



ISSUES AND RESPONSES REPORT

UMSINDE EMOYENI WIND ENERGY FACILITY
ASSOCIATED GRID CONNECTION
INFRASTRUCTURE – ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT
ASSESSMENT AND ENVIRONMENTAL
MANAGEMENT PROGRAMME

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UMSINDE EMOYENI WIND ENERGY FACILITY AND ASSOCIATED GRID CONNECTION INFRASTRUCTURE – ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT AND ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT PROGRAMME

ISSUES AND RESPONSES REPORT

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REVISION AND AMENDMENTS

Date	No.	Description Of Revision Or Amendment
27/06/2014	0	Issues and Responses Report – Draft Scoping Report

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1. INTRODUCTION

This Issues and Response Report (IRR) has been compiled as an appendix to the Draft Scoping Report for the Umsinde Emoyeni Wind Energy Facility (Phases 1 and 2) and its associated grid infrastructure (Phases 1 and 2), (cumulatively referred to as the Proposed Development), to explain the public participation exercises undertaken to date in the preparation of the Draft Scoping Report.

The public's right to be involved in decisions that may affect them is enshrined in the South African Constitution. Section 57(1) of the new Constitution provides that: "*The National Assembly may (b) make rules and orders concerning its business, with due regard to representative and participatory democracy, accountability, transparency and public involvement.*"

This provision, along with several others gave rise to many new trends in South African legislation. In environmental legislation, the idea of public participation (or stakeholder engagement) features strongly and especially the National Environmental Management Act (NEMA) (Act 107 of 1998) and the associated Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations (GNR543) promulgated under the auspices of this Act makes very strict provisions for public participation in environmental decision-making. The process and key stages for public involvement are presented in Section 1.2.6 of the Draft Scoping Report.

Public participation can be defined as..."*a process leading to a joint effort by stakeholders (including the public), technical specialists, the authorities and the proponent who work together to produce better decisions than if they had acted independently*" (Greyling, 1999, p. 20) ¹.

The Public Participation Process (PPP) is designed to provide sufficient and accessible information to Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) in an objective manner to assist them to:

✎ During the Scoping Phase:

- Raise issues of concern and suggestions for enhanced benefits;
- Verify that their issues have been recorded;
- Assist in identifying reasonable alternatives; and
- Provide relevant local information and knowledge to the environmental assessment.

✎ During the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Phase:

- Contribute relevant local information and knowledge to the environmental assessment;
- Verify that their issues have been considered in the EIA process; and
- Comment on the findings of the environmental assessments.

¹Greyling, T. 1999. Towards Managing Disputes: Appropriate Public Participation. Proceedings of the Conference on Environmental Dispute Resolution, Fourways, June 1999. AIC Centre for Mining.

During the decision-making phase:

- Obtain information on the outcome, i.e. the competent authority's decision, and how and by when the decision can be appealed.

This IRR lists all verbal and written issues raised by I&APs and stakeholders during the 30-day registration and comment period of the Scoping Phase (16th May 2014 to 16th June 2014). A breakdown of the PPP is given within the following sections of this IRR.

2. METHODOLOGY

The PPP follows the requirements of Regulation 54 of Government Notice No. R. (GN R.) 543 of the EIA Regulations (2010) promulgated under Section 24 (5) of the National Environmental Management Act (Act 107 of 1998 - NEMA), as amended.

2.1. IDENTIFICATION OF INTERESTED AND AFFECTED PARTIES

The I&APs referred to in this IRR include:

- All pre-identified and registered landowners;
- Pre-identified and registered key stakeholders; and
- All I&APs who responded to the initial notifications and requested to be registered.

The pre-identified I&APs were identified through various avenues such as consultation with the proponent and known landowners within the study area, review of related previously conducted studies (including the adjacent Ishwati Emoyeni Wind Energy Facility), and identification of key interest groups and authorities. Most of the key I&APs were pre-identified but some were registered in response to the initial site visit and notification period via post, fax or email (**Error! Reference source not found.**).

The overall Proposed Development Site is approximately 93, 000 hectares, a small proportion of which will be used for the proposed Wind Energy Facility (WEF) and associated grid connection infrastructure. All landowners whose properties are within the Proposed Development Site were notified about the project and invited to participate via post, fax and/or email prior to submission of the application forms to the Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA) (the competent authority) (**Error! Reference source not found.**).

Affected landowner contact details were obtained via the following process:

- A Windeeds search was conducted to obtain the contact details of the affected landowners, where available;
- Where the contact details were not available on Windeeds the following steps were conducted:
 - Where the property was owned by a company, a CIPRO search was carried out to identify the owners and their contact details;

- Where the property was owned by a Trust, efforts were made to solicit contact details from the relevant municipality; and
- Landowner details from the previously conducted EIA for the Ishwati Emoyeni Wind Energy Facility project were obtained from the applicant.

In addition, the applicant initiated contact and preliminary discussions with the affected landowners prior to the commencement of the EIA process (i.e. during the pre-feasibility phase). These consultations were undertaken to inform the landowners of the applicants' intention, and to get relevant permissions to undertake the necessary pre-feasibility investigations.

Please refer to **Error! Reference source not found.** for the full landowner database as well as the landowner notification map.

2.2. NOTICES, ADVERTISEMENTS, AND BACKGROUND INFORMATION DOCUMENTS

This section provides details on the notifications that were distributed as part of the initial notification of the public and pre-identified stakeholders/ I&APs; as well as the notification regarding the availability of the Draft Scoping Report and details of the associated public meeting.

2.2.1. INITIAL NOTIFICATION

Notification during the initial notification component of the PPP was given in the following manner:

- ✎ Three advertisements were placed (**Error! Reference source not found.**) in the:
 - Graaff Reinet Advertiser (English and Afrikaans) on the 15th May 2014;
 - Die Burger on the 16th May 2014; and
 - Die Courier on the 16th May 2014.
- ✎ A2 laminated notices were placed within and around the proposed site area in 30 locations in both English and Afrikaans (See **Error! Reference source not found.** containing photographs of the site notices in place and a map depicting locations of site notices);
- ✎ A3 posters were placed at 8 local public gathering places in English and Afrikaans (See **Error! Reference source not found.**);
- ✎ A Background Information Document (BID) (Appendix F) in English and Afrikaans was prepared, distributed by post and made available on the EIMS website (www.eims.co.za) as well as on the Environmental Assessment Practitioner's website (www.arcusconsulting.co.uk/sa-projects);

- ✎ Notification letters (English and Afrikaans), faxes, and emails were distributed to all pre-identified key I&APs including government organisations, NGOs, relevant municipalities, ward councillors and other organisations that might be affected (**Error! Reference source not found.**); and
- ✎ All identifiable landowners within the pre-determined study area were identified and written notification, distributed to them (**Error! Reference source not found.**).

The notices and written notification afforded all pre-identified I&APs the opportunity to register for the project as well as to submit their issues/queries/concerns, and indicate the contact details of any other potential I&APs that should be contacted. The contact person at the EAP, contact number, email and faxes were clearly stated on the notifications. Comments/concerns and queries were encouraged to be submitted in either of the following manners:

- ✎ Electronically (fax, email);
- ✎ Telephonically; and/or
- ✎ Written letters.

In response to the initial notification, communication regarding the proposed project was distributed within the local community (outside of the EIA process). When the Applicant was made aware of this matter, a response was drafted and distributed in a form of an open letter in order to address the issues of concern that were raised in the circulated communication. Please refer to Appendix H for a copy of the open letter that was distributed to the local community.

2.2.2.DRAFT SCOPING REPORT NOTIFICATION

Notification regarding the Draft Scoping component of the PPP will be given in the following manner:

- ✎ Three advertisements will be placed in the:
 - Graaff Reinet Advertiser (English and Afrikaans) on the 4th July 2014;
 - Die Burger on the 4th July 2014; and
 - Die Courier on the 4th July 2014.
- ✎ Notification letters (English and Afrikaans), faxes, and emails will be distributed to all key I&APs (pre-identified key I&APs, I&APs registered during the initial notification period as well as surrounding landowners).
- ✎ All affected landowners within the pre-determined impact radius will be notified.

Written notification will afford all I&APs the opportunity to submit their issues/queries/concerns, the contact person, contact number, email and faxes will be clearly stated on the notifications. Comments/concerns and queries will be encouraged to be submitted in either of the following manners:

- ✎ Electronically (fax, email);
- ✎ Telephonically; and/or
- ✎ Written letters.

Copies of the Draft Scoping Report will be made available to the public at public areas and online (see Table 1 below) for perusal and comment by all I&APs. All² comments received from I&APs will be submitted to the DEA for consideration towards the decision making as part of the Final Scoping Report submission. Furthermore, copies of the executive summary of the Draft Scoping Report will be provided in English and Afrikaans at the public review venues and online, as well as during the scheduled Focus Group and the Public Meetings.

Table 1 below summarises the PPP to date.

TABLE 1: OPPORTUNITIES PROVIDED FOR PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PHASE			
ACTION	DESCRIPTION	PUBLICATION/PLACE	DATE
Initial Public Notification (announcement of project).	Newspaper advertisement (English & Afrikaans).	Graaff Reinet Advertiser	16 May 2014
		Die Courier	16 May 2014
		Die Burger	16 May 2014
	Placement of site notices.	Sixty A2 site notices (English & Afrikaans) were placed at key locations within and around the site area.	14 & 15 May 2014
Placement of posters.	Sixteen A3 posters (English & Afrikaans) were placed at key public places within the site area (Murraysburg & Richmond)	15 May 2014	
Notification of landowners & key I&APs.	Landowners were notified via email, fax, and/or post.	13 March 2014 Commenced 16 th May	

²In the event that comments or correspondence is received from I&APs after the end of the stated comment period or after submission of the Final Scoping Report to the DEA, these are forwarded as soon as possible to the relevant DEA official for consideration.

		Key I&APs and Landowners were notified via e-mail, fax, and/or post.	2014, and is ongoing.
Draft Scoping Report	Newspaper advertisement	Graaff Reinet Advertiser Die Courier Die Burger	4 July 2014
	Notification of landowners and key I&APs.	Landowners were notified via e-mail, fax, and/or post. Key I&APs and landowners were notified via e-mail, fax, and/or post,	2 July 2014
	Report and Executive Summaries (in English and Afrikaans) placements	Ubuntu Local Municipality Beaufort West Local Municipality Murraysburg Farmers Co-Operative Beaufort West Local Municipality (Murraysburg office) Richmond Police Station Richmond Ntsikelelo Tida Library EIMS website (www.eims.co.za) Arcus website (www.arcusconsulting.co.uk/sa-projects)	2 July 2014

2.3. FOCUS GROUP MEETINGS

To date no focus group meetings have been held, a short introductory meeting was held with the town manager in Murraysburg on the 15th May 2014. The town manager was briefed about the Proposed Development and notification documents (A4 copies of the site notice and copies of the BID) left with him for further distribution. Furthermore, details regarding the booking of the town hall for future public meetings were discussed and contact information given by the local municipality reception staff as instructed by the town manager. Focus group meetings will be held during the Draft Scoping Report public review period. It is intended to invite the following groups to focus group meetings:

- Murraysburg Farmers Co-operative; and
- Murraysburg Farmers Association.

We also invite any other organisations who would like a focus group meeting to contact EIMS to request this. The minutes and outcomes of these meetings will be presented in the Final Scoping Report.

2.4. PUBLIC MEETINGS

At this stage of the project, no public meetings have been conducted. However, two public meetings are planned to be held, one during the public review period of both the Draft Scoping Report, and one during the public review period for the Draft EIA Report. These meetings will present an opportunity for I&APs to raise and discuss issues regarding the Proposed Development with the project proponent and the EIA team. The format of these public meetings will be two-hour long formal meetings. Comments obtained during these events will be included in the Final Scoping Report and Final EIA Report as appropriate.

2.5. SUMMARY OF COMMENTS

The comments received to date are included in Appendix G. These comments pertain to the aspects/ areas specified below (as included in Section 3).

- | | |
|--|-------------------|
| ➤ Acknowledgement of receipt of the initial notification | ➤ Compensation; |
| ➤ Registration; | ➤ Ecology; |
| ➤ Request for information; | ➤ Economy; |
| ➤ Access road; | ➤ Employment; |
| ➤ Air quality concerns; | ➤ Geology; |
| ➤ Archaeology and Palaeontology; | ➤ Groundwater; |
| ➤ Climate and Rainfall; | ➤ General; |
| | ➤ Infrastructure; |

- ↘ Land-use and planning;
- ↘ Need for the project;
- ↘ Nuisance;
- ↘ Noise pollution;
- ↘ Property values;
- ↘ Quality of life;
- ↘ Safety and security;
- ↘ Other social impacts;
- ↘ Surface water (5.9%);
- ↘ Square Kilometre Array (SKA) specific issues;
- ↘ Visual impact; and
- ↘ Waste management:

Error! Reference source not found.

3. ISSUES RAISED

The issues and comments raised during the initial notification and registration period are summarised below. Please refer to **Error! Reference source not found.** for copies of correspondence to date.

NAME	DATE	METHOD	ISSUE	RESPONSE	DSR REF	Aspect/ Area
Colene Runkel – Statutory Control South African National Roads Agency (SANRAL)	2014/03/13	Email	Ms. Colene Runkel from SANRAL acknowledged receipt of the initial project notification dated 13 March 2014.	This was noted by EIMS.		Receipt/ Acknowledgement of Notification
			Ms. Runkel requested a locality plan indicating all major roads that will be affected by this project to enable SANRAL to provide comment.	EIMS thanked Ms. Colene Runkel for responding to the initial notification and attached the locality map of the proposed study area showing the major roads in the vicinity.	Figure 12.1	Access Roads
			Ms. Runkel thanked EIMS for providing the locality map and she informed EIMS that the physical locality of the wind farm will not affect SANRAL; however access from the N1 will be affected by the proposed project. Ms. Runkel requested that SANRAL be provided with a Traffic Impact Assessment that will be undertaken by an ACSA registered Traffic Engineer which will assess the impact of the additional traffic at N1/R83 intersection and the condition with regard to turning lanes with recommendations for improvement.	EIMS informed Ms. Runkel that a Traffic Risk Assessment study has been undertaken for this proposed development and they attached the Traffic Assessment study for Ms. Runkel's perusal. EIMS let Ms. Runkel know that the traffic assessment study was undertaken by Iris Wink, who is registered as a Professional Engineer with the Engineering Council of South Africa (Registration number 20110156). Furthermore, EIMS explained to Ms. Runkel that a Traffic Impact Statement is usually completed after preferred bidder status has been awarded through the Renewable Energy Independent Power Producers Programme and the study that was undertaken by Mr. Wink was for that particular reason. EIMS then asked if Ms. Runkel could provide a scope for the required Traffic Impact Statement that SANRAL would require to be undertaken.		

NAME	DATE	METHOD	ISSUE	RESPONSE	DSR REF	Aspect/ Area
Sibulele Mdingi - Environmental Practitioner : Independent Power Producer Eskom Holdings SOC Limited	2014/03/28	Email	Ms. Sibulele Mdingi from Eskom requested to be registered as an Interested and Affected Party (I&AP) and provided EIMS with her contact information.	EIMS informed Ms. Mdingi that she has been registered in the I&AP database for this project and EIMS attached the project's notification documents, including the locality plan. In addition, EIMS let Ms. Mdingi know that the project documentation is also available on the EIMS website followed by a brief description of the steps to follow to access the initial documentation. EIMS asked Ms. Mdingi to let them know should she have any further problems or require assistance.		Receipt/ Acknowledgement of Notification
		Telephone	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. EIMS received a phone call from Ms. Sibulele Mdingi from Eskom enquiring about the received notification regarding the Umsinde Emoyeni WEF project. Ms. Mdingi wanted to get clarification on the Eskom property affected by the proposed development. 2. Ms. Mdingi stated that she would like to be included as an I&AP for the project. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. EIMS informed Ms. Mdingi that since the distribution of the initial notification to affected landowners, Eskom has been withdrawn as an affected landowner as their property was no longer included in the proposed study area. EIMS let Ms. Mdingi know that the EIMS would be sending an official letter to Eskom to this effect shortly. However, EIMS informed Ms. Mdingi that although Eskom was no longer an affected landowner, EIMS would include them as an I&AP. 		Registration
Stefan Cramer – Community member	2014/05/17	Telephone	Mr. Stephan Cramer asked to be registered as an I&AP in the Environmental Impact Assessment process for the Emoyeni Wind Farm Project (EWEP) as an energy planner and consultant for the Karoo.	EIMS thanked Mr. Cramer for responding to the initial notification and EIMS let him know that he has been registered as an I&AP for this project and will thus be notified of further project information.		Receipt/ Acknowledgement of Notification
Jenna Lavin - Heritage Officer South African Heritage	2014/05/19	Email	Ms. Jenna Lavin informed EIMS that SAHRA no longer processes applications received via email, post or email. Ms. Lavin advised EIMS to register the project on the SAHRA website (SAHRIS) in order for SAHRA to comment on this project. Ms. Lavin advised EIMS to create a case and upload all the relevant documentation to SAHRIS	EIMS let Ms. Lavin know that the project will be registered on SAHRIS and all available initial notification documents will be uploaded on the SAHRIS website.		Receipt/ Acknowledgement of Notification

NAME	DATE	METHOD	ISSUE	RESPONSE	DSR REF	Aspect/ Area
Resources Agency (SAHRA)			(www.sahra.org.za) and to contact her if she requires assistance.			
Simon Gear – Policy and Advocacy Manager Birdlife South Africa	2014/05/21	Email	Mr. Simon Gear thanked EIMS for the invitation to be registered as an I&AP on this project and he asked Birdlife South Africa to be registered as an I&AP and he also provided EIMS with his contact details. Furthermore, Mr. Gear let EIMS know that Birdlife may comment on the project in due course. Mr. Gear also forwarded guidelines for avifauna surveys for wind farms EIAs Birdlife for the attention of the avifauna specialist.	EIMS let Mr. Gear know that he has been registered as an I&AP on the project using the contact details that he provided. EIMS informed Mr. Gear that the information he proved has been forwarded to the avifauna specialist (Mr. Andrew Pearson) for this project.	Chapter 8	Receipt/ Acknowledgement of Notification
Izak van der Merwe - Landowner	2014/06/10	Telephone	Mr. Izak van der Merwe phoned EIMS to let them know that he had tried to fax through his registration from throughout the weekend and this morning, but the fax did not go through. He stated that a few other farmers have been struggling to get their registration forms faxed through. He was concerned since the end date for the advertised registration period was approaching the following week and was worried that those whose registration forms have not been received by EIMS would be left out of the process.	EIMS assured Mr. Izak van der Merwe that registration will continue after the allocated 30 day period mentioned in the initial notification documents. EIMS let Mr. van der Merwe know that some faxed registration forms had been received in the morning but would check to make sure that the fax machine was functioning properly. EIMS asked Mr. van der Merwe to resend the registration forms and they would phone Mr. van der Merwe to let him know if there was a problem with the fax machine.		Receipt/ Acknowledgement of Notification
			EIMS phoned Mr. Izak van der Merwe to let him know that the EIMS fax machine was functional and she informed Mr. van der Merwe that the server for the office had been down over the weekend and that is why his fax did not go through. EIMS apologised for any inconvenience caused. EIMS further confirmed receipt of Mr van der	Mr. van der Merwe stated that there was nothing much that can be done as the problem was due to lack of infrastructure in Murraysburg. EIMS suggested sending notification to the Farmer's Co-Operative in Murraysburg.		Receipt/ Acknowledgement of Notification
				This was well noted by EIMS and EIMS wrote		

NAME	DATE	METHOD	ISSUE	RESPONSE	DSR REF	Aspect/ Area
			<p>Merwe's resent registration form and thanked him for responding to the initial notification. In light of previously mentioned concern regarding the infrastructure restrictions for landowners in Murraysburg mentioned by Mr. van der Merwe, EIMS asked Mr van der Merwe if he had any suggestions of alternative ways to correspond with landowners and other residents of Murraysburg.</p> <p>Mr. van der Merwe agreed that to notifications being sent to the Farmer's Co-Operative in Murraysburg and he also suggested the Farmers Association as a means of contact, however he also said these may have problems with the internet from time to time. Mr. van der Merwe gave EIMS names of the chairperson and secretary of the Farmers Association.</p>	down the contact details of the chairperson and secretary of the Farmers Association.		
Izak and Suzanna van der Merwe – Landowners	2014/06/14	Facsimile	<p>Mr. and Mrs. Izak and Suzanna van der Merwe are commercial farmers who are very concerned about the potential impacts of the proposed project. In addition, Mr. and Mrs. Van der Merwe raised these following concerns:</p> <p>Mr. and Mrs. Izak and Suzanna van der Merwe were unable to read the BID because the font was small making it almost illegible. Surely a developer who has millions to spend can afford to present better, larger, more legible notifications.</p>	EIMS apologised to Mr. and Mrs van der Merwe that they found the booklet of the BID difficult to read. EIMS enclosed a new copy where the font size was increased.		General

NAME	DATE	METHOD	ISSUE	RESPONSE	DSR REF	Aspect/ Area
			No indication was provided on the exact locations of where proposed powerlines and tower positions will be. Mr. and Mrs. Izak and Suzanna Van der Merwe noted that they reserve the right to carry out their lawful right and raise an objection once this detail is known.	EIMS explained to Mr. and Mrs van der Merwe that the current site boundary is the study area within which the proposed project will be located. As they correctly noted however, the exact location of the turbines and other infrastructure are not yet confirmed. This is because the exact location will be determined as part of the environmental impact assessment (EIA) process. The EIA process will consider the entire study area, and look to site the project infrastructure in the areas which minimise environmental impacts. As such, it is important that the locations are not set as the start of the project, enable these environmental, and any further technical consideration, to be taken.	Section 1.2 Chapter 2	General
			Furthermore, Mr. and Mrs. van der Merwe requested that the linkage between this proposed project and the Ishwati Project must be clearly explained.	EIMS explained to Mr. and Mrs. van der Merwe that the neighbouring Iswhati Emoyeni Wind Farm is also being proposed by the same company, Windlab Development South Africa (Pty) Ltd, that owns the Umsinde Emoyeni Project (and the Project Company Emoyeni Wind Farm Project (Pty) Ltd which has applied to start the process for Environmental Authorisation). The two projects are separate and have applied for separate Environmental Authorisations. Each project will be bid individually to the Department of Energy under the Renewable Energy Independent Producers Programme. The two projects are related through the proponent, Windlab Developments South Africa (Pty) Ltd. However, if both projects are to receive approval and proceed, the proposed Umsinde Emoyeni grid connection may be able to be simplified. Windlab Development South Africa (Pty) Ltd have numerous wind projects located across South Africa including Bedford in the Eastern Cape,	Section 1.2.5.4 Section 1.3.1	Request for information

NAME	DATE	METHOD	ISSUE	RESPONSE	DSR REF	Aspect/ Area
				and Vredenburg in the Western Cape.		
			Mr. and Mrs. van der Merwe also had difficulty faxing their comments to EIMS and wondered how people were expected to submit comments.	Furthermore, EIMS let Mr. and Mrs. van der Merwe know that some faxed registration forms had been received in the morning but they would check to make sure that the fax machine was functioning properly. EIMS asked Mr. and Mrs. van der Merwe to resend the registration forms and they would phone to let them know if there was a problem with the fax machine. EIMS subsequently received the faxed registration forms.		General
Timothy Mathews – Community member	2014/06/13	Email	Mr. Timothy Mathews requested to be registered as an I&AP and provided his contact details.	EIMS let Mr. Mathews know that he has been added to the I&AP database for this project.		Receipt/ Acknowledgement of Notification
Daniel Jacobs – Community member	2014/06/13	Email and Fax	Mr. Daniel Jacobs requested to be registered as an I&AP and asked his friend, Ngqondo Blekiwe to forward his registration form.	EIMS confirmed receipt of Mr. Daniel Jacobs's registration form via facsimile and email and they let Mr. Jacobs know that that he has been registered as an I&AP for this project.		Receipt/ Acknowledgement of Notification
	2014/06/13	Telephone	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. EIMS phoned Mr. Daniel Jacobs to confirm receipt of his faxed registration form. 2. EIMS then asked if Mr. Daniel Jacobs has an email address or fax number as these were not included in the completed registration form. 3. EIMS stated that should Mr. Daniel Jacobs not have a fax number and/or email address, EIMS will send future correspondence to the postal address 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Mr. Jacobs's brother answered the phone and he advised EIMS that he would let Mr. Daniel Jacobs know that EIMS received his filled-in form. 2. Mr. Jacobs's brother said he would ask Mr. Jacobs to contact EIMS with these details as Mr. Jacobs has EIMS's contact details. 		Receipt/ Acknowledgement of Notification

NAME	DATE	METHOD	ISSUE	RESPONSE	DSR REF	Aspect/ Area
	2014/06/11	Email	provided in his registration from. Mr. Daniel Jacobs asked if the plants growing on site will be affected by the proposed project.	Dear Mr Jacobs Thank you for completing the comment form in relation to the Umsinde Emoyeni Wind Energy Facility and associated grid infrastructure. You have been registered as an Interested and Affected Party (I&AP) for the project and will be kept informed of key project dates and information.	Chapter 5	Ecology
			Mr. Daniel Jacobs stated that the proposed project will be a very good employment opportunity for Murraysburg and it will relieve unemployment.		Section 3.2 Chapter 12	Employment
			Mr. Daniel Jacobs enquired if local labour and contractors will be utilised. He also asked how much the people who will work on this project earn and whether they will be paid weekly or monthly. In addition, Mr. Jacobs asked how many people from the local community will be employed.	At present we are in the early stages of conducting an environmental impact assessment (EIA) in terms of the National Environmental Management Act 1998 (NEMA). Through this process a team of specialist environmental professional have been formed, who will be responsible for identifying and assessing the potential environmental impact of the proposed project.	Section 3.2	Employment
			Mr. Daniel Jacobs asked how their ground water will be affected by the proposed project.	The first stage in this process is "scoping". The scoping stage is when we identify the potential likely environmental impacts which may result from the proposed wind energy facility (WEF) and its associated grid infrastructure, and how we intend to assess these in the full EIA. In order to do this the EIA team, who are experienced in the local area and with this type of development, are consulted along with key stakeholders and the public. The Draft Scoping Report is currently being finalised and will be provided for public comment. As a registered Interested and Affected Party (I&AP) you will be notified of the issue of the Draft Scoping Report, and		Groundwater
			Mr. Daniel Jacobs asked if the project will affect their internet and cell phones.			Infrastructure
			Mr. Daniel Jacobs asked how much water will be used for this project.		Chapter 7	Surface Water
			How much waste will be there? How will it be managed?			Waste Management
			Mr. Daniel Jacobs stated that he is well informed about safety and security and that he knows the following regarding safety: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☞ Weapons are not allowed on site; ☞ Drinking and fighting is prohibited in the work place and; ☞ No making of fires on site. 		Chapter 12	General

NAME	DATE	METHOD	ISSUE	RESPONSE	DSR REF	Aspect/ Area
			<p>With regard to security:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✎ Security must oversee what people doing on site and monitor them; and ✎ Security must also make sure that the site is in order. 	<p>where copies can be located for you to view and how you can comment. These comments will then be taken into account in preparing the Final Scoping Report which will be submitted to the Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA) for consideration.</p> <p>The Draft Scoping Report will contain information on the existing baseline environment at the project site, and will outline the topics which will be considered in the EIA. The following list identifies these topics, their appropriate references in the Draft Scoping Report and the environmental specialist who will be compiling the study.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bird Impact Assessment and Monitoring: Arcus Consulting – Andrew Pearson /Chapter 8 of the Draft Scoping Report; • Bat Impact Assessment and Monitoring: NSS Environmental – Kate McEwan/ Chapter 6 of the Draft Scoping Report; • Terrestrial Ecological Impact Assessment (Flora and Fauna): Anchor Environmental – Simon Todd/ Chapter 5of the Draft Scoping Report; • Archaeology and Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment: ACO Associates – Tim Hart / Chapter 10 of the Draft Scoping Report; • Palaeontology Assessment: via ACO 		

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				<p>Associates – John Almond / Chapter 10 of the Draft Scoping Report;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aquatic/ Wetland Assessment: Scherman Colloty and Associates – Brian Colloty / Chapter 7 of the Draft Scoping Report; • Noise Impact Assessment: Enviro-Acoustic Research – Morne de Jager / Chapter 11 of the Draft Scoping Report; • Visual Assessment Bernard Oberholzer Landscape Architects & Meirelles Lawson Burger Architects - Bernard Oberholzer and Quinton Lawson / Chapter 4 of the Draft Scoping Report; • Soil and Agriculture: Terrasoils – Johan van de Waals / Chapter 9 of the Draft Scoping Report; and • Social Impact Assessment: Tony Barbour Environmental Consulting and Research – Tony Barbour/ Chapter 12 of the Draft Scoping Report. <p>The Draft Scoping Report will be available for review for a period of 40 days, during which time we will also be holding a number of public and focus group meetings in the area of the project site. As a registered I&AP you will be notified of the location and timings of the public meetings and we would gladly meet with you at this time to discuss any concerns</p>		

NAME	DATE	METHOD	ISSUE	RESPONSE	DSR REF	Aspect/ Area
				<p>you may have on any of the topics raised.</p> <p>Following completion of the scoping phase, the EIA phase will be undertaken which will include the design of the facility within the project site, and the assessment of impacts. The findings of this stage will be presented in the Draft EIA Report. This will similarly be available for public comment prior to the development of the Final EIA Report. Once the Final EIA Report is completed this will be provided to the DEA for a decision to be made whether to grant Environmental Authorisation for the project. Comment on the Final EIA Report can also be made to the DEA directly.</p> <p>We understand you have the following queries regarding the proposed project and have provided some specific information in response to these below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Compensation and employment – how much will people be employed and how will they be paid; <i>The project will be developed under the Department of Energy's Renewable Energy Independent Power Producers Procurement Program (REIPPPP). As explanation of the REIPPPP and its requirements can be found in Chapter 3 of the forthcoming Draft Scoping Report. As a part of the REIPPPP, local communities are required to have a</i> 		

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				<p><i>stake in the ownership of the project, which is either funded by financier or by the other equity shareholder (which is known as a 'free carry'). Community ownership of an operating wind farm is generally conducted via a broad-based community trust, with the surrounding communities as beneficiaries of the dividends paid to shareholders in the project company. The dividend revenue will be invested in community development initiatives which would be outlined in the community trust deeds. In addition, successful REIPPPP projects are required to invest a percentage of gross revenue in socio economic development and enterprise development, primarily in the surrounding local communities (currently defined in the REIPPPP as located within a 50 km radius of the wind farm's operational site). If the wind farm is constructed, a number of critical community development programmes would be established that would have the potential to positively impact the communities near the wind facilities.</i></p> <p><i>Wind energy can provide technical skills to South Africans and thus improve the technical skills profile of the country and the regions where</i></p>		

NAME	DATE	METHOD	ISSUE	RESPONSE	DSR REF	Aspect/ Area
				<p>wind energy facilities are located. Through the REIPPPP, developers' own initiatives and through support from international donor agencies, a number of young South Africans are being trained on various aspects of wind farm construction and operation.</p> <p>In addition, projects are required to indicate skills transfer and training initiatives as part of the economic development commitments of projects that are submitted under the REIPPPP.</p> <p>During the operation and maintenance phase, a number of employment opportunities will be created. These opportunities may include site management, environmental management, facility operation and maintenance, community liaison, administration, monitoring, reporting, catering, cleaning and security. The exact number of jobs during operation (and construction) is not yet known, but will be defined in detail in the later stages of project development.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ecology – how will plants be affected; <p>An ecological assessment including the impact on plants will be undertaken as part of the EIA process outlined above. This will</p>		

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				<p><i>include identifying sensitive plant species and where possible, avoiding these areas in the planning of the project so as to minimise impacts. Information to date will be available in the forthcoming Draft Scoping Report, Chapter 5.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Groundwater and water use; <i>The project applied for is a Wind Energy Facility (WEF) and its associated grid infrastructure. Water will be required during the construction phase for normal construction activities such as mixing concrete, and washing equipment; and during operation limited amounts of water will be required for servicing the on-site office facilities and for limited maintenance activities such as cleaning equipment. This water may be sourced from the local municipality or may utilise existing or new boreholes. A Water Use License Application (WULA) will be made to the Department of Water Affairs if necessary to permit the use of water for the project.</i> <p><i>The project does not require any structures to be placed into the ground to a depth which would interact with the groundwater resource. The management of this water would be contained with the</i></p>		

NAME	DATE	METHOD	ISSUE	RESPONSE	DSR REF	Aspect/ Area
				<p><i>Environmental management Plan (EMP) which would stipulate compliance with any Water Use License.</i></p> <p><i>An assessment of the surface water impacts will be included in the EIA, and information on this will be presented in Chapter 7 of the Draft Scoping Report.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Land-use- will farmers be able to keep animals around the project; Yes. Farmers will continue to be able to use the area for grazing around the project. <p><i>Land-use is considered in Chapter 9 of the forthcoming Draft Scoping Report. Whilst the proposed site is large the project will only occupy a small footprint within this area, and other activities including the existing agricultural activities will be able to continue in the area presenting concurrently with the operation of the WEF. As part of the development process for wind farms on agricultural land, wind farm developers are required to apply to the local Municipality where the projects are located to amend the land use to allow for renewable energy</i></p> <p><i>In the Western Cape, developers</i></p>		

NAME	DATE	METHOD	ISSUE	RESPONSE	DSR REF	Aspect/ Area
				<p>submit a consent use application to the municipality to add the land use of renewable energy to the current zoning (Agriculture Zone 1) of the properties, to obtain a consent use on land zoned as Agricultural Zone 1 to accommodate a wind energy facility. This consent use, if granted, doesn't change the current zoning of agriculture, it only allows for renewable energy facilities on the agricultural land, and specifically only allows for the renewable energy project and associated infrastructure (such as access roads and electrical infrastructure);</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Safety and security; Safety and security will also be a consideration in the social impact assessment information available to date relating to this process is provided in Chapter 12 of the forthcoming Draft Scoping Report. 24 hours security will be provided on the site during construction and may include the installation of CCTV systems • Will there be an effect on telephones and internet? The proponent will be in contact with Telkom and other network providers to address any impact the project might have on their infrastructure, but most projects have little or no 		

NAME	DATE	METHOD	ISSUE	RESPONSE	DSR REF	Aspect/ Area
				<p><i>impact on telecommunication services in the local area, and mitigation measures can be implemented if necessary.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Waste management. <p><i>Whilst not a specific topic in the EIA this will be included in the environmental management plan (EMP) which will be developed through the EIA process. Best practice in construction techniques including the management of waste will be a requirement of the EMP which, if Environmental Authorisation is granted, will become legally binding.</i></p> <p>We hope this provides some further information related to your areas of concern, and we welcome further comments and queries on the content of the Draft Scoping Report and subsequent reports to follow which you will be notified of as a registered I&AP.</p>		
Jacobus Albertus van den Berg – Landowner	2014/06/13	Email and Fax	Mr. Jacobus Albertus van den Berg requested to be registered as an I&AP and provided EIMS with his contact details.	EIMS confirmed receipt of Mr. van den Berg's email and facsimile and they let Mr. van den Berg know that he has been registered as an I&P for this project.		Receipt/ Acknowledgement of Notification
	2014/06/12	Facsimile	Mr. Jacobus Albertus van den Berg is concerned about the damage to natural vegetation, soil and wildlife.	Dear Mr van den Berg Thank you for completing the comment form in relation to the Umsinde Emoyeni Wind	Chapters 5, 6, 8 and 9	Ecology
			Mr. Jacobus Albertus van den Berg is			Infrastructure

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			concerned about the damage to the roads.	Energy Facility and associated grid infrastructure. You have been registered as an Interested and Affected Party (I&AP) for the project and will be kept informed of key project dates and information.		
			Mr. Jacobus Albertus van den Berg wanted to know what kind of environmental rehabilitation is planned at the building sites after completion of the project. Mr. Van den Berg also enquired about the effects this proposed development will have on farming activities like cattle, sheep and goats.	We understand your farm is located close to the project site and you wish to register your concern and request further information regarding the project.	Section 2.5.4	Land-use and Planning
			Mr Jacobus Albertus van den Berg stated that crime will rise as a result of the influx of strangers.	We note your comments regarding the importance of green energy supply but are concerned about negative impacts on your farming activities.	Chapter 12	Safety and Security
			How long is the life span of the project and what afterwards?		Section 2.5.3 and 2.5.4	Other Social Impacts
			Mr. Jacobus Albertus van den Berg is concerned about surface water (more runoff of rainwater, more soil erosion, and a higher risk of floods and excessive deposition of silt downstream as well as pollution of surface water as a result of construction activities.	At present we are in the early stages of conducting an environmental impact assessment (EIA) in terms of the National Environmental Management Act 1998 (NEMA). Through this process a team of specialist environmental professional have been formed, who will be responsible for identifying and assessing the potential environmental impact of the proposed project. The first stage in this process is "scoping".	Chapter 9 and 7	Surface Water
			Mr. Jacobus Albertus van den Berg stated that vision will be affected by wind turbines on ridges against the horizon.	The scoping stage is when we identify the potential likely environmental impacts which may result from the proposed wind energy facility (WEF) and its associated grid infrastructure, and how we intend to assess these in the full EIA. In order to do this the EIA team, who are experienced in the local area and with this type of development, are consulted along with key stakeholders and	Chapter 4	Visual Impact
			Mr Jacobus Albertus van den Berg's property is 15 km's north of Murraysburg and it is almost on the border of the wind energy facility. Mr. van den Berg is an environmentally conscious person and based on what he knows he is sure that the project will only have negative effects on my farming enterprise. On the other hand he must acknowledge the importance of development and the importance of green energy. His aim is to minimise the possible		Section 1.2 and Section 2.7	General

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			negative effects on his property and also on the environment as a whole on the short and long term.	<p>the public. The Draft Scoping Report is currently being finalised and will be provided for public comment. As a registered Interested and Affected Party (I&AP) you will be notified of the issue of the Draft Scoping Report, and where copies can be located for you to view and how you can comment. These comments will then be taken into account in preparing the Final Scoping Report which will be submitted to the Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA) for consideration.</p> <p>The Draft Scoping Report will contain information on the existing baseline environment at the project site, and will outline the topics which will be considered in the EIA. The following list identifies these topics, their appropriate references in the Draft Scoping Report and the environmental specialist who will be compiling the study.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bird Impact Assessment and Monitoring: Arcus Consulting – Andrew Pearson /Chapter 8 of the Draft Scoping Report; • Bat Impact Assessment and Monitoring: NSS Environmental – Kate McEwan/ Chapter 6 of the Draft Scoping Report; • Terrestrial Ecological Impact Assessment (Flora and Fauna): Anchor Environmental – Simon Todd/ Chapter 5 of the Draft Scoping Report; 		

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				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Archaeology and Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment: ACO Associates – Tim Hart / Chapter 10 of the Draft Scoping Report; • Palaeontology Assessment: via ACO Associates – John Almond / Chapter 10 of the Draft Scoping Report; • Aquatic/ Wetland Assessment: Scherman Colloty and Associates – Brian Colloty / Chapter 7 of the Draft Scoping Report; • Noise Impact Assessment: Enviro-Acoustic Research – Morne de Jager / Chapter 11 of the Draft Scoping Report; • Visual Assessment Bernard Oberholzer Landscape Architects & Meirelles Lawson Burger Architects - Bernard Oberholzer and Quinton Lawson / Chapter 4 of the Draft Scoping Report; • Soil and Agriculture: Terrasoils – Johan van de Waals / Chapter 9 of the Draft Scoping Report; and • Social Impact Assessment: Tony Barbour Environmental Consulting and Research – Tony Barbour/ Chapter 12 of the Draft Scoping Report. <p>The Draft Scoping Report will be available for review for a period of 40 days, during which time we will also be holding a number of public and focus group meetings in the area</p>		

NAME	DATE	METHOD	ISSUE	RESPONSE	DSR REF	Aspect/ Area
				<p>of the project site. As a registered I&AP you will be notified of the location and timings of the public meetings and we would gladly meet with you at this time to discuss any concerns you may have on any of the topics raised.</p> <p>Following completion of the scoping phase, the EIA phase will be undertaken which will include the design of the facility within the project site, and the assessment of impacts. The findings of this stage will be presented in the Draft EIA Report. This will similarly be available for public comment prior to the development of the Final EIA Report. Once the Final EIA Report is completed this will be provided to the DEA for a decision to be made whether to grant Environmental Authorisation for the project. Comment on the Final EIA Report can also be made to the DEA directly.</p> <p>With regard to your specific areas of concern we provide some further information below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ecology including damage to vegetation and wildlife: <i>The Draft Scoping Report will include information at this stage in the process on ecology (Chapter 5), birds (Chapter 8) and bat (Chapter 6). These potential impacts will be taken in account throughout the EIA process and further information will be made available throughout the process.</i> 		

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				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Infrastructure and damage to roads: <i>Any on-site roads that are created or upgraded for the purpose of the project will be maintained during construction and operation by the construction and wind farm operation contractors. All the national (National Road Traffic Act (Act 93 of 1996)) and provincial required permits (Western Cape Provincial Road Traffic Administration Act, 2012, (Act 6 of 2012); Western Cape Transport Infrastructure Act, 2013 (Act 1 of 2013)) will be applied for when required much later in the project development process once the EIA is complete and there is more certainty that the project is likely to proceed;</i> - Rehabilitation that will be undertaken after completion of the project: <i>At the end of the operation phase, the Proposed Development will be decommissioned, or may be repowered i.e. redesigned and refitted so as to operate for a longer period. Repowering would not be undertaken under this application or resulting Environmental Authorisation, and would be subject to a new application at the time. In the event of decommissioning, typically, all above ground equipment will be dismantled and removed from</i> 		

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				<p><i>the site. This approach is considered to be best practice environmentally and less damaging than seeking to remove all foundations, underground cables in their entirety.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Safety and security concerns relating to increased crime: <i>Safety and security will also be a consideration in the social impact assessment information available to date relating to this process is provided in Chapter 12 of the forthcoming Draft Scoping Report. 24 hours security will be provided on the site during construction and may include the installation of CCTV systems.</i> - Surface water and soil erosion concerns: <i>The Draft Scoping Report will consider the impacts on surface water, soils and soil erosion impacts associated with ecology in Chapters 7, 9 and 5 respectively.</i> <p>We hope this provides some further information related to your areas of concern, and we welcome further comments and queries on the content of the Draft Scoping Report and subsequent reports to follow which you will be notified of as a registered I&AP.</p>		

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Peet de Klerk- Community member	2014/06/13	Email	Mr. Peet de Klerk requested to be registered as an I&AP.	EIMS let Mr. de Klerk know that he has been registered as an I&AP for this project.		Receipt/ Acknowledgement of Notification
Paul Rubidge - B9 Contractors	2014/06/15	Email	Mr. Paul Rubidge requested to be registered as an I&AP and provided EIMS with his contact details. My areas of concern are the cumulative impact of the WEF in our area, the effects on the ecology and land use planning. I own B9 Contractors and have been involved in the area with regard to the restoration of ecology on farms amongst other things.	Dear Mr P Rubidge Thank you for completing the comment form in relation to the Umsinde Emoyeni Wind Energy Facility (WEF) and associated grid infrastructure. You have now been registered as an Interested and Affected Party (I&AP) and will be notified for the issue of documentation and consultation events associated with the proposed project. At present we are in the early stages of conducting an environmental impact assessment (EIA) in terms of the National Environmental Management Act 1998 (NEMA). Through this process a team of specialist environmental professional have been formed, who will be responsible for identifying and assessing the potential environmental impact of the proposed project. The first stage in this process is "scoping". The scoping stage is when we identify the potential likely environmental impacts which may result from the proposed wind energy facility (WEF) and its associated grid infrastructure, and how we intend to assess	Section 1.2.5.4 Chapters 5, 6 and 8	Receipt/ Acknowledgement of Notification General

NAME	DATE	METHOD	ISSUE	RESPONSE	DSR REF	Aspect/ Area
				<p>these in the full EIA. In order to do this the EIA team, who are experienced in the local area and with this type of development, are consulted along with key stakeholders and the public. The Draft Scoping Report is currently being finalised and will be provided for public comment. As a registered Interested and Affected Party (I&AP) you will be notified of the issue of the Draft Scoping Report, and where copies can be located for you to view and how you can comment. These comments will then be taken into account in preparing the Final Scoping Report which will be submitted to the Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA) for consideration.</p> <p>The Draft Scoping Report will contain information on the existing baseline environment at the project site, and will outline the topics which will be considered in the EIA. The following list identifies these topics, their appropriate references in the Draft Scoping Report and the environmental specialist who will be compiling the study.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bird Impact Assessment and Monitoring: Arcus Consulting – Andrew Pearson /Chapter 8 of the Draft Scoping Report; • Bat Impact Assessment and Monitoring: NSS Environmental – Kate McEwan/ Chapter 6 of the Draft Scoping Report; • Terrestrial Ecological Impact Assessment (Flora and Fauna): 		

NAME	DATE	METHOD	ISSUE	RESPONSE	DSR REF	Aspect/ Area
				<p>Anchor Environmental – Simon Todd/ Chapter 5 of the Draft Scoping Report;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Archaeology and Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment: ACO Associates – Tim Hart / Chapter 10 of the Draft Scoping Report; • Palaeontology Assessment: via ACO Associates – John Almond / Chapter 10 of the Draft Scoping Report; • Aquatic/ Wetland Assessment: Scherman Colloty and Associates – Brian Colloty / Chapter 7 of the Draft Scoping Report; • Noise Impact Assessment: Enviro-Acoustic Research – Morne de Jager / Chapter 11 of the Draft Scoping Report; • Visual Assessment Bernard Oberholzer Landscape Architects & Meirelles Lawson Burger Architects - Bernard Oberholzer and Quinton Lawson / Chapter 4 of the Draft Scoping Report; • Soil and Agriculture: Terrasoils – Johan van de Waals / Chapter 9 of the Draft Scoping Report; and • Social Impact Assessment: Tony Barbour Environmental Consulting and Research – Tony Barbour/ Chapter 12 of the Draft Scoping Report. <p>Following completion of the scoping phase,</p>		

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				<p>the EIA phase will be undertaken which will include the design of the facility within the project site, and the assessment of impacts. The findings of this stage will be presented in the Draft EIA Report. This will similarly be available for public comment prior to the development of the Final EIA Report. Once the Final EIA Report is completed this will be provided to the DEA for a decision to be made whether to grant Environmental Authorisation for the project. Comment on the Final EIA Report can also be made to the DEA directly.</p> <p>We note your specific concerns with regard to ecology, cumulative impacts and land use planning. Please see some further information below relating to these points.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ecology: <i>The Draft Scoping Report will include information at this stage in the process on ecology (Chapter 5), birds (Chapter 8) and bat (Chapter 6). These potential impacts will be taken in account throughout the EIA process and further information will be made available throughout the process.</i> • <i>Assessment of cumulative impacts is a requirement of the EIA under NEMA. In the case of this project the cumulative impacts of all the component parts will be assessed within each other and also with other</i> 		

NAME	DATE	METHOD	ISSUE	RESPONSE	DSR REF	Aspect/ Area
				<p><i>facilities in the area including the neighbouring Ishwati Emoyeni wind energy facility.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Land-use and planning associated with concerns over change in use; • <i>Land-use is considered in Chapter 9 of the forthcoming Draft Scoping Report. Whilst the proposed site is large the project will only occupy a small footprint within this area, and other activities including the existing agricultural activities will be able to continue in the area presenting concurrently with the operation of the WEF. As part of the development process for wind farms on agricultural land, wind farm developers are required to apply to the local Municipality where the projects are located to amend the land use to allow for renewable energy</i> • <i>In the Western Cape, developers submit a consent use application to the municipality to add the land use of renewable energy to the current zoning (Agriculture Zone 1) of the properties, to obtain a consent use on land zoned as Agricultural Zone 1 to accommodate a wind energy facility. This consent use, if granted, doesn't change the current zoning of agriculture, it only allows for renewable energy facilities on the</i> 		

NAME	DATE	METHOD	ISSUE	RESPONSE	DSR REF	Aspect/ Area
				<p><i>agricultural land, and specifically only allows for the renewable energy project and associated infrastructure (such as access roads and electrical infrastructure)</i></p> <p>The Draft Scoping Report will be available for review in the near future for a period of 40 days, during which time we will also be holding a number of public and focus group meetings in the area of the project site. As a registered I&AP you will be notified of the location and timings of the public meetings and we would gladly meet with you at this time to discuss any concerns you may have on any of the topics raised as we appreciate there is a lot of information available.</p> <p>We welcome further comments and queries on the content of the Draft Scoping Report and subsequent reports to follow which you will be notified of as a registered I&AP.</p>		
Wayne Rubidge - Zoetvlei -	2014/06/14	Email	What proof of all air and thermodynamic effects and studies to be undertaken?	<p>Dear Mr W Rubidge</p> <p>Thank you for completing the comment form in relation to the Umsinde Emoyeni Wind Energy Facility (WEF) and associated grid infrastructure. You have now been registered as an Interested and Affected Party (I&AP) and will be notified for the issue of documentation and consultation events</p>	The EMP will be produced at the EIA phase outlined in Section 1.2.	Air Quality

NAME	DATE	METHOD	ISSUE	RESPONSE	DSR REF	Aspect/ Area
			Mr. Wayne Rubidge stated that the Karoo is one of the most treasured sites in the world, worthy of world heritage status.	associated with the proposed project.	Chapter 10	Archaeology and Palaeontology
			How can you compensate for the loss of big bird impacts such as eagles, Blue Cranes etc?	We understand you have concerns associated with the proposed project regarding the environmental impacts regarding the sensitivity of the receiving environment for the proposed development, specifically including:	Chapter 8	Compensation
			The great escarpment is a pristine ecological area. This would be crazy to go ahead. Eskom has conceded power lines kill birds.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The potential collision risk of power line and WEF infrastructure on birds, specifically noting a concern for Blue Crane; 	Chapter 4 and 8	Ecology
			No direct benefits.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Air quality, specifically the nature of any air studies and thermodynamic effects; 	Section 3.2	Economy
			No direct benefits in long or medium terms.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Archaeology and palaeontology value of the Karoo; 	Section 3.2 and Chapter 12	Employment
			No need for project in a pristine environment.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Compensation related to impacts on Blue Crane and Eagles; Ecology concerns; No direct benefits with regard to economy or employment; 	Section 2.7	Need for the Project
			Disturbs the delicate balance of the Karoo.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The impacts of construction on geology; 	Chapter 4 and 11	Nuisance
			Negative (huge) impact on property value.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Impacts on water resources of the Karoo including groundwater; 	Chapter 12	Property Values
			Very negative for the whole region.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Infrastructure associated with capacity; 	Chapter 12	Quality of Life
			Instability will be negative.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Land-use and planning associated with concerns over change in use; Need for the project referring to 	Chapter 12	Safety and Security

NAME	DATE	METHOD	ISSUE	RESPONSE	DSR REF	Aspect/ Area
			There will be yes.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> choice of the site; Nuisance related to the sense of place of the Karoo; Concern over potential decline in property values associated with wind energy facilities; Quality of life relating to the view of human receptors of the WEF for the region; Safety and security concerns associated with instability in the local community; Noting there will be other social impacts; Surface water concerns; Visual impacts; and Waste management associated with the use of concrete and traffic. 		Other Social Impacts
			Yes, he is concerned about this impact.		Chapter 7	Surface Water
			Huge visual pollution for the 100 km		Chapter 4	Visual Impact
			The huge amount of trucks, concrete etc. will pollute the environment.		The EMP will be produced at the EIA phase outlined in Section 1.2.	Waste Management
		Facsimile	Mr. Wayne Rubidge asked if the category was with regard to the impact of construction on geology?	<p>At present we are in the early stages of conducting an environmental impact assessment (EIA) in terms of the National Environmental Management Act 1998 (NEMA). Through this process a team of specialist environmental professional have been formed, who will be responsible for identifying and assessing the potential environmental impact of the proposed project. The first stage in this process is "scoping". The scoping stage is when we identify the potential likely environmental impacts which may result from the proposed wind energy facility (WEF) and its associated grid infrastructure, and how we intend to assess these in the full EIA. In order to do this the</p>		Geology
			The available water is all that holds the Karoo together. Any impact on water is a disaster.		Chapter 7	Groundwater
			Mr. Wayne Rubidge stated that this proposed project will add stress on existing infrastructure which has no capacity.			Infrastructure

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			Any change in land-use in the Karoo is disastrous	EIA team, who are experienced in the local area and with this type of development, are consulted along with key stakeholders and the public. The Draft Scoping Report is currently being finalised and will be provided for public comment. As a registered Interested and Affected Party (I&AP) you will be notified of the issue of the Draft Scoping Report, and where copies can be located for you to view and how you can comment. These comments will then be taken into account in preparing the Final Scoping Report which will be submitted to the Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA) for consideration.	Chapter 9	Land-use and Planning
			As a land owner, a concerned Karoo citizen, a conservationist who loves his country, an employer and affected resident, all of who hereby are opposed to a wind farm of this magnitude, in this very sensitive environment and question the entire project.	The Draft Scoping Report will contain information on the existing baseline environment at the project site, and will outline the topics which will be considered in the EIA. The following list identifies these topics, their appropriate references in the Draft Scoping Report and the environmental specialist who will be compiling the study.		General
			Eskom has already conceded its power lines kill Blue Cranes in the mountains of the Karoo. A wind farm is many times worse. The great escarpment is home to this endangered national bird, of which there are few left. It is ridiculous to think a WEF will get the go ahead in this area when ESKOM has already conceded to the negative impacts to occur.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bird Impact Assessment and Monitoring: Arcus Consulting – Andrew Pearson /Chapter 8 of the Draft Scoping Report; • Bat Impact Assessment and Monitoring: NSS Environmental – Kate McEwan/ Chapter 6 of the Draft Scoping Report; • Terrestrial Ecological Impact Assessment (Flora and Fauna): Anchor Environmental – Simon 		
			National bird the Blue Crane in one of its last sanctuaries.			

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				<p>Todd/ Chapter 5 of the Draft Scoping Report;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Archaeology and Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment: ACO Associates – Tim Hart / Chapter 10 of the Draft Scoping Report; • Palaeontology Assessment: via ACO Associates – John Almond / Chapter 10 of the Draft Scoping Report; • Aquatic/ Wetland Assessment: Scherman Colloty and Associates – Brian Colloty / Chapter 7 of the Draft Scoping Report; • Noise Impact Assessment: Enviro-Acoustic Research – Morne de Jager / Chapter 11 of the Draft Scoping Report; • Visual Assessment Bernard Oberholzer Landscape Architects & Meirelles Lawson Burger Architects - Bernard Oberholzer and Quinton Lawson / Chapter 4 of the Draft Scoping Report; • Soil and Agriculture: Terrasoils – Johan van de Waals / Chapter 9 of the Draft Scoping Report; and • Social Impact Assessment: Tony Barbour Environmental Consulting and Research – Tony Barbour/ Chapter 12 of the Draft Scoping Report. <p>Following completion of the scoping phase, the EIA phase will be undertaken which will</p>		

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				<p>include the design of the facility within the project site, and the assessment of impacts. The findings of this stage will be presented in the Draft EIA Report. This will similarly be available for public comment prior to the development of the Final EIA Report. Once the Final EIA Report is completed this will be provided to the DEA for a decision to be made whether to grant Environmental Authorisation for the project. Comment on the Final EIA Report can also be made to the DEA directly.</p> <p>With regard to concerns over, archaeology, ecology, the need for the project and site selection, surface water, social impacts, and visual impacts, information on the scoping process to date will be provided in the Draft Scoping Report.</p> <p>With regard to specific areas of concern we provide some further additional responses below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The potential collision risk of power line and WEF infrastructure on birds, specifically noting a concern for Blue Crane and compensation related to Blue Cranes and Eagles; <i>At present a 12 month survey of the birds in and around the project site is currently underway and the findings to date will be available for review in Chapter 8 of the Draft Scoping Report. Although impacts on birds</i> 		

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				<p>can occur from wind energy facilities and grid connections, appropriately sited and designed facilities can have little or no impact on bird communities. Impacts on birds vary from species to species. Information on species recorded on the site is presented in Chapter 8 of the Draft Scoping Report as well as desk based information on the locality from available resources. The assessment will take into consideration potential impacts on Priority species which include Blue Crane and all eagles in the EIA process.</p> <p>The potential impacts of the birds recorded and their locations within the site will be assessed by an Avifaunal Specialist registered with the South African Council for Natural Scientific Persons (SACNASP). The findings of this study will be fed into the design and management of the facility so as to as far as possible reduce impacts on birds. The impact assessment will conclude if these measures are sufficient to reduce the potential impact to acceptable levels.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Air quality, specifically the nature of any air studies and thermodynamic effects; <p>There is a potential for dust emissions associated with the</p>		

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				<p><i>construction and operation phase which will be controlled through good best practice during construction methods which will be stipulated and be a legal requirement of the environmental management plan (EMP) to be produced as part of the EIA phase.</i></p> <p><i>With regard to thermodynamics, please provide some further information as to your specific concern regarding the development of a wind energy facility and associated grid infrastructure and we will endeavour to understand this query and respond in due course. We would be happy to discuss this point at a public meeting which will be held during the scoping phase if that would be helpful.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No direct benefits with regard to economy or employment; <p><i>The project will be developed under the Department of Energy's Renewable Energy Independent Power Producers Procurement Program (REIPPPP). As explanation of the REIPPPP and its requirements can be found in Chapter 3 of the forthcoming Draft Scoping Report.</i></p> <p><i>As a part of the REIPPPP, local communities are required to have a stake in the ownership of the project, which is either funded by financier or</i></p>		

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				<p><i>by the other equity shareholder (which is known as a 'free carry'). Community ownership of an operating wind farm is generally conducted via a broad-based community trust, with the surrounding communities as beneficiaries of the dividends paid to shareholders in the project company. The dividend revenue will be invested in community development initiatives which would be outlined in the community trust deeds. In addition, successful REIPPPP projects are required to invest a percentage of gross revenue in socio economic development and enterprise development, primarily in the surrounding local communities (currently defined in the REIPPPP as located within a 50 km radius of the wind farm's operational site). If the wind farm is constructed, a number of critical community development programmes would be established that would have the potential to positively impact the communities near the wind facilities.</i></p> <p><i>Wind energy can provide technical skills to South Africans and thus improve the technical skills profile of the country and the regions where wind energy facilities are located. Through the REIPPPP, developers'</i></p>		

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				<p><i>own initiatives and through support from international donor agencies, a number of young South Africans are being trained on various aspects of wind farm construction and operation.</i></p> <p><i>In addition, projects are required to indicate skills transfer and training initiatives as part of the economic development commitments of projects that are submitted under the REIPPPP.</i></p> <p><i>During the operation and maintenance phase, a number of employment opportunities will be created. These opportunities may include site management, environmental management, facility operation and maintenance, community liaison, administration, monitoring, reporting, catering, cleaning and security. The exact number of jobs during operation (and construction) is not yet known, but will be defined in detail in the later stages of project development.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The impacts of construction on geology; <i>The project does not require any construction activities which are likely to result in potential geological impacts. The project infrastructure is located on the surface with</i> 		

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				<p><i>excavations being limited to trenches for the burial of cables (where practicable); borrow pits for the excavation of construction materials, and foundations for access tracks, turbines and other above ground infrastructure. As such there are not deemed to be any likely potential impacts on geology from the proposed projects and this has been scoped out of the EIA. An assessment of Soils and Land Use will however be performed.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Impacts on water resources of the Karoo including groundwater; The project applied for is a Wind Energy Facility (WEF) and its associated grid infrastructure. Water will be required during the construction phase for normal construction activities such as mixing concrete, and washing equipment; and during operation limited amounts of water will be required for servicing the on-site office facilities and for limited maintenance activities such as cleaning equipment. This water may be sourced from the local municipality or may utilise existing or new boreholes. A Water Use License Application (WULA) will be made to the Department of Water Affairs if necessary to permit the use</i> 		

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				<p><i>of water for the project.</i></p> <p><i>The project does not require any structures to be placed into the ground to a depth which would interact with the groundwater resource. The management of this water would be contained with the Environmental management Plan (EMP) which would stipulate compliance with any Water Use License.</i></p> <p><i>An assessment of the surface water impacts will be included in the EIA, and information on this will be presented in Chapter 7 of the Draft Scoping Report.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Infrastructure associated with capacity; <i>With regard to the electrical grid infrastructure the project will have to construct its own infrastructure. It will connect into the existing National Grid through an agreement with Eskom who will ensure capacity is provided. With regard to traffic volumes an initial Traffic Study has been completed and provided to SANRAL and the project proponent will continue to liaise with SANRAL and relevant municipal and provincial authorities to ensure the road network is managed in accordance with their requirements and existing</i> 		

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				<p>road capacity.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Land-use and planning associated with concerns over change in use; <p><i>Land-use is considered in Chapter 9 of the forthcoming Draft Scoping Report. Whilst the proposed site is large the project will only occupy a small footprint within this area, and other activities including the existing agricultural activities will be able to continue in the area presenting concurrently with the operation of the WEF. As part of the development process for wind farms on agricultural land, wind farm developers are required to apply to the local Municipality where the projects are located to amend the land use to allow for renewable energy</i></p> <p><i>In the Western Cape, developers submit a consent use application to the municipality to add the land use of renewable energy to the current zoning (Agriculture Zone 1) of the properties, to obtain a consent use on land zoned as Agricultural Zone 1 to accommodate a wind energy facility. This consent use, if granted, doesn't change the current zoning of agriculture, it only allows for renewable energy facilities on the</i></p>		

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				<p><i>agricultural land, and specifically only allows for the renewable energy project and associated infrastructure (such as access roads and electrical infrastructure);</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nuisance related to the sense of place of the Karoo; <i>A visual impact study is being undertaken as a part of the EIA and information to date will be presented in Chapter 4 of the forthcoming Draft Scoping Report. This will include consideration of the sense of place of the Karoo;</i> • Concern over potential decline in property values associated with wind energy facilities; <i>Globally, there is little evidence of property values in the surrounding areas decreasing due to wind farms. On the contrary, international research has found no impact or even a positive impact on property values near wind farms. Articles are available online at: http://newscenter.lbl.gov/news-releases/2013/08/27/no-evidence-of-residential-property-value-impacts-near-u-s-wind-turbines-a-new-berkeley-lab-study-finds/ http://blog.ucusa.org/effect-of-wind-turbines-on-property-values-384</i> • Quality of life relating to the view of human receptors of the WEF for the 		

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				<p>region; <i>A social impact assessment will be undertaken for the project which will include consideration of the impact on quality of life. Information available to date will be presented in Chapter 12 of the forthcoming Draft Scoping Report;</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Safety and security concerns associated with instability in the local community; <i>Safety and security will also be a consideration in the social impact assessment information available to date relating to this process is provided in Chapter 12 of the forthcoming Draft Scoping Report. 24 hours security will be provided on the site during construction and may include the installation of CCTV systems.</i> • Waste management associated with the use of concrete; <i>Whilst not a specific topic in the EIA this will be included in the environmental management plan (EMP) which will be developed through the EIA process. Best practice in construction techniques including the management of waste will be a requirement of the EMP which, if Environmental Authorisation is granted, will become legally binding.</i> 		

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				<p>The Draft Scoping Report will be available for review in the near future for a period of 40 days, during which time we will also be holding a number of public and focus group meetings in the area of the project site. As a registered I&AP you will be notified of the location and timings of the public meetings and we would gladly meet with you at this time to discuss any concerns you may have on any of the topics raised as we appreciate there is a lot of information available.</p> <p>We welcome further comments and queries on the content of the Draft Scoping Report and subsequent reports to follow which you will be notified of as a registered I&AP.</p>		
A. Marais – Landowner	2014/05/16	Telephone	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. EIMS received a phone call from Dr. Marais stating that he was unable to access the Background Information Document (BID) on the EIMS website. 2. Dr. Marais provided EIMS with his email address in order for EIMS to send him a brief description of the instructions required in order to access the project documents on the EIMS website. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. EIMS informed Dr. Marais that they would check the EIMS website to make sure that the website was not off-line. EIMS asked Dr. Marais for his email address in order to provide him with instructions required in order to access the project documents on the EIMS website. 2. EIMS thanked Dr. Marais for responding to the project notification and provided him with brief instructions in order to access the project documentation. EIMS asked Dr. Marais to let them know should he have any further problems accessing the documentation or require assistance. 		Request for Information
Oscar Bans – Community	2014/05/20	Telephone	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Mr. Oscar Bans phoned EIMS and he let them know that he saw the initial notification for the project and wanted to know how a company that would like to 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. EIMS thanked Mr. Bans for responding to the initial notification and informed Mr. Bans that the deadline (16th June 2014) is for registering to be involved in the 		Request for Information

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member			<p>be involved for construction can take part. Mr. Bans also wanted to know if the registration dates (16th June 2014) deadline was for anyone who would like to be involved in construction.</p> <p>2. Mr Bans provided EIMS with his email and telephone number for EIMS to contact him regarding his enquiry about the process of registering for construction services for this project</p>	<p>PPP for the Environmental Impact Assessment Process as part of the application for Environmental Authorisation (EA). EIMS let Mr. Bans know that this is the process that will determine if the project is approved by the Competent Authority (the Department of Environmental Affairs). Construction will take place only if the application for EA is approved.</p> <p>2. EIMS informed Mr. Bans that they are not responsible or involved in the allocation of construction contracts and that this will be done by the EA Applicant. EIMS let Mr. Bans know that they will ask the Applicant on the process of registering on their construction service provider database.</p> <p>3. Furthermore, EIMS let Mr. Bans know that this enquiry falls outside of the EIMS scope, however, they provided Mr. Bans with the contact details of the Applicant, Windlab to find out how to register to be included on their service providers database</p>		
Lincoln Seoloane - Ministry of Water and Environmental Affairs	2014/05/20	Email	Mr. Lincoln Seoloane requested the location plan for the proposed project.	EIMS provided Mr. Seoloane with two location plans indicating the Wind Energy Facility (WEF) application study area and the Grid Connection study area.	Figure 1.1	Request for Information
Andrew September - Heritage Western	2014/05/20	Email	Heritage Western Cape requires a Notification of Intent to Develop (NID) to be submitted for the proposed Umsinde Emoyeni Wind Energy Plant in Murraysburg, as required by Section 38 of the National	EIMS let Mr. Andrew September know that the Heritage team for the project is in the process of completing the Notification of Intent to Develop (NID) form which will be	Chapter 10	Request for Information

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Cape Department of Cultural Affairs and Sports			Heritage Resource Act (Act 25 of 1999). If this form has not already been submitted, please complete and submit the attached NID form and checklist, and send through one hardcopy and one digital copy (on a CD) along with any associated documentation to the HWC offices.	submitted to Heritage Western Cape.		
Bernice Labuschagne - Personal Assistant to Head of Ministry Mr. M du Randt Ministry of Local Government, Environmental Affairs and Development Planning	2014/06/04	Email	Ms. Bernice Labuschagne acknowledged receipt of the initial notification and she let EIMS know that the correspondence has been forwarded to the Department of Environmental Affairs and Development Planning.	EIMS thanked Ms. Bernice Labuschagne for responding to the project initial notification and for forwarding the information to the relevant Department. EIMS let Ms. Labuschagne know that comment was received from the Western Cape Department of Environmental Affairs and Development Planning.		Request for Information
Linda Biggs - Landowner	2014/06/08	Facsimile	Mrs. Linda Biggs requested 5 copies of the BID to be posted to her postal address that she provided.	EIMS informed Mrs. Biggs that her colleague (Mr. GP Kriel) would be passing through Murraysburg on the 14 th of June and that he will leave the requested BIDs at the Murraysburg Vleis Boere Co-Operative for Mrs. Biggs attention.		Request for Information
	2014/06/26	Telephone	1. EIMS phoned Mrs. Linda Biggs to follow up regarding the BID delivered to the Murrayburg Farmers Co-operative as requested by Mrs Biggs. The BIDs were delivered by EIMS to the farmers Co-	1. Mrs informed EIMS that she is still in Graaf Reinet but will be going to Murraysburg later today to collect the BIDs from the Farmers Co-operative. 2. Mrs. Biigs asked for some time to think it		

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			<p>operative on Saturday (14 May 2014).</p> <p>2. EIMS told Mrs. Biggs that they would contact her the next day to verify that if she received the delivered BIDs. EIMS further asked Mrs. Biggs if she could assist with insight as a resident in the vicinity of the proposed study area, with suggestions regarding the best time to conduct public meetings at the Murraysburg Town Hall. EIMS would like to accommodate the public as much as possible and arrange the public meeting on a day and time that suits most of the surrounding I&APs.</p>	<p>over and discuss with some other community and farmers Association members and she will get back to EIMS.</p>		
	2014/06/26	Email	<p>It seems a good time to get people together for a meeting is 3pm.</p> <p>Adri Smit is the Secretary of the Murraysburg Farmers Association adri@doenit.net and she is a good contact for most things, especially letting people know about meetings, circulating, etc.</p> <p>Please let me know if I can help in any other way.</p>	<p>EIMS thanked Mrs. Biggs for the information regarding a good meeting time, if you don't mind please may you and Adri also advise if there are any days of the week or upcoming dates.</p>		General
Willem and Linda Biggs - landowners	2014/06/12	Email	<p>Mr. and Mrs. Biggs were unable to read the BID because the print was small, had poor quality and thus making it almost difficult to read. In addition, Mr. and Mrs. Biggs were concerned that they were not given time to comment on the project, with the relevant information at their disposal to fully consider the implications of this project.</p>	<p>EIMS apologised to Mr. and Mrs Biggs that they found the booklet of the BID difficult to read. EIMS enclosed a new copy where the font size was increased.</p> <p>In addition, EIMS let Mr. and Mrs. Biggs know that the 30 day registration period for I&APs was for the initial registration. The EIA process will be ongoing for many months and the public would have many opportunities to comment on the proposed development when further information is available. EIMS advised Mr. and Mrs Biggs that as registered I&APs on this project, they will be kept informed of</p>		General

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				the project progress and that comments on the proposed development are welcome.		
			Mr. and Mrs. Biggs's concerns at the stage of the project relate to visual impact, noise and ecological impact. Mr. and Mrs. Biggs noted that these concerns may change once they are more informed about the project.	<p>EIMS let Mr. and Mrs Biggs know that their comments regarding visual, noise and ecological impacts were noted. EIMS informed Mr. and Mrs. Biggs that an Environmental Assessment practitioner (EAP), Jennifer Slack of Arcus Consulting, has been appointed to complete an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) for the proposed project which will include consideration of the impacts noted.</p> <p>EIMS added that at present, a scoping report is being prepared to state what will be covered in the EIA process. This report will be made available to the public to comment and will provide further information on the impacts to be considered. Following this an EIA will be prepared to assess these impacts. The scoping and the EIA will be made available for public review and will provide further information on the impacts of the project.</p> <p>Furthermore, EIMS informed Mr. and Mrs Biggs that all I&APs will be notified when these reports are available for preview and comment.</p>	Chapter 4, 11, 5, 6 and 8	Noise Pollution
David Booyesen – Community member	2014/06/10	Facsimile	Mr. David Booyesen wanted to know of business opportunities that might arise of this project and he provided EIMS with his contact details to send information regarding the possible business opportunities.	<p>EIMS thanked Mr. Booyesen for his interest in the Umsinde Emoyeni Wind Energy Facility and associated grid infrastructure</p> <p>EIMS informed Mr. Booyesen that the project is currently in its very early stages of development. Opportunities for involvement in the project in terms of employment and procurement of services and goods will be investigated in detail by the project team</p>	Section 3.2 and Chapter 12	Request for Information

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				<p>when an economic development plan is drafted. However, this will only happen much later in the project development process once the EIA is complete and there is more certainty that the project is likely to proceed.</p> <p>EIMS let Mr. Booysen know that they have passed on his contact details to the project proponents who will deal with all procurement at the appropriate stage in the project.</p>		
Marius Booysen	2014/06/11	Email	Mr. Marius Booysen stated that Murraysburg is a small town and has scarce resources. By engaging in this project, he will be able to plough back to his community to alleviate poverty and create jobs opportunities for those in need.	This was noted by EIMS.	Section 3.2 and Chapter 12	General
Ralph Skhuza – Community member	2014/06/10	Facsimile	Mr. Ralph Skhuza wanted to know of business opportunities that might arise of this project and he provided EIMS with his contact details to send information regarding any possible business opportunities.	EIMS informed Mr. Skhuza that opportunities for involvement in the project in terms of employment and procurement of services and goods will be investigated in detail by the project team when an economic development plan is drafted. However, this will only happen much later in the project development process once the EIA is complete and there is more certainty that the project is likely to proceed.	Section 3.2 and Chapter 12	Request for Information
Jean Retief - J.P. Retief and Partners	2014/06/12	Email	Mr. Jean Retief stated that animal life will be in danger.	EIMS thanked Mr. Retief for completing the comment form in relation to the Umsinde Emoyeni Wind Energy Facility and associated grid infrastructure.	Chapter 5	Ecology
		Email	Mr. Jean Retief stated that the proposed project will not generate extra employment in the long term.	EIMS noted that Mr. Retief's farm is located close to the project site and that he has concerns regarding the environmental impacts including:	Section 3.2 and Chapter 12	Employment
		Email	Mr. Jean Retief stated that the added traffic on roads during the construction phase will lead to more crime.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Noise; 	Chapter 12	Safety and Security

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		Email	Mr. Jean Retief is concerned that the Karoo landscape will never be the same.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Archaeology and palaeontology in a fossil rich area; • Compensation related to land value prices; • Ecology due to danger to animals; • Employment due to lack of long terms employment opportunities; • Groundwater; • Infrastructure associated with damage to roads in the locality; • Land-use and planning in particular associated with project access tracks; • Property values will decrease; • Safety and security associated with more crime; • Visual impacts on the Karoo landscape; and • Waste management. 	Chapter 4	Visual Impact
	2014/06/14	Email	Mr. Jean Retief is concerned that roads all over the Karoo veld will be damaged during the construction phase of the proposed project.		Chapter 5	Access Roads
			Mr. Jean Retief stated that the proposed study area is very rich in fossil resources.		Chapter 10	Archaeology and Palaeontology
			Mr. Jean Retief is concerned that the land value is likely to fall as a direct consequence of this proposed project.		Chapter 12	Compensation
			Mr. Jean Retief is concerned about the noise pollution that will be generated by the proposed project.		Chapter 11	Noise Pollution
			Mr. Jean Retief is concerned that the property values are likely to fall as a direct consequence of this proposed project.		Chapter 12	Property Values
			Mr. Jean Retief has a farm close to the proposed study area and he is concerned about the environmental impacts that a project of this nature (a wind energy facility project) causes.		EIMS let Mr. Retief know that at present the project is in the early stages of conducting an environmental impact assessment (EIA) in terms of the National Environmental Management Act 1998 (NEMA). Through this process a team of specialist environmental professional have been formed, who will be responsible for identifying and assessing the potential environmental impact of the proposed project. The first stage in this process is "scoping". The scoping stage is when we identify the potential likely environmental impacts which may result from the proposed wind energy facility (WEF) and its associated grid infrastructure, and how we intend to assess these in the full EIA. In order to do this the EIA team, who are experienced	Section 1.2

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				<p>in the local area and with this type of development, are consulted along with key stakeholders and the public. The Draft Scoping Report is currently being finalised and will be provided for public comment. As a registered Interested and Affected Party (I&AP) you will be notified of the issue of the Draft Scoping Report, and where copies can be located for you to view and how you can comment. These comments will then be taken into account in preparing the Final Scoping Report which will be submitted to the Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA) for consideration.</p> <p>The Draft Scoping Report will contain information on the existing baseline environment at the project site, and will outline the topics which will be considered in the EIA. The following list identifies these topics, their appropriate references in the Draft Scoping Report and the environmental specialist who will be compiling the study.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bird Impact Assessment and Monitoring: Arcus Consulting – Andrew Pearson /Chapter 8 of the Draft Scoping Report; • Bat Impact Assessment and Monitoring: NSS Environmental – Kate McEwan/ Chapter 6 of the Draft Scoping Report; • Terrestrial Ecological Impact Assessment (Flora and Fauna): Anchor Environmental – Simon Todd/ Chapter 5of the Draft Scoping Report; • Archaeology and Cultural Heritage 		

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				<p>Impact Assessment: ACO Associates – Tim Hart / Chapter 10 of the Draft Scoping Report;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Palaeontology Assessment: via ACO Associates – John Almond / Chapter 10 of the Draft Scoping Report; • Aquatic/ Wetland Assessment: Scherman Colloty and Associates – Brian Colloty / Chapter 7 of the Draft Scoping Report; • Noise Impact Assessment: Enviro-Acoustic Research – Morne de Jager / Chapter 11 of the Draft Scoping Report; • Visual Assessment Bernard Oberholzer Landscape Architects & Meirelles Lawson Burger Architects - Bernard Oberholzer and Quinton Lawson / Chapter 4 of the Draft Scoping Report; • Soil and Agriculture: Terrasoils – Johan van de Waals / Chapter 9 of the Draft Scoping Report; and • Social Impact Assessment: Tony Barbour Environmental Consulting and Research – Tony Barbour/ Chapter 12 of the Draft Scoping Report. <p>The Draft Scoping Report will be available for review for a period of 40 days, during which time EIMS will also be holding a number of public and focus group meetings in the area surrounding the project site. As a registered</p>		

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				<p>I&AP Mr. Retief will be notified of the location and timings of the public meetings and EIMS would gladly meet with Mr. Retief at this time to discuss any concerns that Mr. Retief may have on any of the topics raised.</p> <p>Following completion of the scoping phase, the EIA phase will be undertaken which will include the design of the facility within the project site, and the assessment of impacts. The findings of this stage will be presented in the Draft EIA Report. This will similarly be available for public comment prior to the development of the Final EIA Report. Once the Final EIA Report is completed this will be provided to the DEA for a decision to be made whether to grant Environmental Authorisation for the project. Comment on the Final EIA Report can also be made to the DEA directly.</p> <p>With regard to his specific areas of concern there are several issues which are not specifically referred to in the Draft Scoping Report and as such EIMS provided further information below. These are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Compensation: Landowners that are involved in the project receive compensation according to the lease agreements agreed with the proponent. The project will be submitted to the Department of Energy Renewable Energy Independent Power Producers Procurement Programme (REIPPPP). As a part of the REIPPPP, local communities are required to have a stake in the ownership of the project, which is either funded by financier or by 		

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				<p>the other equity shareholder (which is known as a 'free carry'). Community ownership of an operating wind farm is generally conducted via a broad-based community trust, with the surrounding communities as beneficiaries of the dividends paid to shareholders in the project company. The dividend revenue will be invested in community development initiatives which would be outlined in the community trust deeds. In addition, successful REIPPPP projects are required to invest a percentage of gross revenue in socio economic development and enterprise development, primarily in the surrounding local communities (currently defined in the REIPPPP as located within a 50 km radius of the wind farm's operational site). If the wind farm is constructed, a number of critical community development programmes would be established that would have the potential to positively impact the communities near the wind facilities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Employment opportunities will not be provided in the long term: Wind energy can provide technical skills to South Africans and thus improve the technical skills profile of the country and the regions where wind energy facilities are located. Through the REIPPPP, developers' own initiatives and through support from international donor agencies, a number of young South Africans are being trained on various aspects of wind farm construction and operation. In addition, projects are required to 		

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				<p>indicate skills transfer and training initiatives as part of the economic development commitments of projects that are submitted under the REIPPPP.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Groundwater The project applied for is a Wind Energy Facility (WEF) and its associated grid infrastructure. Water will be required during the construction phase for normal construction activities such as mixing concrete, and washing equipment; and during operation limited amounts of water will be required for servicing the on-site office facilities and for limited maintenance activities such as cleaning equipment. This water may be sourced from the local municipality or may utilise existing or new boreholes. A Water Use License Application (WULA) will be made to the Department of Water Affairs if necessary to permit the use of water for the project. The project does not require any structures to be placed into the ground to a depth which would interact with the groundwater resource. The management of this water would be contained with the Environmental management Plan (EMP) which would stipulate compliance with any Water Use License. - Property Values Globally, there is little evidence of property values in the areas surrounding a wind farm decreasing due to wind farms. On the contrary, international research has found no impact or even a positive impact on property values near wind farms. Articles are available online 		

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				<p>at:</p> <p>http://newscenter.lbl.gov/news-releases/2013/08/27/no-evidence-of-residential-property-value-impacts-near-u-s-wind-turbines-a-new-berkeley-lab-study-finds</p> <p>http://blog.ucsus.org/effect-of-wind-turbines-on-property-values-384</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Infrastructure With regard to local roads, any on-site roads that are created or upgraded for the purpose of the project will be maintained during construction and operation by the construction and wind farm operation contractors. All the national (National Road Traffic Act (Act 93 of 1996)) and provincial required permits (Western Cape Provincial Road Traffic Administration Act, 2012, (Act 6 of 2012); Western Cape Transport Infrastructure Act, 2013 (Act 1 of 2013)) will be applied for when required much later in the project development process once the EIA is complete and there is more certainty that the project is likely to proceed. - Safety and Security Safety and security will also be a consideration in the social impact assessment. Information available to date relating to this process is provided in Chapter 12 of the forthcoming Draft 		

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				<p>Scoping Report. 24 hours security will be provided on the site during construction and CCTV systems may also be installed.</p> <p>- Waste management</p> <p>Whilst not a specific topic in the EIA this will be included for in the environmental management plan (EMP) which will be developed through the EIA process. Best practice construction techniques including the management of waste will be a requirement of the EMP which, if Environmental Authorisation is granted, will become legally binding.</p> <p>EIMS informed Mr. Retief that further comments and queries on the content of the Draft Scoping Report and subsequent reports to follow which you will be notified of as a registered I&AP.</p>		
Andrew Wallis – Landowner , Manager and Trustee/ Beneficiary	2014/06/14	Email	Mr. Andrew Wallis stated that apart from the construction phase of the proposed project where dust will be of concern, he does not foresee any change in air the quality.	<p>Thank you for completing the comment form in relation to the Umsinde Emoyeni Wind Energy Facility and associated grid infrastructure.</p> <p>We note you are currently living on the site and have registered your positive opinions on the proposed project. Windlab is a developer with extensive local and international experience, and is committed to developing environmentally sensitive wind energy projects. We would like to also inform you of the forthcoming publication of the Draft</p>	The EMP will be produced at the EIA phase outlined in Section 1.2.	Air Quality
			Mr. Andrew Wallis stated that stakeholders who will be affected by this proposed development will be well compensated.		Section 3.2	Compensation

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			Mr. Andrew Wallis stated that due to the fact this project will be undertaken by a responsible green company, he feels that the ecology will be carefully considered.	Scoping Report which is currently underway as an initial stage of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) being undertaken for the project under the National Environmental Management Act 1998 (NEMA). As a registered Interested and Affected Party (I&AP) you will be notified of where and when this document is available for review and invited to provide further comment on its content should you wish. We understand you live in the area and have expressed interest in the community involvement and compensation. By means of further information the project will be submitted to the Department of Energy Renewable Energy Independent Power Producers Procurement Programme (REIPPPP). As a part of the REIPPPP, local communities are required to have a stake in the ownership of the project, which is either funded by financier or by the other equity shareholder (which is known as a 'free carry'). Community ownership of an operating wind farm is generally conducted via a broad-based community trust, with the surrounding communities as beneficiaries of the dividends paid to shareholders in the project company. The dividend revenue will be invested in community development initiatives which would be outlined in the community trust deeds. In addition, successful REIPPPP projects are required to invest a percentage of gross revenue in socio economic	Chapter 5, 6, and 8	Ecology
			Mr. Andrew Wallis stated the local economy will be uplifted significantly by this proposed development.		Section 3.2 and Chapter 12	Economy
			Mr. Andrew Wallis conceded that the geology of the study area is well researched.			Geology
			Mr. Wallis stated that the proposed development will not negatively affect ground water.			Groundwater
			Mr. Andrew Wallis is concerned that the proposed development will open the doors to more intrusive and polluting industries.		Section 1.2: Table 1.1	Land-use and Planning
			Mr. Andrew Wallis stated that the Umsinde Emoyeni WEF is a good idea and that it will bring a positive transformation to their community. Not just counting the short and long term employment directly involved in the construction and maintenance of the windfarm and its infrastructure, the spin off from the added income for farmers involved means more employment for fencers, builders, farm workers and earth moving operators as the farms improve and this will rebuild badly neglected infrastructure.		Chapter 12	Need for the Project
			Mr. Wallis further stated that South Africa desperately needs power and the town of Murraysburg needs jobs and investment.			
			Mr Wallis stated that the proposed project		Chapter	Noise Pollution

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			will result in noise irritation during the construction phase	development and enterprise development, primarily in the surrounding local communities (currently defined in the REIPPPP as located within a 50 km radius of the wind farm's operational site). If the wind farm is constructed, a number of critical community development programmes would be established that would have the potential to positively impact the communities near the wind facilities. We note your comment with regard to potential concern relating to construction dust and noise. This will be included in the environmental management plan (EMP) which will be developed through the EIA process. Best practice construction techniques including the management of waste will be a requirement of the EMP which, if Environmental Authorisation is granted, will become legally binding. In addition we acknowledged your comment regarding concern about the project opening the door for other industries. The requirements of the NEMA strictly can only grant permission for the project applied for, and assessed through the EIA process. The project has been described on the Background Information Document, the application forms submitted to the Department of Environmental Affairs, and in Chapter 2 of the forthcoming Draft Scoping Report. The project is for the construction and operation of	11	
			Mr. Andrew Wallis stated that since he lives on the proposed site, he feels that nuisance will be minimal and well compensated.			Nuisance
			Mr. Andre Wallis stated that the proposed location of the development should not affect the value of the surrounding properties. However, the value of farms within the proposed site should increase.		Chapter 12	Property Values
			Mr. Andrew Wallis stated that the quality of life will be improved from the income that will be generated by employed workers on site. There will however be noise irritation and disturbance during the construction phase of the proposed development.		Chapter 12	Quality of Life
			Mr. Andrew Wallis stated that safety and security of the proposed study area will be vastly improved by 24 hour security that will be on site.		Chapter 12	Safety and Security
			Bursaries, improved sport and health facilities		Chapter 12	Other Social Impacts
			Mr. Andrew Wallis stated that surface water will not be affected by the proposed development.		Chapter 7	Surface Water
			Mr. Andrew Wallis stated that vision will be affected as it will take getting used to the turbines but he does love the look of turbines.		Chapter 4	Visual Impact
			All the waste material that will be generated during the construction phase will be		The EMP will be	Waste Management

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			removed by the company.	a wind energy facility and its associated grid infrastructure. There is no mechanism in the NEMA for this to be extended to other industries under this application. We will also be holding public meetings in the Murraysburg areas as part of the consultation on the Draft Scoping Report and similarly you will be notified of these meetings so should you have any further queries you can attend to meet with the project team.	produced at the EIA phase outlined in Section 1.2.	
			Mr. Wallis stated that the community trust promises to bring millions of rand for much needed community projects, schools, hospital, clinics, sport facilities, etc. As a landowner, Mr Wallis has found the company involved (Windlab) to be very open to all their concerns and have answered their queries. Mr. Wallis found Windlab's willingness to go an extra mile and avoid negative environmental consequences and to do their best to rehabilitate disturbed area very commendable. The added security for all living near the facility was also very reassuring as the farm will have security team and CCTV.		Section 3.2 and Chapter 12	General
Marina Beal - Nama Karoo Foundation	2014/06/14	Email	Who is doing the Archaeology and Palaeontology EIA?	Dear Ms Beal Thank you for completing the comment form in relation to the Umsinde Emoyeni Wind Energy Facility and associated grid infrastructure. You have now been registered as an Interested and Affected Party (I&AP) and will be notified for the issue of documentation and consultation events associated with the proposed project. We understand you have concerns associated with the proposed project regarding the environmental impacts	Section 1.4 and Chapter 10	Archaeology and Palaeontology
			Wind Energy Facilities (WEFs) are now proven to alter climate and rainfall.			Climate and Rainfall
			The Blue Crane cannot be sacrificed. How will you compensate every person who sees and hears it?		Chapter 8	Compensation
			How can you consider doing a wind farm in		Chapter	Ecology

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			the summer breeding grounds of the Blue Crane, our National bird? There are less Blue Cranes left in the world than Rhino's.	<p>including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Air quality, specifically noise and the alteration of climate and rainfall; Archaeology and palaeontology noting the Zeekoe Valley Archaeological Project (ZVAP) team should be consulted; Compensation related to impacts on Blue Crane; Ecology requesting details of the specialists for flora and fauna and noting concerns on endemic flora; Employment associated with concern this will not benefit the local economy and long terms employment post construction; Geology noting the soil quality; Groundwater referring to a catchment area; Infrastructure associated with damage to roads; Land-use and planning referring to potential fracking; Need for the project referring to landscape footprint and choice of the site; Nuisance related to noise and visual impacts on human and ecological receptors; Property values associated with wind energy facilities; Quality of life relating to the view of 	8	
			Who is doing the surveys for the flora and fauna? This is not far from a new centre for plant endemism.		Section 1.2 and Chapter 5	Ecology
			Don't pretend they will help the local economy – we know they won't/don't.		Section 3.2 and Chapter 12	Economy
			What employment will there be once the construction is complete? 3 security guards?		Chapter 12	Employment
			Murraysburg is known for a shallower soil than Richmond.		Chapter 9	Geology
			You can't do this in a catchment area.		Chapter 7	Groundwater
			We have seen what roads look like after a WEF is constructed.			Infrastructure
			What a stupid place to try to put a WEF. Unless you are planning on fracking?		Section 2.7 and 2.8	Land-use and Planning
			Why on the escarpment in a pristine area? Project must move to somewhere that already has a footprint.		Chapter 4	Need for the Project
			Noise pollution will result.		Chapter 11	Noise Pollution

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			Besides the people who will see it and hear it WEFs are known to impact wildlife.	<p>human receptors of wind energy facilities and wind turbine disease;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Safety and security associated with the project making the area at risk to mineral and energy mining activities; • Social Impacts concerned with instability in the community; • Surface water associated with water consumption and the requirement to heat water; • Technical queries noted to support a smaller facility for the community; • Visual impact on residents and visitors to the Karoo; and • Waste management associated with the use of concrete. <p>At present we are in the early stages of conducting an environmental impact assessment (EIA) in terms of the National Environmental Management Act 1998 (NEMA). Through this process a team of specialist environmental professional have been formed, who will be responsible for identifying and assessing the potential environmental impact of the proposed project. The first stage in this process is "scoping". The scoping stage is when we identify the potential likely environmental impacts which may result from the proposed wind energy facility (WEF) and its associated grid infrastructure, and how we intend to assess these in the full EIA. In order to do this the EIA team, who are experienced in the local area and with this type of development, are consulted along with key stakeholders and the public. The Draft Scoping Report is</p>	Chapters 5, 6 and 8	Nuisance
			You will destroy property values and no one believes this is not about heating frack water. Fact: we know other landowners who now cannot sell their properties due to wind farms.		Chapter 12	Property Values
			No one wants to see or hear a WEF. People and animals suffer from wind turbine disease.		Chapter 4 and 11	Quality of Life
			93 000 hectares now at risk for other minerals and energy mining activity.			Safety and Security
			WEF's bring instability to communities.		Chapter 12	Other Social Impacts
			How much water does a WEF require or is this only later when you start heating it?		Section 2.5 and 2.6	Surface Water
			You will ruin the Karoo view that all who live and visit love		Chapter 4	Visual Impact
			Over 500 000 tons of concrete will be used, a toxic substance. Don't say you plan to recycle it after 20 years!		The EMP will be produced at the EIA phase outlined in Section 1.2.	Waste Management
			1. Ms. Marina Beal wanted to know if the Umsinde Emoyeni project is a separate		Section 1.3	Other

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			<p>project from the Ishwati Emoyeni project, given the similar sounding names.</p> <p>2. Ms. Marina Beal enquired if the size of the study area is indeed 90 000 square hectares or if this was type error.</p> <p>3. Ms. Marina Beal was concerned that EIMS gave the public less than 1 month to comment on this project. Ms. Beal stated that many I&APs do not receive the Graaff-Reinet newspaper (one of the three newspapers used to advertise this project) nor have email address. Ms. Beal asked how else EIMS was notifying the public about the proposed project.</p>	<p>currently being finalised and will be provided for public comment. As a registered Interested and Affected Party (I&AP) you will be notified of the issue of the Draft Scoping Report, and where copies can be located for you to view and how you can comment. These comments will then be taken into account in preparing the Final Scoping Report which will be submitted to the Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA) for consideration.</p> <p>The Draft Scoping Report will contain information on the existing baseline environment at the project site, and will outline the topics which will be considered in the EIA. The following list identifies these topics, their appropriate references in the Draft Scoping Report and the environmental specialist who will be compiling the study.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bird Impact Assessment and Monitoring: Arcus Consulting – Andrew Pearson /Chapter 8 of the Draft Scoping Report; • Bat Impact Assessment and Monitoring: NSS Environmental – Kate McEwan/ Chapter 6 of the Draft Scoping Report; • Terrestrial Ecological Impact Assessment (Flora and Fauna): Anchor Environmental – Simon Todd/ Chapter 5of the Draft Scoping Report; • Archaeology and Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment: ACO Associates – Tim Hart / Chapter 10 of the Draft Scoping Report; 	<p>Section 2.2 and 2.3</p> <p>Section 1.2.6</p>	

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				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Palaeontology Assessment: via ACO Associates – John Almond / Chapter 10 of the Draft Scoping Report; • Aquatic/ Wetland Assessment: Scherman Colloty and Associates – Brian Colloty / Chapter 7 of the Draft Scoping Report; • Noise Impact Assessment: Enviro-Acoustic Research – Morne de Jager / Chapter 11 of the Draft Scoping Report; • Visual Assessment Bernard Oberholzer Landscape Architects & Meirelles Lawson Burger Architects - Bernard Oberholzer and Quinton Lawson / Chapter 4 of the Draft Scoping Report; • Soil and Agriculture: Terrasoils – Johan van de Waals / Chapter 9 of the Draft Scoping Report; and • Social Impact Assessment: Tony Barbour Environmental Consulting and Research – Tony Barbour/ Chapter 12 of the Draft Scoping Report. <p>Following completion of the scoping phase, the EIA phase will be undertaken which will include the design of the facility within the project site, and the assessment of impacts. The findings of this stage will be presented in the Draft EIA Report. This will similarly be available for public comment prior to the development of the Final EIA Report. Once the Final EIA Report is completed this will be</p>		

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				<p>provided to the DEA for a decision to be made whether to grant Environmental Authorisation for the project. Comment on the Final EIA Report can also be made to the DEA directly.</p> <p>With regard to your specific areas of concern we provide some further specific responses below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Air quality, specifically noise and the alteration of climate and rainfall. <i>With regard to noise, a noise impact assessment is proposed to be completed as detailed in Chapter 11 of the Draft Scoping Report.</i> <i>With regard to climate and rainfall there have been various academic research papers investigating the effect of wind energy facilities on climate and rainfall. To date no micro-climate impacts of wind turbines have been completed in South Africa, however based on studies from locations such as the United States of America, in other arid and semi-arid environments, there is currently no evidence to suggest there will be a significant impact on climate or precipitation from the proposed project and as such this is not currently included in the scope of the EIA. To provide further information for this basis we present below a short summary of two key papers in relation to these concerns.</i> <i>A paper was published in the Proceeding of the National Academy of Sciences of the United States of</i> 		

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				<p><i>America (Roy et al, 2010³) which discussed the effects of wind farms on surface air temperatures. The study utilised a 25 years of climate information for an operational wind farm in California. The findings of the paper were not however in relation to changes in climate, but in localised surface air temperatures. The effects were found to be limited spatially around the turbines and did not reveal climatic scale changes. It is worth noting the installation of renewable energy facilities is however key factor in the strategy against climate change through the replacement of energy generation from less sustainable sources.</i></p> <p><i>A study was conducted with regard to climate, including precipitation (Fielder et al, 2011⁴) entitled The effect of a giant wind farm on precipitation in a regional climate model that modelled the effect of a theoretical 0.457 terra watt (TW) wind farm. The facility would have consisted of 228,375 turbines. By comparison the proposed project is a maximum of 294 mega watts (MW) (2 x 147 MW) with a maximum of 196 turbines (2 x 98)). The study found that there was a statistically significant 1% enhancement in precipitation as an output of this</i></p>		

³ Roy, S.B, and Traiteur, J.J. 2010. Impacts of wind farms on surface air temperatures. Published in Proceedings of National Academy of Sciences of the United States of America

⁴ Fielder, B.H, and Bukovsky, M.S. 2011. The effect of a giant wind farm on precipitation in a regional climate model. IOB Publishing Environmental Research Letters.

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				<p><i>model. As such there is no evidence to suggest that a development of the scale being proposed would have a noticeable impact on precipitation. To date, we are not aware of any recorded data or studies which demonstrate a significant effect on either climate or precipitation of a wind energy facility at the scale of the proposed project. However we would welcome the submission on further information on this point for consideration in the scoping of the EIA.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Archaeology and palaeontology noting the Zeekoe Valley Archaeological Project (ZVAP) team should be consulted; <p><i>As noted in the above table the archaeology assessment is being completed by Tim Hart of ACO Associates who was a member of the ZVAP team. The available information to date will be presented in Chapter 10 of the forthcoming Draft Scoping Report.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Compensation related to impacts on Blue Crane; <p><i>At present a 12 month survey of the birds in and around the proposed project area is currently underway and the findings to date will be available for review in Chapter 8 of the Draft Scoping Report. Although impacts on bird can occur from wind energy facilities, appropriately sited and designed wind farms can have</i></p>		

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				<p><i>little or no impact on bird communities. Impacts on birds vary from species to species. Information on species recorded on the site is presented in Chapter 8 of the Draft Scoping Report as well as desk based information on the locality from available resources. The assessment will take into consideration potential impacts on Priority species which include Blue Crane and all eagles in the EIA process.</i></p> <p><i>The potential impacts of the birds recorded and their locations within the site will be assessed by an Avifaunal Specialist registered with the South African Council for Natural Scientific Persons (SACNASP). The findings of this study will be fed into the design and management of the facility so as to as far as possible reduce impacts on birds. The impact assessment will conclude if these measures are sufficient to reduce the potential impact to acceptable levels.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ecology requesting details of the specialists for flora and fauna and noting concerns on endemic flora; <p><i>The flora and fauna assessment is being completed by Simon Todd via Anchor Consulting. Chapter 5 of the Draft Scoping Report provides an initial assessment of the project site with regard to flora including sensitive flora communities. There is potential for some localised impacts to flora as some land will have to be cleared for constructing the facility,</i></p>		

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				<p><i>but that the footprint of the project will only occupy a small amount of the total site and protected species and species of conservation concern will be considered in the impact assessment and design of the facility so as to minimise potential impacts.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Employment associated with concern - this will not benefit the local economy and long term employment post construction; <i>The project will be developed under the Department of Energy's Renewable Energy Independent Power Producers Procurement Program (REIPPPP). As explanation of the REIPPPP and its requirements can be found in Chapter 3 of the forthcoming Draft Scoping Report. As a part of the REIPPPP, local communities are required to have a stake in the ownership of the project, which is either funded by financier or by the other equity shareholder (which is known as a 'free carry'). Community ownership of an operating wind farm is generally conducted via a broad-based community trust, with the surrounding communities as beneficiaries of the dividends paid to shareholders in the project company. The dividend revenue will be invested in community development initiatives which would be outlined in the community trust deeds. In addition, successful REIPPPP projects are required to invest a percentage of gross revenue in socio</i> 		

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				<p><i>economic development and enterprise development, primarily in the surrounding local communities (currently defined in the REIPPPP as located within a 50 km radius of the wind farm's operational site). If the wind farm is constructed, a number of critical community development programmes would be established that would have the potential to positively impact the communities near the wind facilities.</i></p> <p><i>Wind energy can provide technical skills to South Africans and thus improve the technical skills profile of the country and the regions where wind energy facilities are located. Through the REIPPPP, developers' own initiatives and through support from international donor agencies, a number of young South Africans are being trained on various aspects of wind farm construction and operation.</i></p> <p><i>In addition, projects are required to indicate skills transfer and training initiatives as part of the economic development commitments of projects that are submitted under the REIPPPP.</i></p> <p><i>During the operation and maintenance phase, a number of employment opportunities will be created. These opportunities may include site management, environmental management, facility operation and maintenance, community liaison, administration, monitoring, reporting, catering, cleaning and security. The exact</i></p>		

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				<p><i>number of jobs during operation (and construction) is not yet known, but will be defined in detail in the later stages of project development.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Geology noting the soil quality; An assessment of Soils, Agriculture and Land Use will be conducted as part of the EIA. Information available to date can be found in Chapter 9 of the forthcoming Draft Scoping Report;</i> • <i>Groundwater referring to a catchment area;</i> • <i>The project applied for is a Wind Energy Facility (WEF) and its associated grid infrastructure. Water will be required during the construction phase for normal construction activities such as mixing concrete, and washing equipment; and during operation limited amounts of water will be required for servicing the on-site office facilities and for limited maintenance activities such as cleaning equipment. This water may be sourced from the local municipality or may utilise existing or new boreholes. A Water Use License Application (WULA) will be made to the Department of Water Affairs if necessary to permit the use of water for the project.</i> • <i>The project does not require any structures to be placed into the ground to a depth which would</i> 		

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				<p><i>interact with the groundwater resource. The management of this water would be contained with the Environmental management Plan (EMP) which would stipulate compliance with any Water Use License.</i></p> <p><i>An assessment of the surface water impacts will be included in the EIA, and information on this will be presented in Chapter 7 of the Draft Scoping Report;</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Infrastructure associated with damage to roads <i>Any on-site roads that are created or upgraded for the purpose of the project will be maintained during construction and operation by the construction and wind farm operation contractors. All the national (National Road Traffic Act (Act 93 of 1996)) and provincial required permits (Western Cape Provincial Road Traffic Administration Act, 2012, (Act 6 of 2012); Western Cape Transport Infrastructure Act, 2013 (Act 1 of 2013)) will be applied for when required much later in the project development process once the EIA is complete and there is more certainty that the project is likely to proceed;</i> • Land-use and planning referring to potential fracking; <i>The project applied for is a wind energy facility and associated grid infrastructure. The requirements of the NEMA strictly can only grant</i> 		

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				<p><i>permission for the project applied for, and assessed through the EIA process. The project has been described on the Background Information Document (a copy of which is attached), the application forms submitted to the Department of Environmental Affairs, and in Chapter 2 of the forthcoming Draft Scoping Report. The project does not relate to fracking.</i></p> <p><i>The project proponent, Windlab Developments South Africa Pty Ltd (WDSA) are a specialist company developing wind energy facilities across South Africa. WDSA has been involved with a number of wind energy developments in South Africa both independently as well as in partnerships with other wind energy developers. Examples include two wind energy projects which were awarded preferred bidder status in Round 2 of the REIPPPP. The first is the 91 MW West Coast One project proposed near Vredenburg in the Western Cape, and the second is the 138 MW Amakhala Emoyeni Phase 1 project proposed near Bedford in the Eastern Cape.</i></p> <p><i>Through a Special Project Vehicle (SPV) Special Energy Project (Pty) Ltd, WDSA is also the proponent for the Ishwati Emoyeni WEF and associated grid infrastructure, the development boundary for which overlaps with and is adjacent to this Umsinde Emoyeni Proposed Development Site. WDSA has no interested in energy generation</i></p>		

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				<p><i>through other means such as fracking.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need for the project referring to landscape footprint and choice of the site; <i>The Need for the project and overview of the site selection process will be presented in Section 2.7 of the forthcoming Draft Scoping Report. The site has been chosen based on its excellent wind resources, vicinity to the national grid and suitable site access. A preliminary ecological assessment did not identify any fatal flaws and the EIA process will continue in further detail to assess and understand any potential environmental impacts, which will first be avoided, then mitigated if necessary. Environmental sensitivities will be considered in the design and siting of the site infrastructure.</i> • Nuisance related to noise and visual impacts on human and ecological receptors; <i>Information on the proposed noise impacts of the project will be undertaken in accordance with the method set out in Chapter 11 of the Draft Scoping Report, and Chapter 4 in relation to visual impacts.</i> • Property values associated with wind energy facilities; <i>Globally, there is little evidence of property values in the surrounding areas decreasing due to wind farms.</i> 		

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				<p><i>On the contrary, international research has found no impact or even a positive impact on property values near wind farms. Articles are available online at:</i></p> <p><i>http://newscenter.lbl.gov/news-releases/2013/08/27/no-evidence-of-residential-property-value-impacts-near-u-s-wind-turbines-a-new-berkeley-lab-study-finds/</i></p> <p><i>http://blog.ucsus.org/effect-of-wind-turbines-on-property-values-384</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quality of life relating to the view of human receptors of wind energy facilities and wind turbine disease; <p><i>As introduced above a full visual impact assessment study is underway and information to date will be provided in Chapter 4 of the Draft Scoping Report. Chapter 12 of the Draft Scoping Report will include the approach to be taken to potential social impacts including quality of life.</i></p> <p><i>To date we are not aware of any credible evidence demonstrating the suffering of people or animals from a “wind turbines disease” however should Ms Beal wish to supply some research from a credible source we would be happy to respond to this.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Safety and security associated with the project making the area at risk to mineral and energy mining activities; <p><i>Safety and security will also be a consideration in the social impact assessment information available to date relating to this process is provided in Chapter 12 of the</i></p>		

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				<p><i>forthcoming Draft Scoping Report. 24 hours security will be provided on the site during construction and may include the installation of CCTV systems.</i></p> <p><i>With regard to other development types as noted above the requirements of the NEMA are strict in any Environmental Authorisation only permitting the activities specified in the application and resulting assessment to be authorised.</i></p> <p><i>As stated on the Background Information Document and the Application Forms, Depending on the final Wind Energy Facility design and layout, there may be a requirement for the following additional permits/authorisations: Mining permits as required by the Minerals and Petroleum Resources Development Act (MPRDA) (Act 28 of 2002).</i></p> <p><i>Windlab would like to confirm that Windlab exclusively develops wind farm projects for the purpose of electricity generation. Windlab is not a mining company.</i></p> <p><i>As part of the wind farm development process, Windlab will be required to comply with the conditions of the MPRDA.</i></p> <p><i>In order to prevent any conflicts between mining or prospecting rights on the land and potential renewable energy developments, renewable energy developers are required to submit an application to the Department of Mineral Resources (DMR) for ministerial approval in terms of section 53 of the MPRDA</i></p>		

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				<p><i>before starting construction.</i></p> <p><i>This includes applying for exemption from the requirements of the MPRDA to allow for the use of the surface of land for the purpose of developing, operating and later decommissioning a renewable energy project. This exemption is required because the use of the surface area of the land for this purpose is considered contrary to the objects of the MPRDA (i.e. the establishment of a wind farm may not be compatible with the exploration or extraction of sub-surface mineral resources).</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social Impacts concerned with instability in the community; <i>A social impact assessment will be undertaken. Information available to date will be presented in Chapter 12 of the forthcoming Draft scoping Report.</i> • Surface water associated with water consumption and the requirement to heat water; <i>An assessment of surface water will be conducted as part of the EIA process. Information available to date will be provided in Chapter 7 of the forthcoming Draft Scoping Report. With regard to water consumption wind energy facilities require very low levels of water. This will primarily be during the construction phase. No heating of water is required for the proposed development.</i> • Technical queries noted to support a smaller facility for the community; 		

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				<p><i>At present there is no mechanism in the REIPPPP for the development of small scale facilities which directly supply the local community as oppose to connecting into the existing National Grid. In terms of the local community benefits however the REIPPPP requires that the main economic development beneficiaries of approved projects are currently communities living within a 50 km radius of renewable energy facilities and this will be a requirement for this project.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Visual impact on residents and visitors to the Karoo; <i>A visual impact assessment will be conducted as part of the EIA process. Information available to date will be presented in Chapter 4 of the forthcoming Draft Scoping Report. This includes the identification of sensitive visual receptors, including residents and visitors, and identifies a series of sensitive viewpoints which will be used in the assessment process. These include residential properties as well as guesthouses and transport routes used by visitors.</i> • Waste management; <i>Whilst not a specific topic in the EIA this will be included in the environmental management plan (EMP) which will be developed through the EIA process. Best practice construction techniques including the management of waste will be a requirement of the EMP</i> 		

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				<p><i>which, if Environmental Authorisation is granted, will become legally binding.</i></p> <p>The Draft Scoping Report will be available for review in the near future for a period of 40 days, during which time we will also be holding a number of public and focus group meetings in the area of the project site. As a registered I&AP you will be notified of the location and timings of the public meetings and we would gladly meet with you at this time to discuss any concerns you may have on any of the topics raised as we appreciate there is a lot of information available.</p> <p>We welcome further comments and queries on the content of the Draft Scoping Report and subsequent reports to follow which you will be notified of as a registered I&AP.</p>		
			Dr Bruce Rubidge and David Morris or the ZVAP need to be consulted.	Unfortunately Ms Beal was not available to clarify who these individuals are, and their likely relevance to the project. However based on past experience with EIA's in this area, it is suspected that these are Paleontological and Archaeological specialists respectively. EIMS has requested that Ms Beal confirm this, so that they can be invited to participate on the EIA.	Chapter 10	General
Mr. P.F.	2014/0	Email	Mr. P.F de Klerk's concerns relate to the	Dear Mr De Klerk	Section	Employment

NAME	DATE	METHOD	ISSUE	RESPONSE	DSR REF	Aspect/ Area
de Klerk – Community member	6/12		economic impact this project will have on a rural town such as Murraysburg and the social and economic impacts (including employment opportunities) on the residents and the community.	Thank you for completing the comment form in relation to the Umsinde Emoyeni Wind Energy Facility and associated grid infrastructure. You have been registered as an Interested and Affected Party (I&AP) for the project and will be kept informed of key project dates and information.	3.2 and Chapter 12	
			Mr PD. De Klerk wanted to know how the project will affect property prices in the district and the town.	At present we are in the early stages of conducting an environmental impact assessment (EIA) in terms of the National Environmental Management Act 1998 (NEMA). Through this process a team of specialist environmental professional have been formed, who will be responsible for identifying and assessing the potential environmental impact of the proposed project. The first stage in this process is “scoping”. The scoping stage is when we identify the potential likely environmental impacts which may result from the proposed wind energy facility (WEF) and its associated grid infrastructure, and how we intend to assess these in the full EIA. In order to do this the EIA team, who are experienced in the local area and with this type of development, are consulted along with key stakeholders and the public. The Draft Scoping Report is currently being finalised and will be provided for public comment. As a registered Interested and Affected Party (I&AP) you will be notified of the issue of the Draft Scoping Report, and where copies can be located for you to view and how you can comment. These comments will then be taken into account in preparing	Chapter 12	Property Values

NAME	DATE	METHOD	ISSUE	RESPONSE	DSR REF	Aspect/ Area
				<p>the Final Scoping Report which will be submitted to the Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA) for consideration.</p> <p>The Draft Scoping Report will contain information on the existing baseline environment at the project site, and will outline the topics which will be considered in the EIA. The following list identifies these topics, their appropriate references in the Draft Scoping Report and the environmental specialist who will be compiling the study.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bird Impact Assessment and Monitoring: Arcus Consulting – Andrew Pearson /Chapter 8 of the Draft Scoping Report; • Bat Impact Assessment and Monitoring: NSS Environmental – Kate McEwan/ Chapter 6 of the Draft Scoping Report; • Terrestrial Ecological Impact Assessment (Flora and Fauna): Anchor Environmental – Simon Todd/ Chapter 5of the Draft Scoping Report; • Archaeology and Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment: ACO Associates – Tim Hart / Chapter 10 of the Draft Scoping Report; • Palaeontology Assessment: via ACO Associates – John Almond / Chapter 10 of the Draft Scoping Report; 		

NAME	DATE	METHOD	ISSUE	RESPONSE	DSR REF	Aspect/ Area
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aquatic/ Wetland Assessment: Scherman Colloty and Associates – Brian Colloty / Chapter 7 of the Draft Scoping Report; • Noise Impact Assessment: Enviro-Acoustic Research – Morne de Jager / Chapter 11 of the Draft Scoping Report; • Visual Assessment Bernard Oberholzer Landscape Architects & Meirelles Lawson Burger Architects - Bernard Oberholzer and Quinton Lawson / Chapter 4 of the Draft Scoping Report; • Soil and Agriculture: Terrasoils – Johan van de Waals / Chapter 9 of the Draft Scoping Report; and • Social Impact Assessment: Tony Barbour Environmental Consulting and Research – Tony Barbour/ Chapter 12 of the Draft Scoping Report. <p>The Draft Scoping Report will be available for review for a period of 40 days, during which time we will also be holding a number of public and focus group meetings in the area of the project site. As a registered I&AP you will be notified of the location and timings of the public meetings and we would gladly meet with you at this time to discuss any concerns you may have on any of the topics raised.</p> <p>Following completion of the scoping phase,</p>		

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				<p>the EIA phase will be undertaken which will include the design of the facility within the project site, and the assessment of impacts. The findings of this stage will be presented in the Draft EIA Report. This will similarly be available for public comment prior to the development of the Final EIA Report. Once the Final EIA Report is completed this will be provided to the DEA for a decision to be made whether to grant Environmental Authorisation for the project. Comment on the Final EIA Report can also be made to the DEA directly.</p> <p>We understand you have the following queries regarding the proposed project and have provided some specific information in response to these below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Economic impact on the town of Murraysburg including employment: <i>The project will be developed under the Department of Energy's Renewable Energy Independent Power Producers Procurement Program (REIPPPP). As explanation of the REIPPPP and its requirements can be found in Chapter 3 of the forthcoming Draft Scoping Report. As a part of the REIPPPP, local communities are required to have a stake in the ownership of the project, which is either funded by financier or by the other equity shareholder (which is known as a 'free carry').</i> 		

NAME	DATE	METHOD	ISSUE	RESPONSE	DSR REF	Aspect/ Area
				<p>Community ownership of an operating wind farm is generally conducted via a broad-based community trust, with the surrounding communities as beneficiaries of the dividends paid to shareholders in the project company. The dividend revenue will be invested in community development initiatives which would be outlined in the community trust deeds. In addition, successful REIPPPP projects are required to invest a percentage of gross revenue in socio economic development and enterprise development, primarily in the surrounding local communities (currently defined in the REIPPPP as located within a 50 km radius of the wind farm's operational site). If the wind farm is constructed, a number of critical community development programmes would be established that would have the potential to positively impact the communities near the wind facilities.</p> <p>Wind energy can provide technical skills to South Africans and thus improve the technical skills profile of the country and the regions where wind energy facilities are located. Through the REIPPPP, developers' own initiatives and through support from international donor agencies, a</p>		

NAME	DATE	METHOD	ISSUE	RESPONSE	DSR REF	Aspect/ Area
				<p>number of young South Africans are being trained on various aspects of wind farm construction and operation.</p> <p>In addition, projects are required to indicate skills transfer and training initiatives as part of the economic development commitments of projects that are submitted under the REIPPPP.</p> <p>During the operation and maintenance phase, a number of employment opportunities will be created. These opportunities may include site management, environmental management, facility operation and maintenance, community liaison, administration, monitoring, reporting, catering, cleaning and security. The exact number of jobs during operation (and construction) is not yet known, but will be defined in detail in the later stages of project development.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Social impacts on residents and community: A social impact assessment will be undertaken for the project which will include residents and the local community. Information available to date will be presented in Chapter 12 of the forthcoming Draft Scoping Report - How will the project impact on 		

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				<p>property prices? <i>Globally, there is little evidence of property values in the surrounding areas decreasing due to wind farms. On the contrary, international research has found no impact or even a positive impact on property values near wind farms. Articles are available online at:</i> http://newscenter.lbl.gov/news-releases/2013/08/27/no-evidence-of-residential-property-value-impacts-near-u-s-wind-turbines-a-new-berkeley-lab-study-finds/ http://blog.ucsus.org/effect-of-wind-turbines-on-property-values-384</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ecology concerns over disturbance to nature and wildlife: <i>The Draft Scoping Report will include information at this stage in the process on ecology (Chapter 5), birds (Chapter 8) and bat (Chapter 6). These potential impacts will be taken in account throughout the EIA process and further information will be made available throughout the process.</i> <p>We hope this provides some further information related to your areas of concern, and we welcome further comments and queries on the content of the Draft Scoping Report and subsequent reports to follow which you will be notified of as a registered</p>		

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				I&AP.		
Morne Koen - Department of Mineral Resources	2014/05/27	Telephone	Mr. Morne Koen phoned EIMS to enquire if the Applicant has applied for Section 53 of the Mineral and Petroleum Resources Development Act (MPRDA). Mr. Koen informed EIMS that the Murraysburg area has Mining Rights applications about to be finalised, therefore the Umsinde Emoyeni WEF may be within such a mining area. As such an application under Section 53 of the MPRDA will be required. Mr. Koen also mentioned that the Mining Right owners will need to be included in the PPP for this project but the information will only be available upon the receipt of a list of affected properties for the Umsinde Emoyeni WEF project.	EIMS asked Mr. Koen to send this request via email so that it can be forwarded to the Applicant.		Geology
		Email	As per telephone conversation dated 2014/05/27. The Applicant must apply for a Section 53.	EIMS let Mr. Koen know that the Applicant is aware of this requirement (Section 53) in relation to the study site and is planning to apply in due course as part of the development process. EIMS informed Mr. Koen that the application for Section 53 of the MPRDA is likely to be lodged in the 3 rd quarter of 2014.		Geology
Gabriel Cupido – Community member	2014/06/13	Email	Mr. Garbriel Cupido is concerned about groundwater in the area.	Dear Mr Cupido		Groundwater
			Mr. Gabriel Cupido stated that Murraysburg is a rural area and it will be good to be part of the infrastructure development of the town.	Thank you for completing the comment form in relation to the Umsinde Emoyeni Wind Energy Facility and associated grid infrastructure. You have been registered as an Interested and Affected Party (I&AP) for the project and will be kept informed of key	Section 3.2 and Chapter 12	Infrastructure

NAME	DATE	METHOD	ISSUE	RESPONSE	DSR REF	Aspect/ Area
				<p>project dates and information.</p> <p>At present we are in the early stages of conducting an environmental impact assessment (EIA) in terms of the National Environmental Management Act 1998 (NEMA). Through this process a team of specialist environmental professional have been formed, who will be responsible for identifying and assessing the potential environmental impact of the proposed project. The first stage in this process is “scoping”. The scoping stage is when we identify the potential likely environmental impacts which may result from the proposed wind energy facility (WEF) and its associated grid infrastructure, and how we intend to assess these in the full EIA. In order to do this the EIA team, who are experienced in the local area and with this type of development, are consulted along with key stakeholders and the public. The Draft Scoping Report is currently being finalised and will be provided for public comment. As a registered Interested and Affected Party (I&AP) you will be notified of the issue of the Draft Scoping Report, and where copies can be located for you to view and how you can comment. These comments will then be taken into account in preparing the Final Scoping Report which will be submitted to the Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA) for consideration.</p> <p>The Draft Scoping Report will contain information on the existing baseline</p>		

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				<p>environment at the project site, and will outline the topics which will be considered in the EIA. The following list identifies these topics, their appropriate references in the Draft Scoping Report and the environmental specialist who will be compiling the study.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bird Impact Assessment and Monitoring: Arcus Consulting – Andrew Pearson /Chapter 8 of the Draft Scoping Report; • Bat Impact Assessment and Monitoring: NSS Environmental – Kate McEwan/ Chapter 6 of the Draft Scoping Report; • Terrestrial Ecological Impact Assessment (Flora and Fauna): Anchor Environmental – Simon Todd/ Chapter 5of the Draft Scoping Report; • Archaeology and Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment: ACO Associates – Tim Hart / Chapter 10 of the Draft Scoping Report; • Palaeontology Assessment: via ACO Associates – John Almond / Chapter 10 of the Draft Scoping Report; • Aquatic/ Wetland Assessment: Scherman Colloty and Associates – Brian Colloty / Chapter 7 of the Draft Scoping Report; • Noise Impact Assessment: Enviro-Acoustic Research – Morne de Jager / Chapter 11 of the Draft Scoping 		

NAME	DATE	METHOD	ISSUE	RESPONSE	DSR REF	Aspect/ Area
				<p>Report;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Visual Assessment Bernard Oberholzer Landscape Architects & Meirelles Lawson Burger Architects - Bernard Oberholzer and Quinton Lawson / Chapter 4 of the Draft Scoping Report; • Soil and Agriculture: Terrasoils – Johan van de Waals / Chapter 9 of the Draft Scoping Report; and • Social Impact Assessment: Tony Barbour Environmental Consulting and Research – Tony Barbour/ Chapter 12 of the Draft Scoping Report. <p>The Draft Scoping Report will be available for review for a period of 40 days, during which time we will also be holding a number of public and focus group meetings in the area of the project site. As a registered I&AP you will be notified of the location and timings of the public meetings and we would gladly meet with you at this time to discuss any concerns you may have on any of the topics raised.</p> <p>Following completion of the scoping phase, the EIA phase will be undertaken which will include the design of the facility within the project site, and the assessment of impacts. The findings of this stage will be presented in the Draft EIA Report. This will similarly be available for public comment prior to the development of the Final EIA Report. Once</p>		

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				<p>the Final EIA Report is completed this will be provided to the DEA for a decision to be made whether to grant Environmental Authorisation for the project. Comment on the Final EIA Report can also be made to the DEA directly.</p> <p>We note your specific concern regarding groundwater.</p> <p><i>The project applied for is a Wind Energy Facility (WEF) and its associated grid infrastructure. Water will be required during the construction phase for normal construction activities such as mixing concrete, and washing equipment; and during operation limited amounts of water will be required for servicing the on-site office facilities and for limited maintenance activities such as cleaning equipment. This water may be sourced from the local municipality or may utilise existing or new boreholes. A Water Use License Application (WULA) will be made to the Department of Water Affairs if necessary to permit the use of water for the project.</i></p> <p><i>The project does not require any structures to be placed into the ground to a depth which would interact with the groundwater resource. The management of this</i></p>		

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				<p><i>water would be contained with the Environmental management Plan (EMP) which would stipulate compliance with any Water Use License.</i></p> <p><i>An assessment of the surface water impacts will be included in the EIA, and information on this will be presented in Chapter 7 of the Draft Scoping Report.</i></p> <p>We hope this provides some further information related to your areas of concern, and we welcome further comments and queries on the content of the Draft Scoping Report and subsequent reports to follow which you will be notified of as a registered I&AP.</p>		
Colin Baadjies – Community member	2014/06/13	Email	<p>Mr. Colin Baadjies stated that the town of Murraysburg is a rural town and the percentage of poverty skills, development of the town needs development with the skill that he can obtain in this project. Mr. Baadjies also stated that this project can make a huge difference in the town in-terms of development and employment opportunity.</p> <p>Furthermore, Mr. Baadjies concluded that Murraysburg is the preferable location for this project because it can make a difference</p>	<p>Dear Mr Baadjies</p> <p>Thank you for completing the comment form in relation to the Umsinde Emoyeni Wind Energy Facility and associated grid infrastructure. You have now been registered as an Interested and Affected Party (I&AP) and will be notified for the issue of documentation and consultation events associated with the proposed project.</p> <p>We note your positive comments in regard to</p>	Section 3.2 and Chapter 12	Need for the Project

NAME	DATE	METHOD	ISSUE	RESPONSE	DSR REF	Aspect/ Area
			to the town.	<p>potential economic and employment benefits and provide the following further information.</p> <p>The project will be developed under the Department of Energy's Renewable Energy Independent Power Producers Procurement Program (REIPPPP). As explanation of the REIPPPP and its requirements can be found in Chapter 3 of the forthcoming Draft Scoping Report.</p> <p>As a part of the REIPPPP, local communities are required to have a stake in the ownership of the project, which is either funded by financier or by the other equity shareholder (which is known as a 'free carry'). Community ownership of an operating wind farm is generally conducted via a broad-based community trust, with the surrounding communities as beneficiaries of the dividends paid to shareholders in the project company. The dividend revenue will be invested in community development initiatives which would be outlined in the community trust deeds. In addition, successful REIPPPP projects are required to invest a percentage of gross revenue in socio economic development and enterprise development, primarily in the surrounding local communities (currently defined in the REIPPPP as located within a 50 km radius of the wind farm's operational site). If the wind farm is constructed, a number of critical community development programmes would be established that would have the potential to</p>		

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				<p>positively impact the communities near the wind facilities.</p> <p>Wind energy can provide technical skills to South Africans and thus improve the technical skills profile of the country and the regions where wind energy facilities are located. Through the REIPPPP, developers' own initiatives and through support from international donor agencies, a number of young South Africans are being trained on various aspects of wind farm construction and operation.</p> <p>In addition, projects are required to indicate skills transfer and training initiatives as part of the economic development commitments of projects that are submitted under the REIPPPP.</p> <p>During the operation and maintenance phase, a number of employment opportunities will be created. These opportunities may include site management, environmental management, facility operation and maintenance, community liaison, administration, monitoring, reporting, catering, cleaning and security. The exact number of jobs during operation (and construction) is not yet known, but will be defined in detail in the later stages of project development.</p> <p>At present we are in the early stages of conducting an environmental impact assessment (EIA) in terms of the National</p>		

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				<p>Environmental Management Act 1998 (NEMA). Through this process a team of specialist environmental professional have been formed, who will be responsible for identifying and assessing the potential environmental impact of the proposed project. The first stage in this process is “scoping”. The scoping stage is when we identify the potential likely environmental impacts which may result from the proposed wind energy facility (WEF) and its associated grid infrastructure, and how we intend to assess these in the full EIA. In order to do this the EIA team, who are experienced in the local area and with this type of development, are consulted along with key stakeholders and the public. The Draft Scoping Report is currently being finalised and will be provided for public comment. As a registered Interested and Affected Party (I&AP) you will be notified of the issue of the Draft Scoping Report, and where copies can be located for you to view and how you can comment. These comments will then be taken into account in preparing the Final Scoping Report which will be submitted to the Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA) for consideration.</p> <p>The Draft Scoping Report will contain information on the existing baseline environment at the project site, and will outline the topics which will be considered in the EIA. The following list identifies these topics, their appropriate references in the Draft Scoping Report and the environmental</p>		

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				<p>specialist who will be compiling the study.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bird Impact Assessment and Monitoring: Arcus Consulting – Andrew Pearson /Chapter 8 of the Draft Scoping Report; • Bat Impact Assessment and Monitoring: NSS Environmental – Kate McEwan/ Chapter 6 of the Draft Scoping Report; • Terrestrial Ecological Impact Assessment (Flora and Fauna): Anchor Environmental – Simon Todd/ Chapter 5of the Draft Scoping Report; • Archaeology and Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment: ACO Associates – Tim Hart / Chapter 10 of the Draft Scoping Report; • Palaeontology Assessment: via ACO Associates – John Almond / Chapter 10 of the Draft Scoping Report; • Aquatic/ Wetland Assessment: Scherman Colloty and Associates – Brian Colloty / Chapter 7 of the Draft Scoping Report; • Noise Impact Assessment: Enviro-Acoustic Research – Morne de Jager / Chapter 11 of the Draft Scoping Report; • Visual Assessment Bernard Oberholzer Landscape Architects & Meirelles Lawson Burger Architects - Bernard Oberholzer and Quinton 		

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				<p>Lawson / Chapter 4 of the Draft Scoping Report;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Soil and Agriculture: Terrasoils – Johan van de Waals / Chapter 9 of the Draft Scoping Report; and • Social Impact Assessment: Tony Barbour Environmental Consulting and Research – Tony Barbour/ Chapter 12 of the Draft Scoping Report. <p>The Draft Scoping Report will be available for review for a period of 40 days, during which time we will also be holding a number of public and focus group meetings in the area of the project site. As a registered I&AP you will be notified of the location and timings of the public meetings and we would gladly meet with you at this time to discuss any concerns you may have on any of the topics raised.</p> <p>Following completion of the scoping phase, the EIA phase will be undertaken which will include the design of the facility within the project site, and the assessment of impacts. The findings of this stage will be presented in the Draft EIA Report. This will similarly be available for public comment prior to the development of the Final EIA Report. Once the Final EIA Report is completed this will be provided to the DEA for a decision to be made whether to grant Environmental Authorisation for the project. Comment on the Final EIA Report can also be made to the</p>		

NAME	DATE	METHOD	ISSUE	RESPONSE	DSR REF	Aspect/ Area
				DEA directly. Should you have any further queries please contact us and/or attend one of the public meetings to be held where you can meet the project team and ask any questions you may have related to the project.		
Adrian Tiplady - Square Kilometre Array (SKA)	2014/06/16	Email and letter	<p>This letter is in response to your email request to provide an assessment on the potential development of the Umsinde Emoyeni wind electricity generation facility, and the risk it may pose of the Square Kilometre Array (SKA) Project.</p> <p>A high level risk assessment has been conducted at the South African SKA Project office to determine the potential impact such facilities on the SKA. This letter serves to confirm the outcomes of the risk assessment, and proposals for any future investigations associated with this facility.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. The approximate location of the proposed facility has been provided in the BID available on the EIMS website. The nearest SKA station is Rem-Opt-6, located at a distance of approximately 14 km from the proposed wind farm location. ii. Based on the distance to the nearest SKA station, integrated risk associated with multiple wind farms located in proximity and the information currently available on the detailed design of the installation, the wind energy facility poses a high risk of detrimental 	<p>Thank you for responding to the initial notification regarding this project. The Applicant, Windlab, have been in contact with SKA and another consultancy company MESA (Stellenbosch) regarding the Electro Magnetic Interference (EMI). EIMS and Arcus is in the process of determining the nature and extent of the impact this proposed project could have on the SKA project, and how the Applicant can address these at this stage in the development layout or the turbine type. In response to the specific points raised in your attached letter please see below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Please can SKA supply EIMS with a GIS boundary for your development. It should be noted that the current site outline provides the land boundary for the WEF, the turbines will be located at specific positions (still to be determined) within this boundary and will not occupy the whole study area. The design and layout of the WEF will be determined during the EIA process and in consultation with SKA and other I&APs. ii. There has to date not been any detailed design information provided for the Umsinde Emoyeni 	Figure 1.1 and Chapter 2	SKA

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			<p>impact on the SKA.</p> <p>iii. Any transmitters that are to be established, at the site for the purposes of voice and data communication will be required to comply with the relevant AGA regulations concerning the restriction of use of the radio frequency spectrum that applies in the area concerned.</p> <p>iv. As a result of the high risk associated with the Umsinde Emoyeni wind energy facility, significant mitigation measures and more detailed studies will be required. Should environment authorisation be considered for this project, it should be made a condition of the authorisation that all the necessary protection for the SKA, as required and assessed by the South African SKA Project office, be compiled with prior to any operation.</p> <p>v. The South African SKA project office would like to be kept informed of progress with this project, and reserves the right to further risk assessments at a later stage.</p>	<p>development as the project is still in its early stages. With reference to your preliminary risk assessment, please could you provide specific details on specific concerns you have, including stand-off distances from the SKA facility. The Applicant has advised that they would be happy to schedule a focus group meeting with the SKA representatives to discuss the potential project design and your concerns, in an effort to ensure that these are considered in the project design process. It is understood that the selection of the type of turbine and electric infrastructure may also be of concern to SKA and will continue to liaise with SKA on these points.</p> <p>iii. This point is noted and has been raised to the developer, Windlab Developments. At this stage no transmitter are intended to be established.</p> <p>iv. A full EIA process is being conducted in order to seek environmental authorisation. The project team (Applicant and the EIA team) would welcome the opportunity to engage with SKA to understand the specific concerns and consequently determine design considerations that should be taken into account.</p> <p>v. SKA have been added to the I&AP database and will be kept informed as the EIA process progresses.</p> <p>Please do not hesitate to contact us should</p>		

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				you have any further queries or concerns regarding this project.		
Ronny Klink – Community member	2014/05/27	Email	EIMS met Mr. Ronny Klink on site while putting up site notices and posters.	<p>Thank you once again for meeting two weeks ago in your office at such short notice regarding the WEF EIA project. Please find attached the initial notification letter (similar to the hard copies we left with you) in case you would like to distribute it electronically. The BID with more details on the project is available on our website (www.eims.co.za) as well as the Comment Sheet and Locality Map for the proposed site is. Please be advised that you will need to register on our website prior to being able to access the information (under Reports).</p> <p>You have been registered as an I&AP for the project, and will thus receive further notification regarding any available reports on upcoming public meetings. Please do not hesitate to contact EIMS should you have any queries or concerns.</p>		General
Adri Smit – Community member	2014/05/27	Email	EIMS met Ms. Adri Smit on site while putting up site notices and posters	<p>Good Afternoon Adri,</p> <p>We met almost two weeks ago when we were putting up site notices next to the road for the WEF project. Please find attached the project initial notification letter for your additional information. The BID with more details is available on our website (www.eims.co.za) as well as the Comment Sheet and Locality Map for the proposed study area. Please be advised you will need to register prior to being able to access the information (under Reports).</p> <p>You have been registered and added to our database as an I&AP. Your comments</p>		General

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				regarding the impact on tourism as well as on bees have been noted. An Ecology specialist has been appointed and will consider your concern. As an I&AP, you will be notified when any reports are available for review and comment as well as any scheduled public meetings.		
Sanchia Ramparsad - Western Cape Provincial Department of Transport and Public Works	2014/06/05	Email	Mr. Sanchia Ramparsad was unable to gain access to the BID and Locality Map on the EIMS website.	EIMS forwarded Mr. Ramparsad with a brief details and instructions of how to log on to the EIMS website in order for him to access the BID and the two Locality Maps for the project.		General
Duval Johnson - Murraysburg Development Council of Stake Holders	2014/06/18	Email	<p>1. Mr. Duval Johnson apologised for responding to the initial notification after the commenting period had ended and he explained that he was on leave and he that he came back to work on the 18th of June 2014.</p> <p>Mr. Johnson stated that he the chairperson of the Murraysburg Development Council of Stake Holders responsible for the comprehensive rural development program (CRDP) in Murraysburg. They are responsible to see that the development in the Murraysburg area takes place in partnership with all levels of government departments and private sector.</p> <p>Mr. Johnson wanted to know if he could</p>	<p>1. EIMS phoned Mr. Johnson and they let him know that he could still distribute project information and send comments back to EIMS even though the advertised initial notification period lapsed.</p> <p>EIMS confirmed to Mr. Johnson that the registration for the project will continue throughout the EIA process and therefore he may distribute the registration form to his community members that are interested in the project.</p> <p>2. EIMS for his offer and agreed that any available additional notifications or documents would be sent to him (contact details) for wider distribution.</p>		General

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			<p>distribute notification documents (comment sheets) to the public so they could give input on this project even though the end of the commenting period and then send comments to EIMS. He stated that he knows of community members that would still like to register for involvement in the project process.</p> <p>2. Mr. Johnson stated that EIMS is welcome to send correspondence regarding the project to him and he will distribute to his community.</p> <p>3. Mr. Johnson said he would send the contact details to use when sending information for distribution via email to EIMS.</p>			
Mr. Falata – Pixley ka Seme District Municipality (De Aar)	2014/06/26	Telephone	<p>1. Mr. Falata phoned EIMS as mandated by the mayor to enquire which areas are to be affected by the proposed project.</p> <p>2. Mr. confirmed receipt of the letter with BID.</p> <p>3. Mr. Falata said he would do so.</p>	<p>1. EIMS asked Mr. Falata if he received the letter including the BID.</p> <p>2. EIMS let Mr. Falata know that the map in the BID shows the areas that are likely to be affected by the proposed project (the red area for the wind energy facility and the blue area for the associated grid connection). EIMS further informed Mr. Falata that maps showing the proposed study area for both the wind turbines and the infrastructure to connect to the national electricity grid (grid connection) are available on the EIMS website (www.eims.co.za) under Reports.</p> <p>3. EIMS asked that he contact them again should he encounter any problems or have queries or concerns</p>		
Ms.	2014/0	Facsimile	1. This letter serves as acknowledgement	This was noted by EIMS.	Chapter	

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Jessica Christie	6/05		<p>of receipt of the afore-mentioned information by this Department and to notify you of whom the case officer is for the commenting authority. Kindly quote the above-mentioned reference number in any future correspondence in respect of this application</p> <p>2. Based on limited information in the BID, this Directorate has the following notes and considerations that need to be taken into account with regard to the site layout and what impacts this will have on the receiving environment and what limitations the receiving environment will have on the proposed layout of the development.</p> <p>2.1 Biophysical Impacts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potential impacts on surface water resources that occur in close proximity to the site and possible riparian zones • Potential impacts of increased surface water run-off associated with the establishment of hard surfaces and vegetation clearing (mainly during the construction phase) • Potential impacts on ground and surface water quality due to hydrocarbon spillages from vehicles during the construction phase of the development • Potential impacts on soils due to hydrocarbon spillages from vehicles during the construction and operational phase of the 		7 Chapter 9 Chapter 5	

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			development.			

