



28 April 2016

To whom it may concern

## AQUATIC OPINION – LAYOUT AMENDMENTS TO BRANVALLEY WIND ENERGY FACILITY NEAR SUTHERLAND

Scherman Colloty and Associates (SC&A) was approached by EOH Coastal and Environmental Services on to assess the potential impact of the layout amendment against the previous aquatic assessment submitted early April 2016. Based then on the proposed layout supplied on 15 April 2016, the developer has taken cognisance of the recommendations made in the report in order to further reduce the potential impact on the aquatic environment. This has been done by

1. The area near Snydersberg (located in the northern section of the project area, comprising of 12 proposed turbines) has been identified as a very sensitive area – the access roads have therefore been re-routed to follow existing roads and two turbines (38 and 42) have been removed.
2. The footprint within this area has therefore been reduced by approximately 40%.

In conclusion the final impact of the proposed layout on the aquatic environment with suitable stormwater management, improvement of current water courses crossings the overall impact will remain LOW for the following impacts

- Impact 1: Loss of riparian systems and alluvial water courses in the construction, operation and decommissioning phases
- Impact 2: Impact on riparian systems through the possible increase in surface water runoff on riparian form and function during the operation and decommissioning phases
- Impact 3: Loss of wetlands and wetland function in the construction phase
- Impact 4: Increase in sedimentation and erosion in the construction, operation and decommissioning phases
- Impact 5: Potential impact on localised surface water quality during the construction and decommissioning phases
- Impact 6: Storage of hazardous substances particular in the construction phase
- Impact 7: The No-go Alternative

The proposed layout for the facility would still seem to have limited impact on the aquatic environment as the proposed structures for the most part have either avoided the delineated watercourses and wetlands with the exception of a number of water course crossings. Use of any existing roads will further support this conclusion, particularly with regard the two wetland crossings, although the wetlands concerned are already impacted by the surrounding, roads dams and farming activities. Thus based on the findings of this study no objection to the authorisation of any of the proposed activities inclusive of the alternatives is made

Please don't hesitate to contact me directly should you have any further queries.

Yours Sincerely

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