

Attention: Dale Holder

Reference: Bloemsmond 1

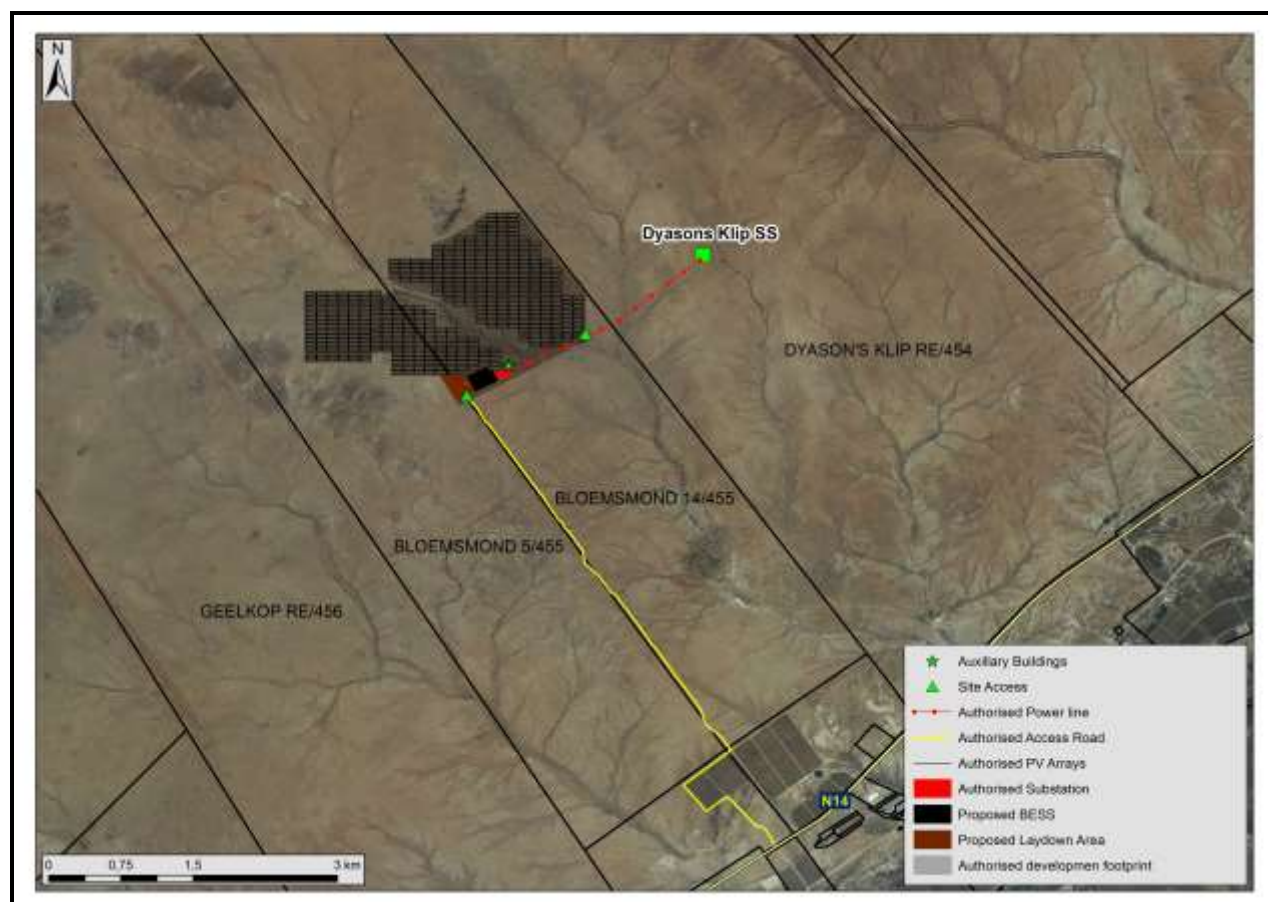
HERITAGE STATEMENT – PROPOSED BATTERY ENERGY STORAGE SYSTEM FOR THE AUTHORISED BLOEMSMOND SOLAR 1

1. Introduction

AEP Bloemsmond Solar 1 (Pty) Ltd. intend to apply for an amendment to the EA for the authorised Bloemsmond Solar 1 PV project. The applicant intends to amend the EA to make provision for a Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) within the authorised footprint, adjacent to the on-site sub-station. HCAC was appointed to review the proposed amendment against the previous heritage impact assessment (van der Walt 2015).

2. Project detail

The applicant intends including provision for a 500 Megawatt Hour (MW/h) BESS on approximately 4.2 hectares within the authorised footprint as shown in the Figure 1.



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3. Heritage Opinion

Several previous heritage studies were conducted in the general study area (SAHRIS) mostly to the west and south west of the study area (Beaumont 2005 & 2008, Van Ryneveld 2007a & 2007b, Dreyer 2006, Van Schalkwyk 2011, Gagher 2012, van der Walt 2014, 2018 a and b and 2019, Morris 2012, Fourie 2014) and the heritage baseline of the wider area is well described. Of interest to the study area is the recent discovery of the Later Stone Age (LSA) Kite-like structures associated with animal exploitation to the north east of the study area (van der Walt and Lombard 2018).

The impact area was covered during the HIA for the project (van der Walt 2015) and concluded that the project could go ahead as the impact of the project on heritage resources is not considered to be highly significant. The study identified a Stone Age site (Field nr 157) that is considered a 'no go' area that is preserved with a 20 meter buffer zone. The proposed BESS is located 40 m to the East from this site and will not impact on the recorded feature.

The BESS area will be accommodated entirely within the authorised footprint and does not encroach into any of the spatially sensitive features identified during the Environmental Assessment Process. The addition of the BESS will not have an adverse impact on the recorded heritage resources. The final impact of the proposed amendment on heritage resources will remain unchanged from the original impact assessment and is considered to be of low significance.

4. Conclusion

Based on the findings of the 2015 heritage assessment there is no objection to the approval of the proposed amendment for the following reasons:

- The inclusion of a BESS adjacent to the on-site substation will not change the nature or significance of the impacts assessed in the 2015 study;
- The BESS is unlikely to result in any additional impacts that was not previously assessed and;
- No additional management or mitigation measures over and above the recommendations made in the 2015 report (with special reference to Chance find procedures) is applicable to the BESS.

The proposed amendment remains subject to approval from SAHRA.

Kindly contact me with any queries or concerns.

Sincerely

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