</p>	
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				<p><i>Southern Black Korhaan, Karoo Korhaan and Ludwig's Bustard. Blue Crane accounted for 17.8% of the total number of incidental observations and 39% of the total number of incidentally recorded individuals" and "Cultivated lands – the majority of large flocks of Blue Crane were recorded in cultivated lands (Figure 5). A 200 m buffer was applied to afford this species protection from disturbance, as well as when arriving or departing."</i> Furthermore it said <i>"Blue Cranes are known to use farm dams as roost sites. Several farm dams occur in the area" and "The Karoo population of Blue Crane is the only strong population remaining on natural vegetation in southern Africa".</i> This species was also occasionally recorded from vantage point monitoring, accounting for 6.5% of observed flights of target species.</p> <p>The report also stated that <i>"Blue Crane was also regularly recorded (incidentally) and accounted for 17.8 % of incidental records. As this species often congregates in flocks, a large number of individuals (318) were recorded during 54 observations, but it must be noted that multiple observations may have been made of the same individuals at different times" and "The largest flock made up of 43 individuals was recorded during the winter survey."</i> Furthermore the avifaunal specialist, while conducting the Arcus cliff survey, observed a flock of approximately 60 Blue Cranes off the site, approximately 4 km from the WEF site boundary. The possible presence of such large flocks on the WEF site was therefore noted.</p> <p>The report further states that agricultural land is suitable for these types of birds, and have suitably buffered these areas on the project</p>	
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				<p>site. It should be noted though that there are not many pieces of agricultural land within the project site. The potential for white stork to occur in the area was noted in the report, but during the 12 months of monitoring of the site, this species was not recorded.</p> <p>d) An investigation to be undertaken by Weed Scientists, in the susceptibility of the area to weed invasions, which are to be followed-up with close monitoring into the future.</p> <p>An alien invasive management plan has been included as part of the Environmental Management Programme for the proposed development.</p>	
Ramotholo Sefako - South African Astronomy Observatory (SAAO)	2016/02/24	Email	<p>Dear Nobuhle</p> <p>The proposed Umsinde Emoyeni Wind Energy Facility near Murraysburg is considerably far from Sutherland SAAO observing station and well outside of the Sutherland Central Astronomy Advantage Area. We don't think that the facility will have any discernible impact on optical astronomy at the observatory near Sutherland. As you may know, our main concerns as optical astronomy are related to impacts from light and dust pollution during construction and operation of facilities like yours, both of which negatively affect the quality of optical observations at the Southern African Large Telescope and other telescopes at the observatory.</p>	<p>EIMS response: Good Day Mr Ramotholo,</p> <p>Thank you very much for your comments below, these have been noted by the project team and your comments will be included in the Issues and Responses Report to be submitted with the Final EIA Report to the competent authority.</p>	General.
Linda van den Berg	2016/02/24	Email and attached Comment Form	<p>Attachment:</p> <p>I am worried as I don't see any Environmental Impact Studies being done on bee colonies in die area. Bee colonies in this area are already</p>	<p>EIMS response: Good Morning Mrs Van den Berg,</p> <p>This serves to confirm that we received your submitted comment form which has been</p>	Bees

			<p>under pressure and will not be able to survive another crisis.</p> <p>I only see Environmental Impact Studies being done on birds and bats etc. However, bees play a significant role in the Karoo ecology. You have no idea how these wind farms will affect bee colonies – it could even lead to their extinction. There is already a problem with regards to bees in the Hopefield area.</p>	<p>forwarded to the Environmental Assessment Practitioner for their response.</p> <p>Response to attached comments:</p> <p>There has been concern raised about the potential impact of wind turbines on bees and other invertebrates. Such impact could potentially result from the noise and low frequency vibrations generated by turbines as well as the 'strobing' effect which occurs in the mornings and evenings when sunlight passes through turning turbine blades. In addition, as with all electrical infrastructure, the turbines and associated power lines would generate an electromagnetic field (EMF), which some people have speculated may impact fauna. However, there have no published scientific studies that have documented a negative impact of noise, flicker or electromagnetic fields from wind turbines on bees or any other invertebrates.</p> <p>Although there is a lot of anecdotal reporting on the internet around the negative impacts of wind turbines, scientists have not been able to verify the majority of negative impacts that have been reported on fauna or human health. However, that is not the say that wind turbines have no impact on invertebrates. It has been documented (Long et al. 2011) that wind turbines attract certain insects apparently as a result of them being attracted to the turbines as a potential food source or due to the thermal qualities of the blades (for example insects may be attracted to dark colours in the winter when they are seeking warm sites). This in turn may be one of the reasons that both birds and bats are attracted to wind turbines as they encounter greater numbers of insects in their vicinity. However, the severity and extent of this impact is not known. However, it is likely that this impact would operate at a local level and would be extremely unlikely to</p>	
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				<p>cause broad-scale impacts on invertebrate populations.</p> <p>Although bees can become highly aggressive when noise is generated near to their hive, they also become habituated to noise and it is not uncommon to find bees living in noisy environments, so noise on its own is not likely to generate significant impacts on bees.</p> <p>Reference: Long, C. V., J. A. Flint, and P. A. Lepper. "Insect attraction to wind turbines: does colour play a role?." <i>European Journal of Wildlife Research</i> 57.2 (2011): 323-331.</p>	
Sylvester Plaatjies	2016/02/24	Email and attached Comment Form	Mr. Sylvester sent a Comment Sheet to be registered on the project.	<p>EIMS response: Hi Sylvester,</p> <p>Thank you very much for your submitted comment sheet, your contact details have been added to the project's Interested and Affected Parties database for future notification regarding the Environmental Impact Assessment.</p>	Registration.
Mr. Luis Welgemoed Professional Town & Regional Planner Human Settlements Planning Department of Human Settlements	2016/02/29	Email and attached letter	<p>Good day Ms Hughes,</p> <p>Herewith please find attached the formal written comment regarding the proposed Umsinde Emoyeni Wind Energy Facility and associated infrastructure.</p> <p>Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions related to this matter.</p> <p>Attachment:</p> <p>RE: APPLICATION FOR ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION FOR THE PROPOSED UMSINDE EMOYENI WIND ENERGY FACILITY AND ASSOCIATED</p>	<p>EIMS response: Good Afternoon Mr Welgemoed,</p> <p>Thank you very much for the submitted comments from the Western Cape Department of Human Settlements, the comments have been noted by the project team and will be included in the Issues and Responses Report to be submitted with the Final Environmental Impact Assessment Report to the competent authority.</p>	General.

			<p>INFRASTRUCTURE, NEAR MURRAYSBURG IN THE WESTERN CAPE</p> <p>With reference to your letter (dated 3 December 2015: LW/nh/0999) received from your company on 21 January 2016 the Department of Human Settlements would like to state that after a preliminary investigation of the proposed location of the above energy facility it was deemed that this facility will have no direct negative impact on any current or future planned human settlement projects in the settlement of Murraysburg.</p> <p>Please feel free to contact Mr. Luis Welgemoed (02 483 4962) at the Sub-Directorate: Municipal HSP Planning & Support (contact details below) if there are any queries related to this matter.</p>		
Ms. Truitjie - Land occupier Farm Bakensklip	2016/02/04	Focus group meeting	Ms Truitjie added a comment that she would like the project to go ahead as her household still uses candles.	<p>Ms Ariel Oosthuizen clarified to Ms Truitjie that the electricity generated from the proposed development will feed into the Eskom National Grid and thus the electricity will not be coming directly to Murraysburg and surrounding farms</p> <p>Ms Nobuhle Hughes from EIMS informed Ms Truitjie that the commenting period for the public and registered Interested and Affected Parties regarding the project is open until the 24th February 2016 and that Ms Truitjie and/ or her husband can contact Ms Hughes using the contact details provided in the comment sheet. Ms Hughes offered to call back when contacted towards recording queries or comments. Ms Hughes gave the Ms Truitjie copies of the project's comment sheet with the contact details.</p>	General.

Community member	2016/02/04	Public meeting	A community member stated that the queries and comments by Mr Andre van der Spuy earlier were too complex and advanced for the rest of the attendees as if Mr van der Spuy had more information regarding the project and process and the other people in the meeting were being left behind as the EIA presentation had not yet been delivered. He asked that the second presentation be heard first before further questions so that all present were on the same page. He also asked that questions moving forward be in Afrikaans to save time spent on translating the question as well as the answer.	The request was accepted and the second presentation was delivered by Ms Ashlin Bodasing from Arcus (the EAP).	General.
Mr. David – Community member	2016/02/04	Public meeting	Mr David wanted to know if the EIA process is what determine whether or not the development will go ahead or if it is people's views, he said to him it seems like it is mostly the farmers and landowners that have issues with the proposed development	Ms Nobuhle Hughes from EIMS answered that the EIA process is undertaken by the EAP as part of the EIA team (includes the various specialists and public participation team); however the overall decision on whether the proposed development will be approved and granted Environmental Authorisation (EA) is up to the competent authority which is the National Department of Environmental Affairs. Thereafter, should the EA be granted, the developer would still require to get preferred bidder status from the national Department of Energy. As part of the EIA process, public/ Interested and Affected Party comments are considered by the competent authority in their decision making and as such comments received throughout the EIA process are included in the various reports submitted to the authorities for consideration in their decision-making.	EIA process
Mr Willem Avenant - (anti-fracking co-founder)	2016/02/04	Public meeting	Mr Willem Avenant from Murraysburg (anti-fracking co-founder) asked on behalf of Mr Jaco van den Berg if ay studies on bees had been done.	Ms Ashlin Bodasing from Arcus answered that to date no specific studies on bees had been undertaken above and beyond the ecology study as part of the EIA.	Bees specialist study

Mr Willem Avenant - (anti-fracking co-founder)	2016/02/04	Public meeting	Mr Willem Avenant asked why the presentation was in English and not Afrikaans. He also wanted to know why the mayor from De Aar left immediately after talking instead of staying until the end of the meeting like others. Mr Willem mentioned that the project presenters mentioned community support and thus he wanted to know if the drinks provided at the meeting were bought in Murraysburg.	Ms Ashlin Bodasing answered that the presentation was in English as herself as the EAP is English-speaking however an Afrikaans speaking facilitator and translator was included in the project team to assist at the meeting. Ms Bodasing stated that the mayor left on his own accord and thus the project team cannot answer on his behalf. Ms Bodasing also confirmed that all the drinks were bought in Murraysburg	General.
Ms Erika Hauff-Cramer - Graaff-Reinet	2016/02/04	Public meeting	Ms Erika Hauff-Cramer from Graaff-Reinet asked what alternatives are proposed by the objectors as in some areas people are suffering from mines, fracking etc. and the wind energy option carries less of an impact. She added that the price of electricity is growing and thus alternatives are required, and long term benefits should be considered as a way forward. She is from Germany and reiterated that renewable energy has been successfully adopted in that country and has been accepted as something positive.	Ms Erika Hauff-Cramer was directing her comments and suggestions at the meeting attendees and not at the EAP.	Fracking.
Community member	2016/02/04	Public meeting	An Interested and Affected Party (I&AP) commented that a number of issues came out at the meeting and asked if the issues can be submitted using comment sheets as well and the issues included in the documents to be submitted to the authorities so that the project can move forward. The I&AP followed up by saying that he felt some of the comments raised were irrelevant especially those that referred to race, as well as the comments regarding Beaufort West as he feels Beaufort West should not be part of the proposed development which is in Murraysburg. He further added that there should be proof that the proposed development will benefit the community as a whole and not only certain groups.	This was largely directed at other meeting attendees not the project team, but was noted by the project team.	General.

The issues and comments raised after the submission of the final Environmental Impact Assessment Report submitted to the competent authority on the 20 April 2016. Please refer to Appendix X for copies of the said correspondence. This is in relation to the letter of rejection received by the DEA on the final EIA. The letter of rejection is included in Appendix X.

Name	Date	Method	Issue	Response	Aspect/ Area
Karoo News Group	2016/04/14	Email	<p>Dear Eims and Ashlin</p> <p>You are frustrating the process by not responding to very valid questions that our members would like answers to. If we do not get a timeous response you leave us no option but to take the matter to the DEA</p> <p>Ashlin your response is requested on the land values as it contradicts the reports of your predecessor that you have endorsed</p> <p>There is alarm and many questions now being asked as to why the Victoria West WEF which was approved in 2011 by DEA NEAS Ref EIA/12225/2011 DEA 12/12/20/1788 was not included in the Umsinde EIA study. The Victoria West WEF site is less than 30km away from Umsinde</p> <p>Why was this development not considered and why was no cumulative impact assessment done which takes in this development approved in 2011 already</p>	<p>Dear Karoo News Group,</p> <p>Thank you for your submissions below, the formal commenting period ended on the 7th March 2016. Responses to all correspondence received by that date were distributed to Interested and Affected Parties. Unfortunately, comments received after the end of the commenting period will not be responded to further. We will however submit these comments to the DEA for their consideration.</p> <p>The Victoria West WEF was included in the cumulative assessment undertaken by all specialists. the cumulative assessment included all renewable energy developments within a 50 km radius of the proposed Umsinde development.</p> <p>The EAP stands by the land value report as submitted as part of the scoping process and was approved by the DEA. The social assessment also takes this into consideration, and concludes that based on international literature, WEF developments do not have an impact on land values.</p>	<p>Request for response</p> <p>Land value</p> <p>Victoria West WEF</p> <p>Cumulative impacts</p>
Dear Karoo News Group	2016/04/15	Email	<p>Dear Eims/(Ashlin/Windlab)</p> <p>You continued to respond to comments on the 15th March in the email below which is one week after the closing commenting period. Clearly you are struggling to answer the outstanding issues and</p>	<p>There is no collusion as mentioned below. The EAP and the applicant for Umsinde have nothing to do with the EAP and the applicant for Victoria West. any reference to collusion is unfounded.</p>	<p>Comment period timeframes</p>

			<p>now the moment the Victoria West WEF application was mentioned you now decide to stop all communication?</p> <p>The closing of the commenting period 2 weeks before the release of the Mainstream Victoria West announcement shows possible collusion. The moment we brought in the Victoria West issue the project team (incl. developer) are refusing to comment further. It is becoming apparent that the Victoria West WEF was intentionally excluded in any of the Umsinde studies and reports</p> <p>You or anyone is welcome to rectify this if anything said is incorrect as failing to do so will probably serve to confirm the obvious.</p>	<p>The report has to be finalises and the commenting period is not open ended. In order to finalise the reports, responding to comments submitted after the the commenting period has to stop at a point.</p> <p>The Victoria West was included as part of the cumulative assessment.</p>	Mainstream Victoria West announcement
Solomon Maruma Department of Rural Development and Land Reform	2016-04-20	Email	<p>Good day</p> <p>It looks like the affected properties are located in Western Cape and Northern Cape provinces. I have copied this e-mail to my colleagues in Western Cape and Northern Cape for them to confirm if there is a restitution claims of the properties because RLCC Gauteng can only confirm properties located in Gauteng province</p> <p>You are further requested to provide colleagues in those provinces with the full property descriptions for the affected properties as per deeds records</p>	<p>Good Afternoon,</p> <p>As per correspondence below from Mr Maruma, please find attached the list of affected properties for the proposed Umsinde Emoyeni Wind Energy Facilities project towards determining if they have any restitution claims. Please advise if you require additional information or details in this regard.</p> <p><u>A list of properties was also attached to the email correspondence.</u></p>	Property details
Andre van der Spuy on behalf of Mr Izak van der Merwe (Badsfontein farm) and Mr Jan Pickard (Ratelfontein Private Game Reserve)	2016/04/21	Email	<p>Please note that I am out of office until approximately 28 April and will have only intermittent cell phone contact (and no access to email). I will respond on my return to office.</p>	<p>The EAAp continued to contact Mr Andrew van der Spuy.</p>	Availability

WESSA PE Office	2016/04/21	Email	The Northern Cape Regional Office of WESSA is not dealing with EIA and development matters. Please address letters, registered letters, faxes or hard copies of documents to Morgan Griffiths, Environmental Governance Programme Manager.	Good afternoon, Thank you very much for the correspondence below and the contact information provided. We have made note and will contact Mr Griffiths accordingly.	Contact details
Lucia Rodrigues Western Cape Black Eagle Project	2016/04/21	Email	Thanks Nobuhle. What is the time frame within which we need to submit comments to the DEA?	Dear Lucia, Thank you for the correspondence below. There is no specific timeframe for the commenting period for the final reports under the 2010 EIA Regulations. However, based on past experience the DEA will adhere to at least 21 days in accordance with the Western Cape EIA Guidelines.	Timeframes
Samantha Ralston-Paton Bird Life	2016/04/21	Email	Dear Andrew and Nobuhle Andrew and I spoke about setting up a meeting to discuss our comments on this project, but we did not get around to doing so. Is it still worth us meeting since the final report has been submitted? It seems like you are pushing ahead regardless.	Good Morning Sam, Thank you for your recent correspondence. The project team is still very keen on meeting with Birdlife to discuss the comments received. The EAP (Ms Ashlin Bodasing) will be in contact with you to make arrangements for the meeting to take place possibly on the first or second week of May 2016.	Meeting arrangements
Samantha Ralston-Paton Bird Life	2016/04/26	Email	Hi Ashlin Great. I'll see you on the 5th then. Take care Sam	Good morning Sam, Further to this email please can you confirm your availability to meet with us. We propose the following dates: Date: 5 May 2016 or 6 May 2016 Time: 11 am Venue: Arcus Office	Meeting arrangements

				<p>If the above does not suit you, please advise accordingly and we will make other arrangements.</p> <p>Please see Appendix X for minutes of the meeting.</p>	
Edward Daniels Community member	2016/04/26	Email	<p>Good morning, Thank you very much for keeping me posted, wishing you all the best for the way forward.</p> <p>Greetings.</p>	<p>Good Afternoon Edward.</p> <p>You are welcome, and we will inform all registered Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) such as yourself of the outcome of this application.</p>	Correspondence with EAP
Lucia Rodrigues Western Cape Black Eagle Project	2016/05/04	Email	<p>Thanks Nobuhle, I assumed that would be it, but thought to check in the absence of instructions.</p>	<p>You are welcome Lucia, have a good and hopefully warm day.</p>	Information clarification
Neville van Rooy Community member	2016/05/04	Email	<p>Good day by when will hear the good news about Construction faze starting?</p> <p>Nature work, the way I know it can start even before the construction begins, where can people interested apply?</p>	<p>As this was received after submission of the final EIA report, this was not responded to. ALL registered interested and affected parties will be notified once a decision is made by the DEA.</p>	<p>Project progress</p> <p>Employment opportunities</p>
Andre van der Spuy on behalf of Mr Izak van der Merwe (Badsfontein farm) and Mr Jan Pickard (Ratelfontein Private Game Reserve)	2016/05/05	Email	<p>Dear Ms. Hughes</p> <p>Thank you noted.</p> <p>I also confirm that you have agreed to arrange delivery of a hard copy of the reports to the Coop in Murraysburg and which will be clearly marked for Mr. Izak Van der Merwe's (of Badsfontein) attention. You have agreed to let me know when they arrive at the Coop and I will thereafter in form Mr. Van der Merwe.</p>	<p>Good Afternoon Mr van der Spuy,</p> <p>I have communicated your request to the EAP for a hard copy of the Final EIA Reports for your client Mr Izak van der Merwe. They EAP stated that they provided you the hard copy delivered today so that you may share it with your clients which includes Mr Van der Merwe. Please advise if Mr Van der Merwe has requested a separate copy from the one delivered to you.</p>	Final EIA hard copy delivery

<p>Lucia Rodrigues</p> <p>Western Cape Black Eagle Project</p>	<p>2016/05/09</p>	<p>Emailed letter</p>	<p>Attention Mr Herman Alberts, National Department of Environmental Affairs</p> <p>DEA References: 14/12/16/3/3/2/684; 14/12/16/3/3/2/685; 14/12/16/3/3/2/686; 14/12/16/3/3/2/687</p> <p>Nobuhle Hughes</p> <p>Environmental Impact Management Services</p> <p>EMS Reference: 0999</p> <p>Dear Mr Alberts and Ms Hughes,</p> <p>Please find attached my comments on the Final Environmental Impact Assessment Report for Umsinde Emoyeni WEF.</p> <p>I am writing in my personal capacity as a volunteer researcher of Verreaux's Eagles. My project; Western Cape Black Eagle Project is registered and supported by the Birds of Prey Programme, Endangered Wild Life Trust (EWT). I have been studying populations of Verreaux's Eagles throughout the Western Cape since 2004. I am registered as an interested and affected party for Umsinde Emoyeni, because I hope my input, based on years of monitoring these birds, will assist in providing a better understanding of their spatial requirements and as such contribute towards minimising displacement through disturbance and fatalities through collisions with turbines and related infrastructure.</p> <p>The Avifaunal Specialist Report states that Verreaux's Eagles are the most commonly recorded target species, with over 53% of recorded flights being those of Verreaux's Eagles. The report also reminds us that due to a significant decline in</p>	<p>A meeting was held with Lucia to address comments on the report. the minutes of the meeting can be found in Appendix X. based on the out come of the meeting, an additional 12 months of bird monitoring at the Umsinde site was conducted. the results of which advised the revised layout.</p>	<p>Impact on avifauna</p>
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		<p>population numbers, the 2015 Eskom Red Data Book of Birds has upgraded the Verreaux's Eagle status to vulnerable. A direct quote from this publication: "The species is somewhat susceptible to collisions with and resultant electrocutions from power lines and related infrastructure. Development of wind farms, especially in mountainous areas poses a future threat to this species which may prove significant."</p> <p>The three Verreaux's Eagle fatalities mentioned has now risen to no fewer than six Verreaux's Eagle fatalities through wind turbine collisions at operational wind farms, four of which are at a single wind energy facility in the Eastern Cape. We now know that Verreaux's Eagles are significantly impacted by wind turbines and this should be acknowledged from the outset. Parallels drawn between Verreaux's Eagles and Golden Eagles in Europe and the Americas are meaningless; the data are just not comparable.</p> <p>Of the 472 flights recorded during the preconstruction monitoring, 252 were by Verreaux's Eagles. This volume of flight activity is not surprising when one takes into account that the Umsinde Emoyeni site is surrounded by 21 active Verreaux's Eagle nest sites, 5 of which fall within the boundary of the WEF. I acknowledge the additional efforts made in locating the nest sites and allowing for a 3 kilometre buffer around each, however with so many highly territorial eagle pairs within and around the wind energy facility site, the flight activity over uncontested space (ie. well beyond the 3km nest buffers) is enormous, as is evidenced by the substantial flight activity recorded at vantage points 14-4-5-6-8-9, all of which are positioned right in the middle of the turbines. The Avifaunal report page 34 refers; "It would be</p>		
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		<p>important to afford this species protection by not placing turbines in areas of high recorded flight activity". Yet, no measures have been proposed to prevent collisions around these aforementioned vantage points.</p> <p>Furthermore it is unfortunate that the report does not isolate the flight paths of dispersing juvenile Verreaux's Eagles. It is important to separate these data from adult flights paths in order to mitigate as best as possible for juvenile collisions. The time of year these flights are recorded is a critical component of the data. Collectively juvenile Verreaux's Eagles would be at a higher risk of collision. Contrasting their flight patterns with those of the adults will contribute towards our understanding of juvenile movement, as well as providing productivity data before construction and operation.</p> <p>I have taken note of the undertaking to conduct various surveys and monitoring programmes during and after construction, however it does not make sense to collect additional data, required to inform the placement of turbines, once construction has commenced.</p> <p>I would like to see another year of construction monitoring, paying particular attention to the flight paths of juveniles and the high flight activity areas (as recorded from vantage points 4-5-6-8-9-14). It is also important to provide descriptions of observed behaviour of the birds.</p> <p>In order to secure commitment to implement required mitigation measures, it is important to delay granting Environmental Authorisation until the additional fieldwork has been completed. Furthermore I would also like to see that the Environmental Management Programme clearly and unambiguously commits to thresholds for fatalities and the legally binding measures, they</p>		
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			<p>are prepared to take in order to prevent further fatalities, be it employing more technology, shutting down turbines at certain times of the year or decommissioning problem turbines altogether.</p> <p>I admit that data emerging from operational wind farms in South Africa have resulted in a more cautious approach when assessing negative impacts. The willingness to search for nests and increase nest buffers to 3 kilometres is evidence of this; however in general post construction monitoring is not transparent and if it were not for the efforts of regulatory organisations these reports would never see the light of day. My concern is that while the results of post construction monitoring are deemed confidential and therefore not available to all interested and affected parties, I remain sceptical that adaptive management will play the role envisaged in refining mitigation measures.</p>		
Andre van der Spuy on behalf of Mr Izak van der Merwe (Badsfontein farm) and Mr Jan Pickard (Ratefontein Private Game Reserve)	2016/05/10	Email	<p>Dear Ms. Hughes</p> <p>We have received no response to the below critical enquiries and requests for information.</p> <p>Please provide same in order to inform our further comments on this application. Alternatively, please advise in which specific location (page number) of the current documentation your/ the EAP's complete responses can be found.</p> <p>Secondly, please could you advise where in the current documentation (including page number) we can view the slide presentation that was presented at the Public Meeting of 4/2/2016.</p> <p>We look forward to receiving your earliest response.</p> <p>Thank you.</p>	Response presented under the correspondence listed below.	<p>Correspondence with EAP</p> <p>Request for information and response</p> <p>Reference to the EIA Report for EAP responses and public meeting presentation</p>

<p>Andre van der Spuy</p> <p>on behalf of Mr Izak van der Merwe (Badsfontein farm) and Mr Jan Pickard (Ratelfontein Private Game Reserve)</p>	<p>2016/05/12</p>	<p>Email</p>	<p>Dear Ms. Hughes</p> <p>We await the EAP's answers to the below queries and the requested information as a matter of urgency.</p> <p>Please advise as to when we could expect same.</p>	<p>Dear Mr Van der Spuy,</p> <p>Your correspondence received on the 05/04/2016, 10/05/2016, and 12/05/2016 refers.</p> <p>As per our telephonic conversation on the (16/05/2016), the request for proof of your authority to represent some of the occupiers (Power of Attorney) was from the Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP), as per a similar request during Scoping with regards to the landowners you represent.</p> <p>With regards to the requested EAP appointment documents, these have been submitted to the Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA). Furthermore, the presentation from the public meeting held on the 04/02/2016 was available upon request to I&APs, and a copy of the presentation from such a request can be obtained in the Correspondence Appendix 1.1U (page 351) in Volume II of the Final Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Reports.</p> <p>Please be reminded that the stipulated comment period for the Draft EIA Reports ended on 07/03/2016 and as per Regulation 56(6) you are requested to send any further comments directly to the DEA, at the following contact details:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Private Bag X447, Pretoria, 0001 • Phone: 012 399 9406 • Contact: Mr. Herman Alberts • Email: HAlberts@environment.gov.za 	<p>Correspondence with EAP</p> <p>Request response for</p>
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				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> DEA References: 14/12/16/3/3/2/684; 14/12/16/3/3/2/685; 14/12/16/3/3/2/686; 14/12/16/3/3/2/687 <p>Thank you very much for all your participation during the EIA Process.</p>	
Andre van der Spuy on behalf of Mr Izak van der Merwe (Badsfontein farm) and Mr Jan Pickard (Ratelfontein Private Game Reserve)	2016/05/18	Email	<p>Dear Ms. Hughes</p> <p>Our telephone conversation of 16 May 2016 re the below matters, refers.</p> <p>You agreed to contact the EAP and to thereafter advise me as to when we could expect delivery of the requested advice and information. To date we have received no further correspondence from either you or the EAP.</p>	<p>Good Day Mr Van der Spuy,</p> <p>I have updated the EAP with regards to our telephonic conversation on the 16th May 2016 and your email correspondence, and am awaiting feedback and a response which will be forwarded to you as soon as I receive it before the end of today.</p>	<p>Request for advice and information</p> <p>Request for response</p>
Andre van der Spuy on behalf of Mr Izak van der Merwe (Badsfontein farm) and Mr Jan Pickard (Ratelfontein Private Game Reserve)	2016/05/19	Email	<p>Dear Ms. Hughes and Ms. Bodasing</p> <p>Below refers.</p> <p>You and the EAP have failed to provide us with the requested answers and information. We suspect that the below response originates from the offices of the Applicant, Windlab, rather than that of the EAP.</p> <p>You/ EAP have again failed to provide the legislative justification for the imposed requirement for Power of attorney in order for us to act for our stated clients. The failure is noted as a case of prejudice against us and our clients. We accordingly reject the unlawful requirement which the EAP has attempted to impose upon us and our clients.</p> <p>You/ EAP have failed to provide us with the requested proof of appointments by Emoyeni Wind Farms Propriety Limited (as the declared Applicant) of respectively Jennifer Slack and Ashlin Bodasing</p>	<p>The EAP has responded to all queires and provided information on where to fin the requested information. a hard copy and an electronic copy of the reports were submitted. The electronic version, would show the page number as indicated in the response above.</p> <p>If someone claims to be representing interested and affected parties, proof thereof must be provided. The EAP does not believe this request to be unlawful. Yor rejection to provide proof is noted by the EAP.</p> <p>Declaration of independecnce as required in the application forms have been submitted to the DEA. These have also been included as part of the EIA reports, Appendix A. proof of Ashlin Bodasing as the EAP, is included in the EIA</p>	<p>Request for information</p> <p>Correspondence with EAP</p> <p>Power of attorney legislation</p> <p>Proof of EAP appointment</p> <p>EAP impartiality</p> <p>public meeting presentation</p> <p>EIA Report appendices</p>

		<p>(the declared individuals acting in capacity as EAPs on this project). Said proofs are also not present in any of the EIA documentation to the best of our knowledge and it therefore appears that EIA Regulation 16(1) has been violated. In your below email you claim that these documents have been provided to the DEA yet you have failed to provide us with a copy of them. You are reminded that I&APs have a legal right under the EIA Regulation 56(1) to review and comment on all submissions made to the DEA. Your / the EAP's failure to provide us (or any other party apparently) with this critical proof is recorded here and stands as a case of incompetence on the part of Ashlin Bodasing as the EAP and is indicative of her Applicant-bias given her illegal attempt to impose the (invented) power of attorney requirement upon us and our clients. Such is regarded by us in a very serious light given the importance of the EAP's required impartiality in the EIA process management and we will expect the DEA to act against this irregularity.</p> <p>Your statement regarding our request for a copy of the public meeting presentation is not understood and appears to make no grammatical sense. Nonetheless, we note the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - You have failed to provide us with a copy of the requested public meeting (full) presentation. - There exists no Appendix 1.1U in Volume II therefore the reference provided by the EAP is fictitious. - There are no page numbers to Volume II therefore the page number reference supplied is fictitious. - The part of the public meeting presentation which was presented by Windlab (Ben Brimble) appears to be purposefully excluded from 	<p>reports, that the applicant has appointed Arcus to undertake the EIA for the development.</p> <p>It should be noted that the commenting period on reports is not open ended. The EAP has taken all reasonable measures to comment and respond to all queries submitted.</p> <p>The requested information was sent as requested. there is an Appendix 1.1U. please see electronic version.</p> <p>There have been no purposeful exclusions. All requests have been submitted.</p>	
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			<p>Volume II (which is not surprising given its various preposterous statements such as claiming that there are no environmental "fatal flaws" even though the EIA process was still underway!).</p> <p>Furthermore, the role and responsibilities of the EAP remain in place until conclusion of, and a decision on, the application(s) is made, accordingly we are entitled to engage at any time with the EAP and are likewise entitled to meaningful responses from the EAP (but which have not been provided in this instance). Be further advised that EIA Regulation 56(6) does not apply to these requests but Regulation 56(1) does and which you have failed to abide by.</p>		
Andre van der Spuy on behalf of Mr Izak van der Merwe (Badsfontein farm) and Mr Jan Pickard (Ratelfontein Private Game Reserve)	2016/05/19	Email	<p>Dear Mr. Alberts/ Abader</p> <p>DEA References: 14/12/16/3/3/2/684; 14/12/16/3/3/2/685; 14/12/16/3/3/2/686; 14/12/16/3/3/2/687</p> <p>The below correspondence is brought to your attention.</p> <p>As is evident from the below record we have made concerted efforts to extract material advice and information from the EAP but which has effectively been denied and refused. You are requested to seriously consider the contents of our requests and especially in light of the fact that the subject applications appear to have been managed by parties who do not legally constitute an Environmental Assessment Practitioner. We are advised (see below email from Ms Hughes dated 18/5/2016) that "the requested EAP appointment documents, ... have been submitted to the Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA)" but do not find any such correctly constituted documents in any of the EIA documentation and copies of same have not been provide to us by the (so-called)</p>		

			EAP. Accordingly, we are forced to defer our request to you as the Competent Authority in this matter and therefore here request that you please provide us with these document copies in order to satisfy our clients (and no doubt yourselves as the Competent Authority) that the legal appointments of Jennifer Slack and Ashlin Bodasing by Emoyeni Wind Farms Propriety Limited in terms of inter alia EIA Regulation 16(1) are properly constituted. Should no such correctly constituted contractual appointment documents exist then the EIA process for the subject applications will be fundamentally and fatally flawed.		
Neville van Rooy Community member	2016/05/25	Email	<p>There are quite a few specialists involved in your Project?</p> <p>1. Why are these specialists not challenged by projects to create a platform for local young people to be exposed/trained, not necessarily as experts but to assistance to them? As specially if the specialist will be working/active for the entire operation of the project, I understand not all specialists will be involve for 20years</p> <p>2. Mr Andrew Jenkins/ Adviser for Birds (Advises Consulting) and Kate Mrs Kate McEwan (Inkululeko Wildlife Service) does not involve locally trained Field guides, to orientate field nature/wildlife workers to be involved. This is not foreign work for some of them growing up in farms as well as having FGASA training base.</p> <p>3. Other Forms of Training that can be made available for the youth-CODE 14 Drivers Licence-Operating Digger Loaders etc.</p>	<p>This will be considered as part of the operational phase of the project, should it be awarded preferred bidder. Operational bird and monitoring monitoring will likely involve local community members to assist the specialists.</p> <p>The EAP has forward this to the specialists to be considered in future projects.</p> <p>This is been forwarded to the applicant for consideration.</p>	<p>Community involvement Employment opportunities Training opportunities</p>
Andre van der Spuy on behalf of Mr Izak van der Merwe (Badsfontein farm) and Mr Jan Pickard	2016/05/26	Email	<p>Dear Ms. Hughes</p> <p>Below is noted. Thank you for late delivery of these draft reports (contrary to their proclaimed status as "Final" reports).</p>	<p>No reposnse required.</p>	

(Ratelfontein Private Game Reserve)			It is recorded that the hard copy report has been provided more than 1 month after commencement of the comment period on 21 April (we have however noted that the comment period is of an indefinite period). This despite the recorded problems around the very late delivery to Mr. Izak van der Merwe of the previous version of hard copy reports.		
Andre van der Spuy on behalf of Mr Izak van der Merwe (Badsfontein farm) and Mr Jan Pickard (Ratelfontein Private Game Reserve)	2016/05/26	Email	Dear Ms. Hughes Further to our below email and its contents we submit the following record to you and the Competent Authority (by way of copy to this email). Our below correspondence initiated the attached automated response from your office. The response advises that the comment period has closed. Therefore you have provided Mr. van der Merwe with the reports after alleged closure of the comment period and therefore your provision of the reports to Mr. Van der Merwe is accordingly meaningless in its effect (and thus illegal). We however again record here that you did not advise I&APs at any previous stage that the comment period would close at any particular date (thereby providing I&APs with any indefinite comment period) and therefore the termination of the comment period appears to be an entirely arbitrary and irrational decision. DEA are advised to take note of our objection in this matter.	Comment period on the draft EIA reports have closed. All comments on the final reports were to be submitted directly to the DEA and the EAP copied in.	Correspondence with DEA
Andre van der Spuy on behalf of Mr Izak van der Merwe (Badsfontein farm) and Mr Jan Pickard	2016/06/20	Email	Dear Ms. Nqcababa Our below request to the DEA refers. We have to date received no response from either Mr. Abader or Mr. Alberts and therefore now refer the matter to yourself for your attention. We	No response required.	

(Ratelfontein Private Game Reserve)			<p>furthermore bring it to your attention that failure of the DEA to respond to such important issues serves only to ultimately increase the administrative burden on the Department (through its own inactions) since we will insist that its obligations under PAJA and NEMA are complied with.</p> <p>At this point in time we have still not received the requested documentation and the critical matter remains unresolved. We consequently await your response and provision of the requested evidence.</p>		
Edward Daniels Community member	2016/09/26	Email	<p>Good day, Edward Daniels here from Murraysburg. Hope things are going well. I'm completing my Electrical N2 exams in November, awaiting for my Trade Test early next year.</p> <p>Greetings.</p>	The comment was noted and passed on to the applicant. .	
Andre van der Spuy on behalf of Mr Izak van der Merwe (Badsfontein farm) and Mr Jan Pickard (Ratelfontein Private Game Reserve)	2017/04/26	Email	<p>Dear Ms. N Ngcaba,</p> <p>Our below enquiry refers and is repeated for your convenience (in RED), per:</p> <p>On a separate but related important matter, we also refer to the letter signed by Mr. Sabelo Maleza of your Department and dated 8/2/2015 (as attached). Under point n) of this letter is stated the following:</p> <p>“Andre van der Spuy Environmental Consultants must provide a copy of power of attorneys should he wish to continue to represent his clients. This must be included in the reports.”</p> <p>Accordingly, please could you provide us with the following information:</p>	No response required by EAP.	Correspondence with DEA

			<p>1) Under which legislation is this requirement being placed upon us, and therefore, by implication, our clients too?</p> <p>2) Please advise us which other I&APs or parties have also been required by DEA to provide such power of attorneys as we fail to see any such evidence in these applications and the associated documentation. Given that many of the registered Interested & Affected Parties are no doubt also “party” representatives, like us, we would expect the same requirements to be equally imposed in order to avoid any suggestion of victimization by the DEA of us or our clients.</p> <p>You have still not answered this critical question and which the DEA and various “EAP”s have sought to impose upon AVDS Environmental Consultants and its various clients on various wind farm environmental applications (including environmental applications for Umsinde Emoyeni WEF, Spitskop WEF, Plan 8 Grahamstown WEF).</p> <p>You are therefore now requested to provide your reasons without further delay. This request is made according to the empowering provisions under the Promotion of Administrative Justice Act (PAJA). The status of the Umsinde Emoyeni wind farm application is irrelevant to the request (since the substance of the request now relates equally to various other environmental applications).</p> <p>We look forward to receiving your reply soonest.</p>		
Irene Bezuidenhout BioTherm Energy (Pty) Ltd	2016-08-11	Email	<p>Good day Nobuhle,</p> <p>I received your contact details from Ashlin Bodasing from Arcus Consulting. Please will you</p>	Ms. Irene Bezuidenhout was registered on the project database.	Registration

			<p>register me as an I&AP on the Umsinde Emoyeni WEF project.</p> <p>Please confirm if this is in order.</p>		
Nama Foundation/ Karoo Trust	Karoo Nama 2016/09/22	Email	<p>Hi Nobhule,</p> <p>We notify you of a name and email change as a registered I&AP. The Nama Karoo Foundation name changes to Nama Karoo Trust. The email address changes from info@namakaroo.org to beal@vodamail.co.za. Please confirm you have updated your system</p>	<p>Hi Marina,</p> <p>This serves to confirm receipt of the notification regarding the name and email changes to the previously recorded details for the Nama Karoo Foundation/ Nama Karoo Trust. We have updated the project database accordingly and thank you very much for furnishing us with the new details.</p>	Changes to contact details
Andre van der Spuy on behalf of Mr Izak van der Merwe (Badsfontein farm) and Mr Jan Pickard (Ratelfontein Private Game Reserve)	2017/05/10	Email	<p>Dear Mr. Hassam</p> <p>Below refers.</p> <p>We have received no response from Ms. Ngcaba to this (and various other correspondences) sent to her. It would appear that she does not take our correspondences, and those on behalves of whom they are sent, seriously. Accordingly, please would you remind her of her administrative duties as a public official in terms of inter alia PAJA and NEMA in order that we, and our respective clients, are availed of her response(s).</p>	No response required from EAP.	Correspondence with DEA

			Thank you.		
Euegene Curth Community member	2017/11/16	Email	Good day. How are you, what's going on.	Good Afternoon Euegene, Thank you for your correspondence, please be advised that we are still in the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) phase of the project, the EIA Report was submitted to the authorities however a decision has not yet been made on the project. We will notify all registered Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) of the way forward in due course.	Project progress

