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**AQUATIC OPINION – PROPOSED AMENDEMENT OF BLOEMSMOND SOLAR 1**

EnviroSci (Pty) Ltd was appointed to review the proposed amendment against the previous aquatic impact assessment compiled and submitted by the same lead author as the undersigned. The initial Aquatic Impact assessment was undertaken to inform the EIA that was conducted on behalf of Atlantic Energy Partner, who have proposed to now include a Battery Energy Storage System within the approved site (Figure 1).

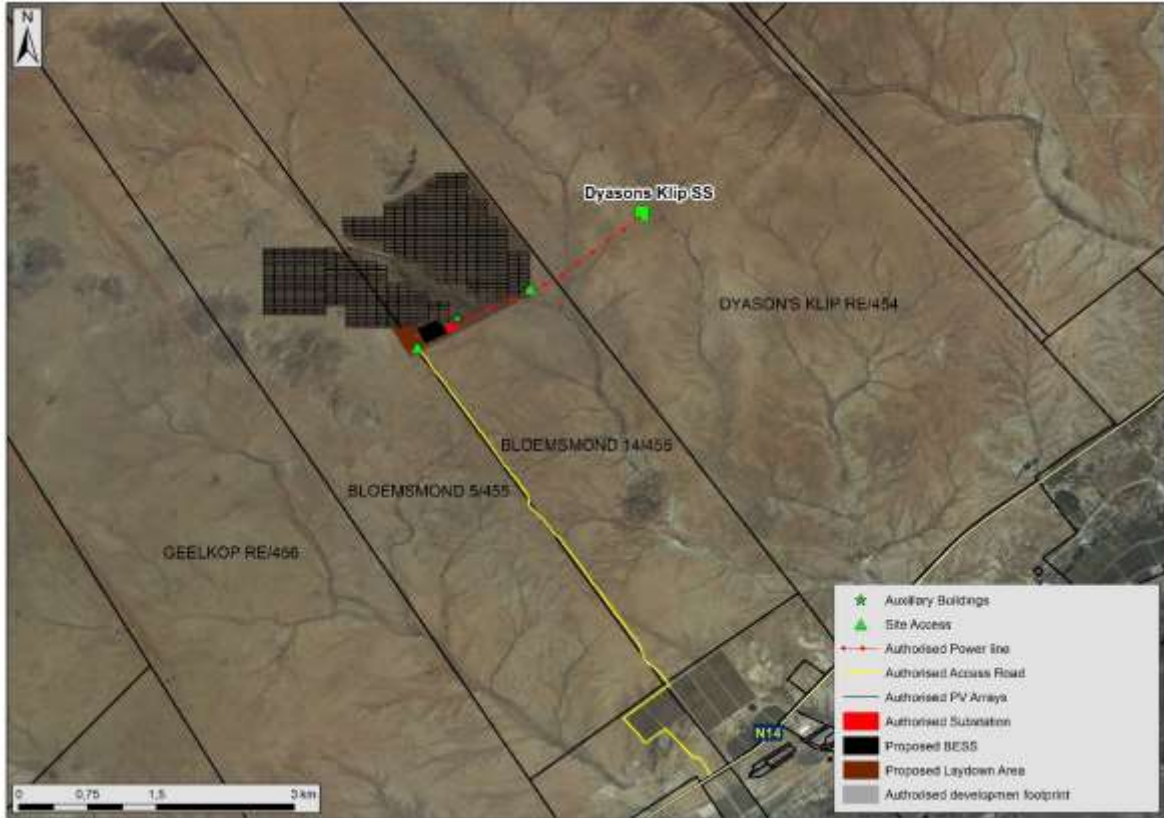
Based on the revised on the description of the additional activities, when compared to the original impact assessment, the overall risk, with mitigation were already low, would remain LOW. Therefore the significance of the impact on the aquatic environment would remain LOW after mitigation during the construction, operation and decommissioning phases with the inclusion of the BESS. This is based on the fact that the aquatic systems are ephemeral and only carries flows after heavy rainfalls, while those areas that were earmarked as having a High Sensitivity would still be avoided. This would thus be in alignment of the amended Biodiversity Assessment Protocols – Aquatic Theme, where any habitats that are seen as sensitive must be avoided by the project footprint as per the requirements of 20 March 2020.

In conclusion, the final impact of the proposed amendment on the aquatic environment with mitigation will remain unchanged from the original impact assessment, i.e. it will remain of low significance. Thus, based on the findings of this study, the specialist has no objection to the approval of the proposed amendment. Similarly, in the assessment of potential cumulative impacts, no additional impacts or changes to the previously assessed impacts would be required due to the proposed amendment. Further, no changes to the original mitigations or EMPr considerations are required.

Yours Sincerely



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**Figure 1: The approved site footprint with the proposed BESS**