



environmental affairs

Department:
Environmental Affairs
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Private Bag X 447 · PRETORIA · 0001 · Environment House · 473 Steve Biko Road, Arcadia, · PRETORIA
Tel (+ 27 12) 399 9372

Reference: Veld PV North

Enquiries: Ms Portia Makitla

Telephone: 012 399 9411 **E-mail:** pmakitla@environment.gov.za

Mr Charles Norman
Aurecon South Africa (Pty) Ltd
PO Box 509
GEORGE
6530

Telephone Number: +27 (44) 805 5433
Email Address: charles.norman@aurecongroup.com

PER E-MAIL

Dear Mr Norman

COMMENTS ON THE DRAFT BASIC ASSESSMENT REPORT FOR THE PROPOSED VELD PV NORTH SOLAR ENERGY FACILITY AND ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE NEAR AGGENEYS IN THE NORTHERN CAPE PROVINCE


The Directorate: Biodiversity Conservation confirms having received the aforementioned Draft Basic Assessment Report (DBAR) for comments and does not have any objections to the proposed development. The Directorate is in support of Veld PV North (new) Alternative site. In order to achieve the overall biodiversity objective of minimising loss to biodiversity as possible the following recommendation must be adhered to:

- Vegetation removal must be limited to the footprint of the proposed development;
- All disturbed and cleared areas must be re-vegetated with indigenous perennial shrubs and grasses from the local area;
- A botanist must be appointed to perform a final walkthrough of the study area and powerline route to identify sensitive plant species, which are in need of protection,
- A site-specific avifaunal walkthrough must be conducted by an Ornithologist prior to construction, so as to ensure that no sensitive bird species have started breeding on or near site;
- Anti-collision devices such as bird flappers must be installed on all high risk sections of the powerline to forewarn birds of the risk;

- Alien invasive plant species in and around the proposed development area must be removed in terms of Conservation of Agricultural Resources Act (CARA) and National Environmental Management Biodiversity Act (NEMBA); follow up-actions for at least five years need to take place; and
- Concurrent rehabilitation and alien vegetation control program within all sensitive areas must be implemented.

The final report must comply with all the requirements as outlined in the Best Practice Guideline for Birds & Solar Energy for assessing and monitoring the impact of solar power generating facilities on birds in southern Africa.

Yours faithfully



Mr Seoka Lekota

Control Biodiversity Officer Gr B: Biodiversity Conservation

Department of Environmental Affairs

Date: 04/10/2019