



Coastal & Environmental Services

Proposed Brandvalley Wind Energy Facility
Northern and Western Cape Provinces

02 August 2016

To whom it may concern,

As the consultant who performed the Visual Impact Study for this wind farm, I have been requested to comment on the visual impact of this wind farm, in light of the following changes that have been made to the layout that was assessed in March 2016:

- The number of turbines has been reduced from 70 to 58.
- The permanent compacted hard-standing laydown area for all wind turbines has been reduced from a total of 24.5ha to 20.3ha.
- Internal access roads have been narrowed from 12m in width to 9m in width.
- Small sections of the access roads have been removed or realigned.

In the Visual Impact Assessment Report dated March 2016, the most important impact identified would occur in the operations phase and was titled "Impact 1: Impact of wind turbines on sensitive visual receptors". This was rated as High negative, with and without mitigation.

This impact was rated as high negative for the following reasons:

- They will contrast strongly with the existing Karoo landscape;
- They are tall, large, and highly visible due to the vegetation characteristics of the area i.e. the absence of tall and dense vegetation that will obscure views of the turbines from surrounding sensitive receptors;
- They will be in place for 20 years or more, and will be visible from a large area surrounding them.

Despite a reduction in the number of turbines proposed, their impact will remain High negative before and after mitigation for the same reasons as outlined above.

Yours sincerely,

Thomas King Pri.Sci.Nat.