# Annexure C5 Comments and Responses



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Offices In Head Office - Pretorla, Cape Town, Menlyn - Pretorla, Pietermaritzburg

Reference: S11/5/3-N2/10-24

Your reference:

(#3985227)

Fax Number:

+27 (0) 41 492 0201

Date:

Email:

15 January 2018

**Contact Number:** 

+27 (0) 41 398 3200

Enquiries: Chumisa Njingana and

**Direct Line:** 

+27 (0) 41 398 3251/14

Nenekazi Songxaba

songxaban@nra.co.za

Website:

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Red-cap Unit B2 Mainstream Centre **Hout Bay** Cape Town 7806

Attention: Mr. Jadon Schmidt

E-mail: jadon@red-cap.co.za

PROPOSED IMPOFU WIND FARM NEAR OYSTER BAY AND GRID CONNECTION TO PORT ELIZABETH, EASTERN CAPE

Your letter dated 22 January 2018, in this matter refers.

The South African National Roads Agency (SOC) Limited (SANRAL) have the following comments:

- The wind turbines must be erected at least 200 metres from the Nation Road Reserve boundary, if this requirement cannot be met, then a good motivation has to be submitted to SANRAL as to why the wind turbines should be erected closer.
- All other buildings / structures should be erected at least 60 metres from the National Road Reserve boundary and / or 500 metres from any intersection.
- If access is required form the National Road, an approval from SANRAL is required, otherwise access can be obtained from the nearest numbered route.
- SANRAL grants Red-Cap to undertake the pre & post application **Environmental Impact Assessment processes**
- A formal application together with the plans of the proposed wind farm must be submitted to SANRAL.

Yours faithfully

M.S. Peterson

Regional Manager: Southern Region

Board of Directors: R Morar (Chairperson). Mr S Macozoma (CEO)), C Hlabisa, Z Kganyago, Dr A Lawless, D Mashile-Nkosi, M Matete, Ms A Halstead Company Secretary: Ms AA Mathew

From: Ilse Aucamp <ilse@equispectives.co.za>
Sent: Thursday, July 26, 2018 9:57 AM

**To:** Zoë Palmer

**Subject:** Fwd: Impofu Wind Farms Grid Connection

**Attachments:** gamtoos.pptx

#### Begin forwarded message:

From: Ilse Aucamp < <u>ilse@equispectives.co.za</u>>
Subject: Re: Impofu Wind Farms Grid Connection

**Date:** 13 July 2018 at 11:29:24 SAST **To:** Saffraan@gamtoos.co.za>

Cc: Zoë Palmer < Zoe. Palmer@aurecongroup.com >

More Petrus,

Ek hoop dit gaan nog goed. Ek heg 'n PowerPoint skyfie aan waar ons op Google Earth gekyk het en die projek area aangedui het. Ons wil net seker maak dis min of meer die regte area voor ons begin om die gedetaileerde kaarte te maak wat jy met die lede van die Gamtoos Boere Vereniging kan deel. Jy kan op die skyfie teken in PowerPoint, of as jy tegnologies-gestrem is soos ek, kan jy dit uitdruk en op die papier vir ons teken, en dit dan afneem en terugstuur na ons toe. Andersins, as julle dalk fisiese kaarte of koordinate het wat aandui wat die grense is sal dit ons ook help, al neem jy net die kaart af en stuur vir ons die foto.

Laat weet asseblief as jy enige vrae het.

Vriendelike groete

llse

#### Dr Ilse Aucamp

Equispectives Research and Consulting Services

Tel: 082 828 0668 Fax: 086 648 3149

On 03 Jul 2018, at 09:07, Saffraan < saffraan@gamtoos.co.za > wrote:

More IIze

Stuur die kaarte aan wat insliut die genoemde area al teen die Gamtoos rivier op.Sal van daaraf werk. Groete Petrus

---- Original Message -----

From: Ilse Aucamp

To: saffraan@gamtoos.co.za

Cc: Zoė Palmer

Sent: Monday, July 02, 2018 4:47 PM

Subject: Impofu Wind Farms Grid Connection

Beste Mnr du Preez,

Baie dankie vir ons gesprek vroeer vanmiddag. Aurecon is besig met die omgewingstudies vir die beoogde kraglyn van die windplaas naby St Francis tot by die San Souci Substasie. Ons publieke deelname proses sal vroeg in Augustus begin, en dan sal ons ook publieke vergaderings hou en die nuutste weergawe aan van die agtergrond inligtings dokument versprei. Ons beoog om middel Augustus drie publiek vergaderings te hou, een in St Francis, een by die Thornhill hotel, en die laaste een by die Voortrekker saal in Despatch. Daar sal twee vergaderings per dag wees - een rondom 10 uur in die oggend, en die ander een laatmiddiag/vroeg aand rondom 6 uur. Soos bespreek is ons besig om die inligting op te dateer, en probeer ons uitvind wat die beste manier is om al die lede van die vereniging te kontak. Ons probeer ook vasstel of enige van u lede se plase dalk in die 2 kilometer korridor of direk langsaan val.

Ons wil ook vasstel wat die beste manier sal wees om met u lede te kommunikeer. By ons vergadering sal daar kaarte met die plase se name op beskikbaar wees. Soos ek verstaan strek u area al langs die R300 pad wat Baviaans toe gaan, tot by Loerie? Dit sluit Hankey en Patensie in. Ons sal vir u kaarte aanstuur vir die spesifieke area, dit sal dalk makliker wees om die potensieel geaffekteerde persone so te identifiseer. Laat weet as u enige vrae het.

Vriendelike groete

llse

Dr Ilse Aucamp

Equispectives Research and Consulting Services

Tel: 082 828 0668 Fax: 086 648 3149



From: Ilse Aucamp <ilse@equispectives.co.za>
Sent: Thursday, July 26, 2018 10:00 AM

**To:** Zoë Palmer

**Subject:** Fwd: gamtoos.pptx

**Importance:** High

#### Begin forwarded message:

From: Ilse Aucamp < ilse@equispectives.co.za >

Subject: Re: gamtoos.pptx

Date: 16 July 2018 at 11:53:49 SAST

**To:** GonnakopAdmin <<u>gonnakopadmin@gamtoos.co.za</u>> **Cc:** Zoë Palmer <<u>Zoe.Palmer@aurecongroup.com</u>>

Goeie more Elsche,

Nie een van die gedeeltes word geaffekteer nie - dit val nie binne of direk langs die studie area nie. Dit is wel binne 'n 5km radius, maar dit behoort julle nie te affekteer nie. Ons probeer ook sover as moontlik areas met spilpunte vermy.

Vriendelike groete

Ilse

On 16 Jul 2018, at 10:29, GonnakopAdmin < <a href="mailto:gonnakopadmin@gamtoos.co.za">gonnakopadmin@gamtoos.co.za</a>> wrote:

Goeiedag Ilse

Sien aangeheg die akte nommers van Klein Loerie Vlakte.

Groete

ELsche Botes Gonnakop Boerdery 084 327 1315

From: Gonnakop Boerdery

Sent: Monday, July 16, 2018 10:22 AM

**To:** GonnakopAdmin **Subject:** Fw: gamtoos.pptx

Elsche kan jy asb klein loerie se akte nr vir Ilse deur stuur

From: Ilse Aucamp

Sent: Monday, July 16, 2018 10:16 AM

**To:** Gonnakop Boerdery

**Cc:** Saffraan ; Jacques du Preez **Subject:** Re: gamtoos.pptx

Goeie more!

As u vir ons u plaas name en gedeeltes kan stuur kan ons bevestig watter plase direk geraak word.

Vriendelike groete

Ilse

Dr Ilse Aucamp

#### Equispectives Research and Consulting Services

Tel: 082 828 0668 Fax: 086 648 3149

On 16 Jul 2018, at 09:43, Gonnakop Boerdery <gonnakop@gamtoos.co.za> wrote:

More Almal

Dit lyk vir my of die oranje lyn daar naby die grond op loerie aand see se kant van die loerie rivier afloop.

Dit sal dan meestal op manus se grond langs loop

Dankie

From: Saffraan

**Sent:** Friday, July 13, 2018 2:27 PM

To: Jacques du Preez ; Gonnakop Boerdery

Cc: Ilse Aucamp

Subject: gamtoos.pptx

More.Kyk of julle kan uitmaak of die oranje lyne,wat die roete voorstel van n beoogde ESKOM lyn julle raak.As julle akte no.kan gee of dit "merk" op google maps, sou julle binne area val,stuur dit sommer aan Ilse(kyk cc)Ek sluit net lede van ons boerevereniging in.Ek raai maar dit is net julle 2.Die ander is Tsitsikamma Oos.As ek grieks praat,skakel my asb.

Dankie.Spes



<LOERIE RIVIER VLAKTE, 314, 10.pdf><LOERIE RIVIER VLAKTE, 314,</p>



From: Ilse Aucamp <ilse@equispectives.co.za>
Sent: Thursday, July 26, 2018 9:55 AM

**To:** Zoë Palmer

**Subject:** Fwd: Impofu WInd Farms Grid Connection

**Attachments:** Van Stadens River.pptx

#### Begin forwarded message:

From: Ilse Aucamp < <u>ilse@equispectives.co.za</u>>
Subject: Re: Impofu WInd Farms Grid Connection

Date: 13 July 2018 at 11:33:34 SAST

To: johan@webec.co.za

Cc: Zoė Palmer < <a href="mailto:Zoe.Palmer@aurecongroup.com">Zoe.Palmer@aurecongroup.com</a>>

Beste Johan,

Ek hoop dit gaan nog goed. Ek heg 'n PowerPoint skyfie aan waar ons op Google Earth gekyk het en die projek area aangedui het. Ons wil net seker maak dis min of meer die regte area voor ons begin om die gedetaileerde kaarte te maak wat jy met die lede van die Van Stadens Rivier Boere Vereniging kan deel. Jy kan op die skyfie teken in PowerPoint, of as jy tegnologies-gestrem is soos ek, kan jy dit uitdruk en op die papier vir ons teken, en dit dan afneem en terugstuur na ons toe. Andersins, as julle dalk fisiese kaarte of koordinate het wat aandui wat die grense is sal dit ons ook help, al neem jy net die kaart af en stuur vir ons die foto.

Laat weet asseblief as jy enige vrae het.

Vriendelike groete

Ilse

Dr Ilse Aucamp

#### Equispectives Research and Consulting Services

Tel: 082 828 0668 Fax: 086 648 3149

On 02 Jul 2018, at 16:37, Ilse Aucamp < <u>ilse@equispectives.co.za</u>> wrote:

Beste Johan,

Baie dankie vir ons gesprek vroeer vanmiddag. Aurecon is besig met die omgewingstudies vir die beoogde kraglyn van die windplaas naby St Francis tot by die San Souci Substasie. Ons publieke deelname proses sal vroeg in Augustus begin,

en dan sal ons ook publieke vergaderings hou en die nuutste weergawe aan van die agtergrond inligtings dokument versprei. Ons beoog om middel Augustus drie publiek vergaderings te hou, een in St Francis, een by die Thornhill hotel, en die laaste een by die Voortrekker saal in Despatch. Daar sal twee vergaderings per dag wees - een rondom 10 uur in die oggend, en die ander een laatmiddiag/vroeg aand rondom 6 uur. Soos bespreek is ons besig om die inligting op te dateer, en probeer ons uitvind wat die beste manier is om al die lede van die vereniging te kontak. Ons probeer ook vasstel of enige van u lede se plase dalk in die 2 kilometer korridor of direk langsaan val.

Ons wil ook vasstel wat die beste manier sal wees om met u lede te kommunikeer. By ons vergadering sal daar kaarte met die plase se name op beskikbaar wees. Soos ek verstaan strek u area vanaf die Van Stadens Rivier to en met Rocklands? Ons kan vir u kaarte aanstuur vir die spesifieke area, dit sal dalk makliker wees om die potensieel geaffekteerde persone so te identifiseer. Laat weet as u enige vrae het.

Vriendelike groete

Ilse

Dr Ilse Aucamp

Equispectives Research and Consulting Services

Tel: 082 828 0668 Fax: 086 648 3149

From: Zoë Palmer

Sent: Wednesday, August 8, 2018 9:21 AM

To: Jonathen Mc Hugh
Cc: PPP Aurecongroup

**Subject:** RE: FW: Impofu Wind Farms Grid Connection- Thornhill landowners

**Attachments:** env 56a cadastral v4 Two Rivers Agricultural Association.jpg

Hi Jono,

Thank you for letting me know. I've also had a few direct emails from farmers in the area, and followed up with some additional information to Marius. Could you confirm that you received the notification email we sent out last week? It's also available here: <a href="https://mailchi.mp/4eb98aa64efe/500571-opportunity-to-comment-impofu-wind-farms-and-grid">https://mailchi.mp/4eb98aa64efe/500571-opportunity-to-comment-impofu-wind-farms-and-grid</a>

Annexure B of the basic assessment report for the grid includes details on the potentially affected landowners. I've also attached the Thornhill area map to this email for ease of reference. At the public meetings, we will have these maps blown up to A0 and will include the contact name of the farmer with the farm portion number so that we can ensure that we have identified the affected landowners as far as possible.

#### Kind regard

Zoë Palmer Cand. Sci. Nat., BSc (Hons) Env. Sci.
Senior Consultant, Environment and Planning, Aurecon
T +27 21 5266069 F +27 21 5269500 M +27 790929717
Zoe.Palmer@aurecongroup.com

#### DISCLAIMER

**From:** Jonathen Mc Hugh [mailto:jonomchugh@gmail.com]

Sent: Tuesday, August 7, 2018 2:47 PM

To: Zoë Palmer <Zoe.Palmer@aurecongroup.com>

Subject: Fwd: FW: Impofu Wind Farms Grid Connection- Thornhill landowners

Hi Zoe,

Sorry the delay in correspondence, I have been chatting quite a few farmers in the area and have been circulating the emails forwarded onto me by Marius. There is certainly an interest amongst the farmers and I believe quite a few people will be wanting to attend the public meetings.

Thank you Jono

----- Forwarded message ------

From: Marius Blignault <mariusblignault@vodamail.co.za>

Date: Mon, Aug 6, 2018 at 8:22 PM

Subject: FW: Impofu Wind Farms Grid Connection- Thornhill landowners

To: Jonathen Mc Hugh < jonomchugh@gmail.com >

From: Marius Blignault [mailto:mariusblignault@vodamail.co.za]

Sent: 06 August 2018 08:21 PM

To: 'Zoe.Palmer@aurecongroup.com'

Subject: FW: Impofu Wind Farms Grid Connection- Thornhill landowners

Hallo Zoë

Any updates about visits to Thornhill area?

Regards

Marius

From: Marius Blignault [mailto:mariusblignault@vodamail.co.za]

Sent: 27 July 2018 08:26 AM

To: 'Zoë Palmer'

Subject: RE: Impofu Wind Farms Grid Connection- Thornhill landowners

Hallo Zoë

Could you please forward me upfront with a larger map of our area in order to identify farmers / landowners effected.

Many thanks

Marius

From: Zoë Palmer [mailto: Zoe.Palmer@aurecongroup.com]

**Sent:** 26 July 2018 12:54 PM **To:** mariusblignault@vodamail.co.za

Cc: Ilse Aucamp

Subject: RE: Impofu Wind Farms Grid Connection- Thornhill landowners

Hi Marius,

Thank you for providing us with Jono's contact details as the chairperson of 2RAA. I wanted to find out if you would like to remain on our database and be informed of the proposed Grid Connection? We will be sending out notifications next week of the availability of the pre-application reports for review, and also provide more information of the public meetings in the area.

Kind regards

**Zoë Palmer** Cand.Sci.Nat., BSc (Hons) Env. Sci. Senior Consultant, Environment and Planning, Aurecon

#### **DISCLAIMER**

From: Ilse Aucamp [mailto:ilse@equispectives.co.za]

Sent: Thursday, July 26, 2018 12:37 PM

To: Zoë Palmer < <a href="mailto:Zoe.Palmer@aurecongroup.com">Zoe.Palmer@aurecongroup.com</a>>

Subject: Fwd: Impofu Wind Farms Grid Connection-Thornhill landowners

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Marius Blignault" < mariusblignault@vodamail.co.za>

Subject: FW: FW: Impofu Wind Farms Grid Connection- Thornhill landowners

Date: 11 July 2018 at 20:06:23 SAST

To: "Ilse Aucamp" < ilse@equispectives.co.za>

#### Hallo Ilse

Die voorsitter van die Two Rivers Agricultural Association (Boere Vereeniging) is Jonathen Mc Hugh (jonomchugh@gmail.com) selfoon 0766651782.

#### Groete

Marius Blignault

From: Marius Blignault [mailto:mariusblignault@vodamail.co.za]

Sent: 11 July 2018 07:46 PM
To: Clive [ingram@igen.co.za]
Cc: 'jadon@red-cap.co.za"

Subject: FW: FW: Impofu Wind Farms Grid Connection- Thornhill landowners

#### Hallo Jono

I add this e mail. Ilse will do public meetings in 2RAA area during Aug with landowner effected.

I think we must get the maps from her prior to her visit for circulation to landowners, they need to attend the meetings.

Regards

Marius.

Beste Marius,

Ek verwys na ons gesprek op 3 Julie 2018. Aurecon is besig met die omgewingstudies vir die beoogde kraglyn van die windplaas naby St Francis tot by die San Souci Substasie. Ons publieke deelname proses sal vroeg in Augustus begin, en dan sal ons ook publieke vergaderings hou en die nuutste weergawe aan van die agtergrond inligtings dokument versprei. Ons beoog om middel Augustus drie publiek vergaderings te hou, een in St Francis, een by die Thornhill hotel, en die laaste een by die Voortrekker saal in Despatch. Daar sal twee vergaderings per dag wees - een rondom 10 uur in die oggend, en die ander een laatmiddiag/vroeg aand rondom 6 uur. Soos bespreek is ons besig om die inligting op te dateer, en probeer ons uitvind wat die beste manier is om al die lede van die Thornhill boerevereniging te kontak. Ons probeer ook vasstel of enige van die lede se plase dalk in die 2 kilometer korridor of direk langsaan val. U het genoem dat u nie die voorsitter is nie, maar dat Jonathan die huidige voorsitter is. Sal u omgee om sy kontak besonderhede met ons te deel - ek sal hom dan direk kontak. As u dit verkies kan ons u naam ook op ons databasis hou.

Ons wil ook vasstel wat die beste manier sal wees om met die lede van die Thornhill Boere Vereniging te kommunikeer. By ons vergadering sal daar kaarte met die plase se name op beskikbaar wees. Soos ek verstaan is u area tussen die Gamtoos en Van Stadens Riviere? Ons sal vir u kaarte aanstuur vir die spesifieke area, dit sal dalk makliker wees om die potensieel geaffekteerde persone so te identifiseer. Laat weet as u enige vrae het.

Vriendelike groete

Ilse

#### Dr Ilse Aucamp

#### Equispectives Research and Consulting Services

Tel: 082 828 0668 Fax: 086 648 3149

**From:** Jonathen Mc Hugh [mailto:jonomchuqh@qmail.com]

**Sent:** 22 June 2018 10:13 AM

**To:** Marius Blignault

Subject: Re: FW: Impofu Wind Farms Grid Connection- Thornhill landowners

Thank you Marius,

Appreciate information like this, I will forward onto the members.

On Thu, Jun 21, 2018 at 9:21 PM, Marius Blignault < mariusblignault@vodamail.co.za > wrote:

Hallo Jono

Some reading matter.

This will effect most of the properties along or near the N2.

The map is not very clear but I think this document need to be sent to all 2RAA members.

Regards

Marius

**From:** Jadon Schmidt [mailto:<u>jadon@red-cap.co.za</u>]

**Sent:** 21 June 2018 04:28 PM **To:** Mariusblignault@vodamail.co.za

Cc: 'Ilse Aucamp'; Zoë Palmer; Simon; 'Lance Blaine'

Subject: Impofu Wind Farms Grid Connection- Thornhill landowners

Importance: High

Dear Mr Blignault,

As recently discussed, Red Cap Energy Pty Ltd (<a href="http://red-cap.co.za/">http://red-cap.co.za/</a>) developed the Kouga Wind Farm & the next door Gibson Bay Wind Farm near Humansdorp and are in the process of developing 3 further wind farms in the same area.

The new wind farms will require a new 132 kV grid connection to be built back to Port Elizabeth (approximately 120 km), as the capacity of the 2 existing 132 kV lines will be reached once the Oyster Bay Wind Farm connects after construction in early 2021.

Red Cap appointed Aurecon South Africa (<a href="https://www.aurecongroup.com/">https://www.aurecongroup.com/</a>) to undertake the environmental impact assessment for the wind farms & grid connection. Part of Aurecon's responsibility is to identify and contact affected landowners are part of the public participation process for the impact assessments. For the grid, all landowners within a 2km corridor along the 120 km route will be contacted. Although this is a challenging undertaking, it is important that all relevant stakeholders have the opportunity to participate in the process.

Aurecon will be contacting you shortly to check whether any of your members fall within the 2km corridor, and I would be very grateful if this is the case if you are able to assist with contact details for them. Aurecon will provide maps/ Google Earth files showing the corridor with which you should be able to identify whether any of your members are in it.

I have attached an information document for the project and if you would like a reference for our past & present developments, please contact the following members of the Tsitsikamma East Agri Association:

Name	Poisition	email	cell
Oloff Cilliers	Chairman	oloff@igen.co.za	0836533912
Maizie			
Vermaak	Secretary	rosenhof@intekom.co.za	0823248756
Conrad Dreyer	Management Committee member	brandkop@intekom.co.za	0827748772

Please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any queries.

Kind Regards,

JADON SCHMIDT | PROJECT MANAGER T +27 (0)41 5821834 C +27(0)82 4682392

www.red-cap.co.za



Zoe Paimer	
From: Sent: To: Cc: Subject:	Llise Dodd < llisedodd68@gmail.com> Tuesday, July 17, 2018 11:36 AM llse Aucamp Gerrie Ferreira; janzelno4bk@absamail.co.za; Zoë Palmer Re: Impofo Wind Farms and Grid Connection
Hi Ilse,	
Thank you for your email regarding	ng the Impofo Wind Farms and related transmission lines for grid connection.
	y attachments due to poor reception, but Gerrie and myself discussed the proposed o enable me to have a better understanding about the affected area.
	illey (a conservancy) is not directly affected, but I would definitely like to chat to you thank you for taking the time and trouble to contact us! Most of the time printed signs
	attention the outcome of the Environmental Impact Study (EIA) for the proposed on to Grassridge Power station DEAT Ref: 12/12/20/1212 and 12/12/20/1213 as
You are welcome to contact me a	after hours on 076 282 3953.
Kind regards	
Llise Dodd (Secretary, Elands River Conserva	ancy)
Kind regards	
On 17 Jul 2018 09:14, "Ilse Aucan Good Morning!	np" < <u>ilse@equispectives.co.za</u> > wrote:
I hope that you are all well. I am I can call you to discuss.	just following up on my e-mail below? Please let me know your contact details, and
Kind regards	
Ilse	

Equispectives Research and Consulting Services

Tel: 082 828 0668 Fax: 086 648 3149

Dr Ilse Aucamp

On 13 Jul 2018, at 12:34, Ilse Aucamp < ilse@equispectives.co.za > wrote:

Dear Andre, Gerrie and Llise

Please allow me to introduce myself. My name is Ilse Aucamp, and I am working with Aurecon on the environmental studies for the proposed Impofu Wind Farms and Grid Connection. I am writing to you in your capacity as representatives of the Elands Rivier Farmers Association. Jadon Schmit of Red Cap wrote an introductory e-mail which Ronnie Martin forwarded to you. I also had a conversation with Patsy Kruger. I attach a background information document to give you a bit more information about the study. The study area include a 2 km wide corridor in which the transmission lines will potentially be placed. We are in the process of updating our databases and are trying to establish whether any of your members will fall in the study area. We will start a public consultation process early in August 2018. We will inform you of the availability of our draft reports and send you an updated Background Information Document at that time. We also plan to have public meetings in the week of 20 August 2018 at St Francis, Thornhill and Despatch. There will be two meetings at each venue, one in the morning and one late afternoon/early evening. We will also have maps available at the meeting where the names of the affected farms will be on. We will let you know the exact times and venues, and would appreciate it if you could also forward all the information to your members at the time.

We would like to make a map that indicate farm names and boundaries as we have it that you could share with your members to assist them identifying whether or not their properties are affected. In order to do so, we need to know the exact boundaries of the agricultural association. Do you maybe have maps, GPS coordinates or any other way that you can share this with us? We took a screen shot from Google Earth where we think the boundaries are and with our project area on it — it is in Power Point, so you can draw on it, but if you are a bit technologically disabled like I am you can also print it, then draw on it and take a picture to send back to us. We will appreciate your assistance with this, as it will help us to create a detailed map that you can share with your members. I can also call you to discuss, but unfortunately I do not have any of your telephone numbers. I would appreciate it if you can share your contact details with us to include in our database.

Thank you for taking the time to read this e-mail, and please let me know if you have any questions, or if I need to clarify anything.

Kind regards

Ilse

Dr Ilse Aucamp

Equispectives Research and Consulting Services

Tel: 082 828 0668 Fax: 086 648 3149

<Elands Rivier.pptx>
<20171219\_Impofu WF & GC\_BID.pdf>

From: andre <andre1vdm@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, August 1, 2018 7:43 PM

**To:** PPP Aurecongroup

**Subject:** Re: 500571 | Opportunity to Comment | Impofu Wind Farms and Grid

Hi Zoë

Thank you for the quick and concise reply. I have forwarded it to neighbours - mostly people like myself who could not clearly identify their property and others who just heard rumours - but can now know that they are not affected.

It is still early days, so I will appreciate it if you can keep me on the mailing list.

Regards Andre van der Merwe 0787039306

On 2018/08/01 4:10 PM, PPP Aurecongroup wrote:

Hi Andre,

Thank you for your email.

Appendix B of the Pre-Application Basic Assessment Report refers to our process of landowner identification which includes the maps with the cadastral boundaries that I hope satisfy what you are looking for. I've attached the one that covers your area for your information.

I see from our database of potentially affected landowners that you own portion 3 of Farm 416 just off the R334 (marked with a red star on the map). This property falls outside of the proposed corridor for the Impofu powerline, and is also not a directly adjacent property. The property number is therefore not included on the map.

We have undertaken quite an extensive process at trying to identify the potentially affected landowners in the area, but know that we are missing a few. If you hear of anyone (especially to the south of your portion) who doesn't know about the proposed grid connection yet, I would appreciate it if you encourage them to register their interest in the project with me. We have also been speaking to the agricultural associations in the area, and will have large maps with us when we are in the area for the public meeting/ open days 21-23 August 2018 (as detailed in the notification email below).

Please let me know if I can help with any other information.

Kind regards

Zoë Palmer Cand. Sci. Nat., BSc (Hons) Env. Sci.
Senior Consultant, Environment and Planning, Aurecon
T +27 21 5266069 F +27 21 5269500 M +27 790929717
Zoe.Palmer@aurecongroup.com

#### **DISCLAIMER**

From: andre [mailto:andre1vdm@gmail.com]

Sent: Tuesday, July 31, 2018 9:36 PM

**To:** PPP Aurecongroup <ppp@aurecongroup.com>

Subject: Re: 500571 | Opportunity to Comment | Impofu Wind Farms and Grid

Hi

As property owner the most important question is how it will affect my home.

Unfortunately none of the maps showing the proposed and alternative routes shows the property boundaries. (Only on the maps with the grid corridor)

From Dropbox "Grid Connection Basic Assessment Report: Pre-Application (Impofu Grid\_Pre-app BAR.pdf)"

We went through this process a couple of years ago (Sivest - Thuyspunt connection grid) and had such a map from day one. Everyone knew exactly where they stood.

Is such a map available elsewhere or alternatively can you make it available?

Thank you

Regards Andre van der Merwe 0787039306

**From:** PPP Aurecongroup

Sent: Thursday, August 2, 2018 2:43 PM

To: Dayalan Govender Cc: PPP Aurecongroup

**Subject:** RE: 500571 | Opportunity to Comment | Impofu Wind Farms and Grid

Dear Dayalan,

Thank you for your email and interest in the proposed Impofu Wind Farms and Grid Connection.

We will ensure that all applicable listed activities are applied for in the application for environmental authorisation.

Kind regards

Zoë Palmer Cand. Sci. Nat., BSc (Hons) Env. Sci.
Senior Consultant, Environment and Planning, Aurecon
T +27 21 5266069 F +27 21 5269500 M +27 790929717
Zoe.Palmer@aurecongroup.com

#### **DISCLAIMER**

From: Dayalan Govender [mailto:Dayalan.Govender@dedea.gov.za]

**Sent:** Wednesday, August 1, 2018 10:53 AM **To:** PPP Aurecongroup <ppp@aurecongroup.com>

Subject: RE: 500571 | Opportunity to Comment | Impofu Wind Farms and Grid

Please ensure that all listed activities are applied for.

From: Aurecon PPP [mailto:ppp=aurecongroup.com@mail117.atl231.mcsv.net] On Behalf Of Aurecon PPP

**Sent:** Tuesday, 31 July 2018 18:13

To: Dayalan Govender < <u>Dayalan.Govender@dedea.gov.za</u>>

Subject: 500571 | Opportunity to Comment | Impofu Wind Farms and Grid



# PROPOSED IMPOFU WIND FARMS NEAR OYSTER BAY AND GRID CONNECTION TO PORT ELIZABETH, EASTERN CAPE

#### **About the Project**

Red Cap Energy (Pty) Ltd (Red Cap) proposes to develop up to three wind farms with associated infrastructure near Oyster Bay in the Eastern Cape as well as a powerline grid connection back to Port Elizabeth to connect the wind farms to the national electricity grid.

The proposed Impofu North Wind Farm, Impofu East Wind Farm and Impofu West Wind Farm are located on several farms within a consolidated area of approximately 15,500 ha. The farms are located within the Kouga and Koukamma Local Municipalities within the Sarah Baartman District Municipality. Due to the size of the project, three separate environmental impact assessments will be undertaken by Aurecon South Africa (Pty) Ltd and will be submitted to the National Department of Environmental Affairs for environmental authorisation. Currently, a Pre-application Scoping Report has been drafted for each wind farm application and is now available for public comment.

A separate basic assessment has been undertaken for the proposed Impofu Grid Connection and is now available as a Pre-application Basic Assessment Report for public comment.

Stakeholder engagement (commonly referred to in South Africa as public participation) is an important component to ensure that a project is undertaken in a fair, open, transparent and inclusive way. The aim of public participation is to prevent or minimise disputes by creating a process for resolving issues before they become polarised. The objective of the process is to enable interested and affected parties to:

- ask questions and get clarification on any aspect of the project;
- raise issues of concern and make suggestions for alternatives and enhanced benefits;
- contribute local knowledge;

- verify that their issues have been captured and considered by the technical investigations; and
- comment on the findings of the applicable report.

### **HOW CAN YOU GET INVOLVED?**

Over the next ten months, the environmental impact assessment process for the proposed wind farms, and the basic assessment process for the grid connection provide several opportunities to provide your input. You are receiving this email because we have you registered as an interested and affected party on our project database. If you wish to add a colleague/ friend, request extra information, or unsubscribe, please email Ms Zoë Palmer at ppp@aurecongroup.com.

#### **Current Phase**

The pre-application reports are now available for a five week comment period from **1 August until 7 September 2018**. We have made them available in a few different ways for you to access:

- Download them from Aurecon's PPP website (search: "Impofu").
- Download them from Dropbox (links below in green block). OR
- Access a hard copy of the report at the following locations:
  - Kouga Municipal Offices, St Francis Bay
  - Oyster Bay Estate Agent (1-6 August) followed by the Oyster Inn (6 August)
    - 7 September)
  - Humansdorp Library
  - Thornhill Hotel
  - Allan Ridge Library, Uitenhage.

For an easier read, please find a background information document (BID) which provides an overview of the proposed wind farms and grid connection in one short document <a href="here">here</a>.

For a more detailed summary for each of the projects, please refer to the following non-technical summaries (NTS) in your preferred language:

- Impofu North Wind Farm NTS: English | Afrikaans | isiXhosa
- Impofu East Wind Farm NTS: <u>English</u> | <u>Afrikaans</u> | <u>isiXhosa</u>
- Impofu West Wind Farm NTS: English | Afrikaans | isiXhosa
- Impofu Grid Connection NTS: English | Afrikaans | isiXhosa

If you have any trouble accessing the reports, please do not hesitate to contact Ms Palmer.

#### **Public Meetings/ open days**

Over three days, the project team will be available to discuss the project between 09h00 to 19h30 in person at the following venues. A formal presentation will be given on each day at 10h30 and 18h00.

- 1. 21 August 2018: **St Francis Bowling Club** (St Francis Drive, St Francis Bay)
- 2. 22 August 2018: **Thornhill Hotel (**1 Main Road, Thornhill)
- 3. 23 August 2018: **Innibos Lapa** (Farm Florida, 321 Eland Street, Despatch)

It is assumed that the focus of the meeting/ open day in St Francis Bay will fall largely on the proposed Impofu Wind Farms, whereas the other two are likely to focus more on the proposed Grid Connection. However, any person interested in any of the following projects is welcome to attend the meeting most suited to them.

From: PPP Aurecongroup

Sent: Monday, August 6, 2018 11:45 AM To: John Geeringh; PPP Aurecongroup

RE: 500571 | Opportunity to Comment | Impofu Wind Farms and Grid **Subject:** 

Hi John,

Thank you for your email. The Eskom requirements have been considered in the current layout of the wind turbines, and will be considered in the layout of the grid connection within the corridor. I will also pass the requirements onto the Proponent to ensure that it is considered in the detail design phase.

#### Kind regards

Zoë Palmer Cand.Sci.Nat., BSc (Hons) Env. Sci. Senior Consultant, Environment and Planning, Aurecon T +27 21 5266069 F +27 21 5269500 M +27 790929717 Zoe.Palmer@aurecongroup.com

#### **DISCLAIMER**

From: John Geeringh [mailto:GeerinJH@eskom.co.za]

**Sent:** Friday, August 3, 2018 12:39 PM

To: PPP Aurecongroup <ppp@aurecongroup.com>

Subject: RE: 500571 | Opportunity to Comment | Impofu Wind Farms and Grid

I have received the e-mail. Please find attached the Eskom requirements for RE developments at or near Eskom infrastructure.

#### Kind regards

John Geeringh (Pr Sci Nat) Senior Consultant Environmental Management Land Development and Management **Group Capital** Megawatt Park, D1Y42, Maxwell Drive, Sunninghill, Sandton.

P O Box 1091, Johannesburg, 2000.

Tel: 011 516 7233 Cell: 083 632 7663 Fax: 086 661 4064

E-mail: john.geeringh@eskom.co.za



From: Aurecon PPP [mailto:ppp=aurecongroup.com@mail117.atl231.mcsv.net] On Behalf Of Aurecon PPP

Sent: 31 July 2018 06:13 PM

To: John Geeringh

**Subject:** 500571 | Opportunity to Comment | Impofu Wind Farms and Grid

# PROPOSED IMPOFU WIND FARMS NEAR OYSTER BAY AND GRID CONNECTION TO PORT ELIZABETH, EASTERN CAPE

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Red Cap Energy (Pty) Ltd (Red Cap) proposes to develop up to three wind farms with associated infrastructure near Oyster Bay in the Eastern Cape as well as a powerline grid connection back to Port Elizabeth to connect the wind farms to the national electricity grid.

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- Impofu West Wind Farm NTS: English | Afrikaans | isiXhosa
- Impofu Grid Connection NTS: English | Afrikaans | isiXhosa

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It is assumed that the focus of the meeting/ open day in St Francis Bay will fall largely on the proposed Impofu Wind Farms, whereas the other two are likely to focus more on the proposed Grid Connection. However, any person interested in any of the following projects is welcome to attend the meeting most suited to them.

× ************************************
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The wind farms are located almost exclusively on previously transformed land, and very sensitive areas like wetlands, threatened vegetation and very high potential agricultural areas like centre pivots (illustrated in the foreground of this photograph) have been avoided in the proposed layout. Up to ten specialists have provided input into these assessments of these projects.



This photograph shows the existing Eskom 132kV overhead powerlines and servitude between Kouga and Port Elizabeth. The proposed Impofu Grid Corridor, in which a 132kV overhead powerline will be located, follows these powerlines for most of its route from the Impofu Wind Farms to the Sans Souci/ Chatty substations near Despatch. Following the existing servitude will reduce the possible environmental impacts of the new powerlines.

## **Dropbox links to reports**

Pre-application Scoping Report (North)

Pre-application Scoping Report (East)

Pre-application Scoping Report (West)

Pre-application BAR (Grid Connection)

#### **HAVE YOUR SAY**

The public comment period is open from 1 August 2018 to 7 September 2018



Our mailing address is: ppp@aurecongroup.com

Want to change how you receive these emails?

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This email was sent to john.geeringh@eskom.co.za

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From: Zoë Palmer

**Sent:** Monday, August 6, 2018 11:48 AM

To: John Geeringh
Cc: PPP Aurecongroup

**Subject:** RE: 500571 | Pre-App PPP for Impofu Wind Farms and Grid Connection

**Attachments:** HemsleyFarmPortions 14Sep17.kmz; ImpofuProjectBoundary28Feb18.kmz; 2km grid

corridor adjusted 27 feb.kmz

Hi John,

Please find attached the property kmz, as well as the wind farms project boundary and the proposed powerline corridor as requested.

Kind regards

Zoë Palmer Cand. Sci. Nat., BSc (Hons) Env. Sci.
Senior Consultant, Environment and Planning, Aurecon
T +27 21 5266069 F +27 21 5269500 M +27 790929717
Zoe.Palmer@aurecongroup.com

#### **DISCLAIMER**

From: John Geeringh [mailto:GeerinJH@eskom.co.za]

Sent: Friday, August 3, 2018 12:45 PM

**To:** Zoë Palmer <Zoe.Palmer@aurecongroup.com>

Subject: RE: 500571 | Pre-App PPP for Impofu Wind Farms and Grid Connection

Please send me KMZ files of the affected properties as well as the proposed power line corridor.

John



From: Zoë Palmer [mailto:Zoe.Palmer@aurecongroup.com]

Sent: 03 August 2018 11:24 AM

**To:** John Geeringh **Cc:** PPP Aurecongroup

Subject: 500571 | Pre-App PPP for Impofu Wind Farms and Grid Connection

Hi John,

On 31 July 2018, an email was sent from Aurecon notifying you of the commencement of a five week comment period on the Pre-Application Scoping Reports and Basic Assessment Reports for the proposed Impofu Wind Farms and Grid Connection near Oyster Bay in the Eastern Cape.

We sent the email via MailChimp for the first time, so I just wanted to follow up to see if you had received the email and had any trouble accessing the reports. If not, you can access the email directly with this <u>link</u>. (Please do let me know if you did not receive the notification email?)

#### Kind regards

**Zoë Palmer** Cand.Sci.Nat., BSc (Hons) Env. Sci.
Senior Consultant, Environment and Planning, Aurecon **T** +27 21 5266069 **F** +27 21 5269500 **M** +27 790929717

za.linkedin.com/in/zoedpalmer

Zoe.Palmer@aurecongroup.com

Aurecon Centre, 1 Century City Drive, Waterford Precinct, Century City South Africa 7441 PO Box 494, Cape Town 8000 South Africa

aurecongroup.com





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From: SerahMu <SerahMu@daff.gov.za>
Sent: Thursday, August 16, 2018 8:41 AM

**To:** PPP Aurecongroup

Subject: RE: COMMERCIAL:RE: COMMERCIAL:500571 | Proposed Impofu Wind Farms and

GridConnection | PublicMeetings and PPP

#### **Good Day**

The below massage is note and the Department will provide formal comments after receive the scoping report.

#### Regards Serah

**From:** PPP Aurecongroup [mailto:ppp@aurecongroup.com]

**Sent:** 15 August 2018 05:22 PM **To:** SerahMu; PPP Aurecongroup

Subject: COMMERCIAL:RE: COMMERCIAL:500571 | Proposed Impofu Wind Farms and GridConnection |

PublicMeetings and PPP

Hi Serah,

Thank you for your email. I'd like to highlight that these reports are being circulated for a pre-application comment period, and therefore do not fall within the legislated timeframes. We will provide the Department with a hardcopy report of the legislated scoping reports for the proposed wind farms later this year, and the legislated basic assessment report for the grid connection early next year for comment.

Please let me know if you foresee an issue with this, and would like to provide comment on the pre-application reports and need a hardcopy of each report.

#### Kind regards

Zoë Palmer Cand. Sci. Nat., BSc (Hons) Env. Sci.
Senior Consultant, Environment and Planning, Aurecon
T +27 21 5266069 F +27 21 5269500 M +27 790929717
Zoe.Palmer@aurecongroup.com

#### **DISCLAIMER**

From: SerahMu [mailto:SerahMu@daff.gov.za]
Sent: Wednesday, August 15, 2018 9:20 AM
To: PPP Aurecongroup <ppp@aurecongroup.com>

Subject: RE: COMMERCIAL:500571 | Proposed Impofu Wind Farms and Grid Connection | PublicMeetings and PPP

#### Good day

The email below is noted, however the Department would require a formal hard copy application in order to provide comments on the proposed wind energy.

#### Regards

Serah

From: PPP Aurecongroup [mailto:ppp@aurecongroup.com]

Sent: 14 August 2018 05:03 PM

To: PPP Aurecongroup

Subject: COMMERCIAL:500571 | Proposed Impofu Wind Farms and Grid Connection | PublicMeetings and PPP

#### Good afternoon.

On 31 July 2018, an email was sent to you notifying you of the start of a five week comment period (1 August to 7 September 2018) on pre-application reports associated with the proposed Impofu Wind Farms near Oyster Bay and Grid Connection to Port Elizabeth in the Eastern Cape. The email was sent via MailChimp and can be accessed online <a href="here">here</a>. Please let me know if you did not receive the original email, as we will be using MailChimp going forward for the legislated public participation process (PPP) associated with the required applications for environmental authorisation.

The purpose of this email is to remind you of the upcoming **public meeting/ open days** scheduled for Tuesday-Thursday next week in the area as detailed below:

- 21 August 2018: St Francis Bowling Club (St Francis Drive, St Francis Bay)
- 22 August 2018: Thornhill Hotel (1 Main Road, Thornhill)
- 23 August 2018: Innibos Lapa (Farm Florida, 321 Eland Street, Despatch)

For each meeting venue, the project team will be available from 09h00 to 19h30, with a formal presentation scheduled for 10h30 and 18h00 each day.

Should you have any queries, comments or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me on any of the details below. Thank you to those of you that have already engaged with the project team - we appreciate your input and look forward to meeting some of you next week.

#### Kind regards

**Zoë Palmer** Cand.Sci.Nat., BSc (Hons) Env. Sci.
Senior Consultant, Environment and Planning, Aurecon
T +27 21 5266069 F +27 21 5269500 M +27 790929717

za.linkedin.com/in/zoedpalmer

Zoe.Palmer@aurecongroup.com

Aurecon Centre, 1 Century City Drive, Waterford Precinct, Century City South Africa 7441 PO Box 494, Cape Town 8000 South Africa

aurecongroup.com



#### **DISCLAIMER**

**From:** PPP Aurecongroup

**Sent:** Friday, September 7, 2018 9:57 AM

To: Melumzi Gxekwa
Cc: PPP Aurecongroup

**Subject:** RE: Proposed 132kV Overhead Powerlines

#### Dear Melumzi,

Thank you for your email and interest in the proposed Impofu Wind Farms and Grid Connection. Aurecon is currently undertaking the environmental process for the proposed development, and will soon submit applications for environmental authorisation with the Department of Environmental Affairs to begin the legal environmental process. I will register your contact details onto our stakeholder database which will keep you informed of the next steps to participate in this process. During this time you are welcome to send an email to this email address and I or one of my colleagues will respond to you or take your query further where required.

The Impofu Wind Farms (if constructed) will not be connecting into the 132kV line that the Kouga Wind Farm is using, or any of the existing transmission lines used by the wind farms in the area. The Impofu Wind Farms will be constructing a brand new 132kV line and thus will not be disrupting any of the current wind farms grid connections. If this new line is built, it would ensure that this area has a more robust grid system in the future which should benefit the area and all the surrounding wind farms.

#### Kind regards

Zoë Palmer Cand. Sci. Nat., BSc (Hons) Env. Sci.
Senior Consultant, Environment and Planning, Aurecon
T +27 21 5266069 F +27 21 5269500 M +27 790929717
Zoe.Palmer@aurecongroup.com

#### **DISCLAIMER**

From: Melumzi Gxekwa <melumzi@3energy.co.za>

Sent: Thursday, September 6, 2018 4:30 PM

**To:** PPP Aurecongroup <ppp@aurecongroup.com> **Subject:** Proposed 132kV Overhead Powerlines

#### Dear Ms Zoë Palmer

I trust that you are well, i would like to comment on the proposal of the new wind farms which are proposed to be built near Oyster bay. I am not sure if you are the right to person to talk too. Our concern at Kouga Wind Farm is the 132 kV Overhead lines which will build on the already existing 132 kV lines that Kouga Wind Farm is connected too.

Kouga Wind Farm would like to know the schedule for the installation of the power lines for the Impofu Wind Farms as this will cause a production impact to Kouga Wind Farm as a shutdown of the plant will be required by Eskom upon installation of the new power lines.

The requested schedule for the shutdown will also assist Kouga wind Farm in planning for maintenance within the plant.

\_ .

Regards

Melumzi Gxekwa Site Manager | Kouga Wind Farm 3Energy, Durban, Port Elizabeth Cell: 073 473 4571 / 065 944 5746 email:melumzi@3energy.co.za

#### **Zoë Palmer**

From: Zoë Palmer

Sent: Wednesday, September 19, 2018 10:31 AM

**To:** Fanie du Preez

**Subject:** RE: Proposed 132kV Overhead Powerlines

Hi Fanie,

Apologies for delayed response. I've just asked Red Cap to assist with the response which I will hopefully get back to you (and cc'd addresses) later today/ tomorrow.

Kind regards

Zoë Palmer Cand. Sci. Nat., BSc (Hons) Env. Sci.
Senior Consultant, Environment and Planning, Aurecon
T +27 21 5266069 F +27 21 5269500 M +27 790929717
Zoe.Palmer@aurecongroup.com

#### **DISCLAIMER**

**From:** Fanie du Preez <fanie@kougawindfarm.co.za> **Sent:** Thursday, September 13, 2018 11:27 AM **To:** Zoë Palmer <Zoe.Palmer@aurecongroup.com>

Cc: Melumzi Gxekwa <melumzi@3energy.co.za>; Lukhanyo Ndube <lukhanyo@kougawindfarm.co.za>; Wendy

Parsons <wendy@kougawindfarm.co.za>; Sisipho Khuse <sisipho@3energy.co.za>; Elethu Mvunelo

<elethu@3energy.co.za>; Christiaan Marais <christiaan@3energy.co.za>; Florian Kroeber <florian@3energy.co.za>; Siyathemba Thomas Thanda <siyathemba@kougawindfarm.co.za>; Lameez Davids <lameez@kougawindfarm.co.za>;

Shereen Sobotker <shereen@kougawindfarm.co.za> **Subject:** RE: Proposed 132kV Overhead Powerlines

Hi Zoe

Regarding the grid, just to clarify you will not be connecting or piggy bag on our dedicated line. Kouga Melkhout 132kV line

So you will have a separate line connecting to the Eskom grid.

Will your line T in to existing overhead lines or will you connected to. Melkhout substation or Dieprevier sustation

If you are going to connect to Melkhout substation then there is a very high probability that we will be affected

From: Melumzi Gxekwa [mailto:melumzi@3energy.co.za]

Sent: Thursday, 13 September 2018 8:27 AM

To: Siyathemba Thomas Thanda; Lukhanyo Ndube; Fanie; Wendy Parsons; Sisipho Khuse; Elethu Mvunelo; Christiaan

Marais; Lameez Davids; Shereen Sobotker; Florian Kroeber

Subject: Fwd: Proposed 132kV Overhead Powerlines

Good Day Team

Kindly see below response from Aurecon regarding the proposed Impofu Wind Farms.

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **PPP** Aurecongroup <ppp@aurecongroup.com>

Date: 7 September 2018 at 09:57

Subject: RE: Proposed 132kV Overhead Powerlines

To: Melumzi Gxekwa < <u>melumzi@3energy.co.za</u>> Cc: PPP Aurecongroup < <u>ppp@aurecongroup.com</u>>

Dear Melumzi,

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Kind regards

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Regards

Melumzi Gxekwa Site Manager | Kouga Wind Farm 3Energy, Durban, Port Elizabeth Cell: 073 473 4571 / 065 944 5746 email:melumzi@3energy.co.za

### Simamkele Ntsengwane

From: Paul Martin <pmartin@axxess.co.za>
Sent: Monday, April 29, 2019 2:01 PM

**To:** PPP Aurecongroup

Subject: Register I&AP Impofu Wind Farm

Zoe,

Ref the advert in The Herald 18 Apr 2019.

Please register me as an I&AP for the Impofu Wind Farm nr Oyster Bay & provide any Public Documents that are available.

I would particularly like to know the route of the 132kV powerline & where it will connect to the Eskom Grid.

--

Dr Paul Martin 30 Himeville Dr Bluewater Bay Port ELizabeth 6210. Tel: 041 4665698

Cell: 0732524111

email: pmartin@axxess.co.za



Biriku Ref. : 19003.2 P01-C06

Client Ref. : Yellowwoods Farm – Proposed Impofu Grid Corridor EIA

Authority Ref. : Calvus Properties (Pty) Ltd [SG]

PROJECT : YELLOWWOODS FARM – Impofu Grid Corridor : Impact Mitigation

SUBJECT : Conditional Withdrawal of Objection

TO : Redcap Impofu (Pty) Ltd.

ATTN : Mark Tanton
CC : Scott Gilmour
DATE : 2019-07-31

#### Dear Sir or Madam

CONDITIONAL WITHDRAWAL OF OBJECTION TO THE PROPOSED 'GRID CONNECTION FOR THE PROPOSED IMPOFU WIND FARMS' DRAFT BASIC ASSESSMENT REPORT SUBMITTED IN TERMS OF THE NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT ACT, 107 OF 1998: ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT REGULATIONS, 2014 (GNR.982, AS AMENDED 08 DECEMBER 2014) ("NEM: EIA REGULATIONS 2014").

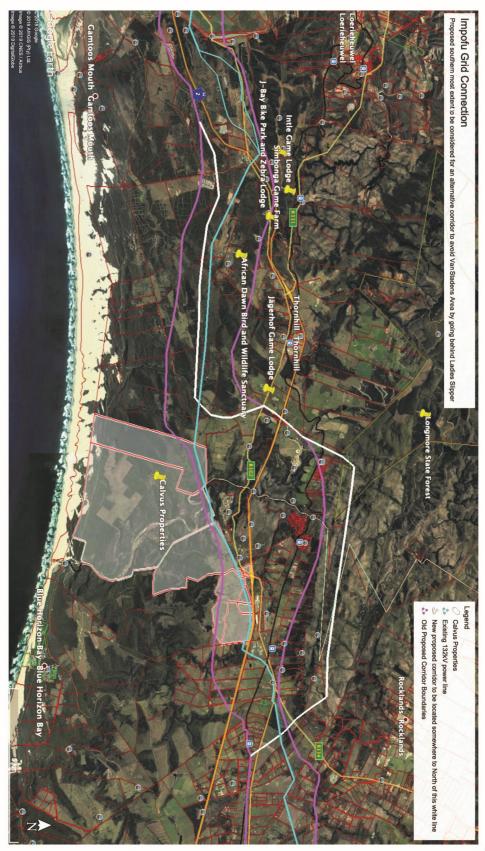
- 1. As you know, we represent Calvus Properties (Pty) Ltd ("Calvus"), who is a registered interested and affected party in the application by Red Cap Impofu (Pty) Ltd ("Red Cap") for an environmental authorisation for its project entitled "Grid Connection of the proposed Impofu Wind Farms" ("Grid Connection Project").
- 2. On 20 May 2019, we lodged an objection to the proposed Grid Connection Project on various grounds on behalf of Calvus.
- 3. We understand that Red Cap has subsequently agreed that it will not seek an environmental authorisation to undertake any part of the Grid Connection Project on the seaward side of the white line depicted on the attached map and on that basis Calvus hereby withdraws its objection to that project.

Sincerely,

Craig Bester

Biriku (Pty) Ltd.

# ANNEX A





21st May 2019

Aurecon South Africa P.O. Box 494 Cape Town 8000.

# COMMENTS ON DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT REPORTS RE IMPOFU WIND FARMS (North 14/12/16/3/3/2/1102, East 14/12/16/3/3/2/1104, West 14/12/16/3/3/2/1103)

The Kromme Enviro-Trust is an environmentalist NGO based in St Francis Bay, concerned with environmental issues within the immediate Kouga municipal area and the larger Sarah Baartman district.

The following comments generally relate to the Impofu wind farms collectively. However, it is noted that a socio-economic issue relating specifically to the proposed Impofu East Wind Farm is that land rights claims have been submitted with regard to a number of the properties included in the proposed site, i.e. farm 722, portions 12, 13, 14 & 16; farm 732, portions 14, 21 & 25; farm 733, portions 3 & 4; and farm 799. This issue was not referred to in the socio-economic specialist report although, in our opinion, uncertainty regarding ownership of the properties has relevance to the viability of the Impofu East proposal.

Other issues of concern to the Kromme Enviro-Trust regard the proposed Impofu wind farms' impact on the environment, individually and collectively, with regard to cumulative impacts, to birds, to bats, to socio-economic matters and to roads.

#### 1. Cumulative Impacts of Additional Wind Farms on the Area

There are three operating wind farms<sup>1</sup> and a fourth under construction<sup>2</sup> in the immediate vicinity of the proposed Impofu wind farms. Indeed, the developer of the triple Impofu array described it as "filling in the spaces" between existing facilities. If these three developments are all authorised, the effect will be to create a mega wind farm of 238 turbines, covering an area of around 400 km<sup>2</sup> (see map attached as appendix). This will have significant visual impact, as acknowledged by the relevant specialist, and its transformative effect will be considerable. More importantly, there will be transformation of vertical space – normally empty in rural areas such as this. The intrusion of 100 to 120 metre structures into the flight zone of both birds and bats, across such a substantial

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Kouga Wind Farm, Tsitsikamma Community Wind Farm and Gibson Bay Wind Farm

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Oyster Bay Wind Farm

area, is a major obstacle to free movement. Currently there are movement corridors between the existing wind energy facilities: the construction of the Impofu development will obliterate those corridors. Even if only one or two of the proposed three facilities is developed, movement corridors will be obstructed.

Furthermore, any possible refuge areas will no longer be available, owing to the presence of turbines. The steps taken by the developer to avoid sensitive bird and bat locations, and to respect buffer zones around them, are acknowledged. However, the overall impact of the proposed Impofu energy facilities, individually or in combination, in conjunction with the four existing wind farms is, we believe, of an unacceptable level for ecosystems already under threat from agricultural development. Indeed, continued development such as this perpetuates the situation referred to in the ecological reports, whereby Critical Biodiversity Areas have been transformed to the extent that they no longer contain any biodiversity of significance.

The Kromme Enviro-Trust is a member of the Greater Kromme Stewardship Association, established to promote conservation of biodiversity in the area, as are most of the operational and proposed wind farms of the district. Several of the specialists engaged to assess specific environmental impacts recommended that Impofu Wind Farms apply for membership of this initiative, since it provides a unique vehicle for co-operative action to mitigate the effects of cumulative environmental impacts on priority species. Should Impofu Wind Farms be accepted as a preferred bidder by the REIPPP the Kromme Enviro-Trust would welcome such application by Impofu Wind Farms.

#### 2. Impacts on Birds

The assessment of impacts on birds by the Impofu Wind Farms is thorough and comprehensive. Should development of any or all of the Impofu wind farms be approved, we concur with the specialist's recommendations for mitigation and stress that it is essential that these are adopted to ensure that fatality rates are as low as possible. If environmental authorisation is granted we urge that it be made subject to these mitigation measures being undertaken, i.e.

- An avifaunal walk down should be conducted to confirm final layout and identify any sensitivities that may arise between the EIA and construction.
- >> All construction activities should be strictly managed according to generally accepted environmental best practice standards, so as to avoid any unnecessary impact on the receiving environment.
- >> Monitoring of breeding status of Martial Eagles should be conducted in all breeding seasons post acceptance of the project as preferred bidder (to establish baseline) and including during and post construction.
- **>>** Given that the impact of bird collision with turbines could occur once the wind farms are operational and require mitigation, an appropriate mitigation budget for each wind farm should be provided for by the developer.
- >> If Blue Crane turbine or power line collision fatalities occur as a result of the birds concentrating to feed at livestock feeding points once each facility is operational this will need to be mitigated through steps taken by landowners. Landowners should be made aware of this possibility at the outset of the project.
- >> The overhead conductors or earth wires of any overhead power lines should be fitted with an Eskom approved anti bird collision line marking device to make cables more visible to birds in flight and reduce the likelihood of collisions

- >> Pylons or poles of any overhead power line must be designed according to Eskom approved bird friendly designs to ensure that perching large birds cannot be electrocuted.
- >> The during-construction and post-construction monitoring programme outlined in the specialist report should be implemented according to the latest available version of the best practice guidelines at the time.

With regard to the 132kV grid connection, the recommended mitigation measures should also be mandated by any environmental authorisation, viz:

- The recommendations of the ecological specialist study must be strictly implemented, especially as far as limitation of the construction footprint and rehabilitation of disturbed areas is concerned.
- Prior to construction commencing, a walk-through should be performed by the avifaunal specialist to record any Red Data species nests that could be impacted by the construction of the proposed powerline
- > Should any nests be recorded, it would require management of the potential impacts on the breeding birds once construction commences, which would necessitate the involvement of the avifaunal specialist, and the Environmental Control Officer.
- A walk-through must be conducted by the avifaunal specialist after final pole positions have been determined, to demarcate sections of line that will need to be mitigated with Bird Flight Diverters (BFDs).
- > Specified poles require bird perches to be added to the pole top and bird discouragers to be fitted above the stand-off insulators

#### 3. Impacts on Bats

The assessment of impacts on bats, similarly to that regarding birds, is thorough and comprehensive. It is encouraging to note that turbine layouts have been designed for avoidance of bat-preferred habitats and further adjusted to avoid areas later identified as being bat-sensitive. The specialist notes that avoidance mitigation has been implemented more rigorously in planning turbine layouts than was the case on previously constructed wind farms in the area. In light of high bat mortalities on some of these facilities this is welcomed. In addition, action plans for mitigation during operation have been drawn up for each of the Impofu wind energy facilities and we again urge that any environmental authorisation include a condition that these action plans be implemented and adhered to.

We urge that the specialist's other recommended mitigation measures also be made requirements of any environmental authorisation issued for the Impofu Wind Farms, individually or collectively. These include:

- > During construction ground clearing will inevitably destroy some foraging habitat: rehabilitate cleared vegetation where possible at areas such as laydown yards.
- Reduction of bat mortalities due to moving turbine blades through turbine layout adjustments (already implemented) and reducing blade movement at selected turbines and during high-risk bat activity times/weather conditions (as specified in the specialist report and action plans)
- > Reduction of bat mortalities due to light attraction: only use lights with low sensitivity motion sensors that switch off automatically when no persons are nearby, to prevent the creation of regular insect gathering pools. Ensure all lights are down hooded.

#### 4. Socio-Economic Impacts

In our experience, claims of positive socio-economic impacts for industrial developments tend to be over-optimistic. Employment creation is usually less than envisaged and generally of a low level (security, cleaning, or maintenance work). The Impofu projects envisage full-time employment numbers at 20 for each of the wind farms, which is realistic: however, they then claim that a further 52 employment positions per wind farm will be created "through production and consumption

induced effects". No justification is provided for this claim, and the report thereafter focuses on 72 employment positions being created, supporting "up to 254 people across the country". We believe that this inflated figure is misleading.

In addition, the impact of socio-economic development and enterprise development mandatory expenditure by existing wind facilities in the area has been less than impressive. The Impofu EIA reports list a number of initiatives undertaken since the wind farms began operating, all of which are admirable. However, none of them represents a significant investment in sustainable local enterprise or "declining levels of poverty in the Kouga Local Municipality" or "Improved standards of living of the members of the households that benefit from the SED and ED initiatives", as described in the Impofu EIA specialist reports. In the main these are once-off initiatives with limited impact on local communities. The specialist's claim that "the proposed wind farm[s] will make a notable contribution to economic and social and community development in the area" is, based on results to date, an overstatement that cannot go unchallenged.

#### 5. Traffic Impacts on Roads

It is noted that the specialist reports regarding the impacts of traffic recommend that the developer contribute to the maintenance of the public roads in the area throughout the operational life of each of the wind farms. Since the specialist reports that the roads – paved and unpaved – are in poor to very poor condition, with overgrown shoulders, this recommendation is welcomed and we urge that it be made a condition of any environmental authorisation.

In this regard we would point out that the public roads accessing existing wind energy facilities such as the Kouga Wind Farm and the Gibson Bay Wind Farm are not being maintained by the operators and are in the same poor condition reported by the specialist for the Impofu wind farms traffic assessment.

(Incidental observation. Please note that Figure 2 in the Impofu West traffic report depicts the Impofu North wind farm outline and not that of Impofu West.)

#### Conclusion

The Kromme Enviro-Trust is not in favour of the construction of the Impofu Wind Farms, individually or collectively. However, we will withhold any formal objection if any environmental authorisation requires compliance with the mitigation measures outlined by each of the specialists contributing to the assessment (whether discussed above or not). We reserve our right to appeal against environmental authorisation that does not include such requirements.

M Langlands (Renewable Energy Representative)

#### APPENDIX: MAP OF COMBINED WIND FARMS





Dear Zoë Palmer,

OBO Aurecon South Africa (Pty) Ltd.

# COMMENT ON THE GRID CONNECTION FOR THE PROPOSED IMPOFU WIND FARMS

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the above-mentioned proposed development (Aurecon Project Reference 500571). Please enter the Conservancy into the register of Interested and Affected Parties for this project.

## THE FIVE RIVERS CONSERVANCY

The Five Rivers Conservancy is a non-profit organisation, comprising a voluntary association of landowners with the aim of promoting and facilitating the conservation and sustainable development of the area, across biodiversity, tourism, game management, community safety, development planning, and fire management aspects.

The Conservancy operates within a distinct bioregion and community-based, transdisciplinary, integrated planning and management area comprising the K90G, L90B, L90C, M10B and M20B quaternary water catchment areas and the Kabeljous, Gamtoos, Van Stadens, Maintland and Elands Rivers, within the Kouga and Nelson Mandela Bay Municipalities in the Eastern Cape Province of South Africa (Please see attached map of the Five Rivers Conservancy boundary).

The primary objectives of the Conservancy are detailed below:

- To maintain and improve the unique sense of place of the Five Rivers area, through integrated and community-based planning and management.
- To promote and facilitate the long-term ecological sustainability Rivers area through biodiversity conservation, eco-tourism, and regeneration.
- To promote and facilitate integrated fire management practices, as well as to assist and support the activities and objectives of the Van Stadens River, Elandsriver and Sarah Baartman West Fire Protection Association ("FPA") as operational division(s) of the Eastern Cape Umbrella Fire Protection Association ("ECUFPA").



- To nurture a sense of unity, dedication and good neighbourly relations among the residents of the area, and serve as a watchdog for the communities within the Five Rivers area and the local police services, thereby assisting the local police services to safeguard its communities against criminal activities and strive for a safe and secure environment. To furthermore provide a channel through which local communities can play a meaningful role in crime prevention and create public awareness with regard to safety, crime prevention and protection of families and their property.
- To promote and facilitate the wise and ecologically-sustainable management of game-keeping, hunting activities, and wildlife management.
- To facilitate communications regarding relevant issues amongst the members.
- To ensure that all development and other matters in the delineated area and its environs are to the benefit of the inhabitants, environment and concerned persons, and to provide inputs into any decisions, planning, development or other matters affecting the delineated area and its environs in any way.
- To allow and encourage the inclusion of additional members into the Conservancy.
- To take action in any situation which may influence the stated objectives or which may affect the delineated area and its environs.
- To establish good relationships and strategic alignment of objectives and activities with organisations and / or government departments with similar objectives within the Five Rivers area and surrounding areas.

The Conservancy is also regionally integrated with existing conservation and sustainability-focussed management organisations in the area, making the Conservancy a key component of the conservation network in the region. These include the very high-sensitivity southern portion of the Conservancy which comprises the eastern-most portion of the declared UNESCO Garden Route Biosphere Reserve and comprises the gateway to the Garden Route National Park. The Baviaanskloof Mega-Reserve extends from the high-sensitivity southern portion of the Conservancy to the north-west, and the Conservancy contains multiple smaller formally Protected Areas and Nature Reserves as well as multiple areas identified under the National Protected Area Expansion Strategy.

## PRELIMINARY COMMENTS ON THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT

While we welcome the development of renewable energy systems such as the wind farms established and proposed in the region as a necessary element of the need to mitigate the serious impacts of abrupt global climate change, the visual impacts, as well as the location and route of the associated power lines of the multiple renewable energy projects in this sensitive region must be carefully considered in order to minimise cumulative impacts of the landscape and sense of place.

The proposed development is situated within view of the N2 roadway within the high sensitivity southern portion of the Conservancy. The N2 is the primary tourism route



connecting Port Elizabeth with the Five Rivers Conservancy, Garden Route Biosphere Reserve and the Baviaanskloof Mega-Reserve.

The addition of further powerlines crossing over the N2 multiple times, will have a detrimental impact on the visual landscape, sense of place, and by association, the tourism economy in the region which is dependent upon the natural and cultural visual resource base.

The tourism economy in South Africa now accounts for approximately 2,9% of the national GDP and 4.4% of the total employment in South Africa, with the South African Tourism CEO Sisa Ntshona recently stating that tourism is vitally important to the South African economy, and that the sector should be nurtured for sustained and inclusive growth. The tourism sector is also responsible for outperforming most other key industries in terms of job creation, gaining 40 000 net new jobs to the economy over the period 2012 – 2016.

The increasing recognition of the environmental sensitivity, and associated ecotourism potential, of the cluster of the Garden Route, Baviaanskloof, Addo, and Port Elizabeth regions, which includes the Five Rivers Conservancy, means that the tourism economy in the area is likely to grow, provided that the integration of development and environmental conservation can be carefully planned and managed.

There is clearly a need for strategic planning and integration of the currently proposed power lines, as well as anticipated future power lines, in the region, in order to avoid cumulative degradation of visual resource and tourism economy of this high sensitivity area.

We object to the current route of the proposed development due to unacceptably high negative visual cumulative impacts, including associated negative impacts on tourism, and recommend that the currently proposed and additional alternative routes be considered in greater detail, with regard to the following aspects:

- The proposed route alternatives should include consideration of the impacts on the local tourism economy in this area, in context of the cluster of protected areas and surrounding guest farms, tourism experiences etc. which are largely dependent upon the visual sense of place. This appears to have not been addressed in any detail in the DRAFT BAR.
- 2. The alternative routes of the power line should avoid the Garden Route Biosphere Reserve as far as practicable. i.e. where sections of the route alternative can be proposed outside of the GRBR, these should be prioritised.
- 3. The alternative routes should avoid high visual sensitivity areas associated with the local tourism economy, which include the N2 primary scenic road and southern portion of the Conservancy (Gamtoos, Van Stadens areas).
- 4. The alternative routes could better be located in the relatively lower visual sensitivity areas north of the existing proposed route and the Van Stadens mountain range.



- 5. Strategically, the Competent Authority is urged to give consideration to the use of the lower visual sensitivity areas north of the proposed route and Van Stadens Mountain Range, as the integrated available route for all future power line infrastructure between the Jeffrey's Bay / Impofu area and Rort Elizabeth, as this will effectively manage and mitigate cumulative impacts of additional power lines in the region.
- 6. The proposed route alternatives should take cognisance of the connection between power line infrastructure and increased wildfire potential due to climate change.

We trust that the above comments will contribute towards determining the best power line route for this project, in this area.

Best Regards

Wernich Cronje Chairman

contact@5rivers.org.zo



FIVE RIVERS CONSERVANCY
EASTERN CAPE PROVINCE

A Bioregional and Community-Based Ecological and Heritage Conservancy

Executive Committee: Wernich Cronje, Jono McHugh, Bertus de Waal



FIVE RIVERS CONSERVANCY

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