

Comments received after BID Distribution:

Contact	Comment	Response
<p>Neighbour on 22/03/2022, via telephone and registration form.</p>	<p>Concerned about the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Safety of the residents and visitors. 2) Theft and burglary due to the development. 3) View impairment – The area designated for the solar panels are visible from Skilpadskuil, which means that the view will no longer be a nature scenery. 4) Land/Farm Value – The value of the land/farm will most likely decrease due to the development, which may have an effect on future buyers (including farmers – looking to buy the land). 5) Road conditions – The condition of the roads will most likely deteriorate as a result of the heavy vehicles using the roads. 6) Risk of veld fires caused by workers during the construction of the plant. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) A Social Impact Assessment was undertaken that indicates a high mitigation potential for the safety and security concerns. A full Social Plan will be drafted in the event the environmental authorisation application is successful, which will provide effective interventions to address all social risks and impacts. 2) A Social Impact Assessment was undertaken that indicates a high mitigation potential for the safety and security concerns. Additional comments as above. 3) A Visual Impact Assessment was previously undertaken which mitigations will be included for implementation. An updated report is in process of being completed. 4) A Social Impact Assessment was undertaken, that researched the impacts of Solar PV projects on property prices, which was shown to be negligible. 5) Road upgrades will be required on sections of the Burgerville district road as well as internal property roads, to ensure the safe delivery of equipment to site and passage of site staff. For the duration of construction, the developer will be required to manage road conditions, including effective dust suppression. An Environmental Management Programme (EMPr) with mitigation measures to either avoid or reduce impacts on the state of the development area will be formulated. 6) The EMPr will include a Fauna and Flora Management section that prohibits the contractor's personnel from making veld fires. Adequate fire-fighting equipment will be provided during construction, in the event of incidental fires, as well as

	<p>7) Risk of solar panels being damaged during the hunting season (1/3 of Sklipadskuil borders the Phase 2 & Phase 3 development).</p>	<p>implementing fire breaks around the perimeter of the solar PV facility.</p> <p>7) The applicant will be made aware of this concern and encouraged to find ways of minimizing and/or mitigating this risk. It is also incumbent on the owners of Sklipadskuil to ensure their hunting activities are undertaken in a manner that does not pose a safety risk to neighbouring landowners and occupiers.</p>
<p>Eskom Official on 11/04/2022, via email.</p>	<p>Hi Hlengile, sorry for this very late response on your email. You are aware of the Eskom requirements, however I attach again for your information. Please send me KMZ files of the proposed development.</p> <p>Kind regards</p>	<p>KMZ file sent on 12/04/2022.</p>

Comments received after Draft Scoping Report Distribution:

<p>DFFE Official on 31/01/2023, via email.</p>	<p>This letter serves to inform you that the following information must be included to the Final Scoping Report:</p> <p>(a) Listed Activities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Please ensure that all relevant listed activities are applied for, are specific and can be linked to the development activity or infrastructure as described in the project description.• If the activities applied for in the application form differ from those mentioned in the final SR, an amended application form must be submitted. Please note that the Department’s application form template has been amended and can be downloaded from the following link https://www.environment.gov.za/documents/forms <p>(b) Layout & Sensitivity Maps</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Please provide a layout map which indicates the following:• The proposed development of a 300MW Solar Photo Voltaic (PV) plant on Portion 3 & Remainder of Farm Goedehoop 26 C, Portion 1, 6 & Remainder of Kwanselaars Hoek 40 C, Portion 4 of Taai Bosch Fontein 41 C and the Remainder of Farm Riet Fountain 39 C, registration district Hanover, Emthanjeni Local Municipality, Pixley Ka Seme District Municipality; Northern Cape Province, for each development;• The proposed grid infrastructure for each of the above PV facilities, overlain by the sensitivity map;• All supporting onsite infrastructure e.g. roads (existing and proposed);• The location of sensitive environmental features on site e.g. CBAs, heritage sites, wetlands, drainage lines etc. that will be affected;• Buffer areas; and• All “no-go” areas.• The above map must be overlain with a sensitivity map and a	<p>(a) The Listed Activities that have been applied for in the application form do not differ from the Listed Activities in both the Draft and Final Scoping Report.</p> <p>b) Refer to Appendix A for the detailed layout map overlain with a sensitivity map, along with a cumulative map which shows neighbouring renewable energy developments and existing grid infrastructure.</p>
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	<p>cumulative map which shows neighbouring renewable energy developments and existing grid infrastructure.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Google maps will not be accepted. <p>(c) Public Participation Process</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Please ensure that all issues raised and comments received during the circulation of the SR from registered I&APs and organs of state which have jurisdiction (including this Department's Biodiversity Section) in respect of the proposed activity are adequately addressed in the Final SR. Proof of correspondence with the various stakeholders must be included in the Final SR. Should you be unable to obtain comments, proof should be submitted to the Department of the attempts that were made to obtain comments. The Public Participation Process must be conducted in terms of Regulation 39, 40 41, 42, 43 & 44 of the EIA Regulations 2014, as amended. • A comments and response trail report (C&R) must be submitted with the final SR. The C&R report must incorporate all historical comments for this development. The C&R report must be a separate document from the main report and the format must be in the table format as indicated in Annexure 1 of this comments letter. Please refrain from summarising comments made by I&APs. All comments from I&APs must be copied verbatim and responded to clearly. Please note that a response such as "Noted" is not regarded as an adequate response to I&AP's comments. • The final SR must provide evidence that all identified and relevant competent authorities have been given an opportunity to comment on the proposed development; particularly the South African Astronomical Observatory, the Eastern Cape Environmental Department, the District and Local Municipalities. <p>(d) Specialist Assessments</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Specialist studies to be conducted must provide a detailed 	<p>(c)</p> <p>All issues raised and comments received during the circulation of the DSR from registered I&APs and organs of state which have jurisdiction (including this Department's Biodiversity Section) in respect of the proposed activity have been adequately addressed in the Final SR. Refer to Section G (II) of the report, for the proof of correspondence with the various stakeholders, along with attempts that were made to obtain comments. The PPP was conducted in accordance with Regulation 39, 40 41, 42, 43 & 44 of the EIA Regulations 2014, as amended.</p> <p>Refer to Appendix C for the comments and response trail report (C&R).</p> <p>Refer to Section G (II) of the report, for the proof that all identified and relevant competent authorities have been given an opportunity to comment on the proposed development.</p> <p>(d)</p> <p>The terms of reference for the Specialist Studies were provided</p>
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	<p>description of their methodology, as well as indicate the locations and descriptions of turbine positions, and all other associated infrastructures that they have assessed and are recommending for authorisations.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The specialist studies must also provide a detailed description of all limitations to their studies. All specialist studies must be conducted in the right season and providing that as a limitation, will not be accepted. • Should the appointed specialists specify contradicting recommendations, the EAP must clearly indicate the most reasonable recommendation and substantiate this with defensible reasons; and were necessary, include further expertise advice. • It is further brought to your attention that Procedures for the Assessment and Minimum Criteria for Reporting on identified Environmental Themes in terms of Sections 24(5)(a) and (h) and 44 of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998, when applying for Environmental Authorisation, which were promulgated in Government Notice No. 320 of 20 March 2020 (i.e. “the Protocols”), and in Government Notice No. 1150 of 30 October 2020 (i.e. protocols for terrestrial plant and animal species), have come into effect. Please note that specialist assessments must be conducted in accordance with these protocols. <p>(e) Cumulative Assessment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Should there be any other similar projects within a 30km radius of the proposed development site, the cumulative impact assessment for all identified and assessed impacts must be refined to indicate the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➢ Identified cumulative impacts must be clearly defined, and where possible the size of the identified impact must be quantified and indicated, i.e. hectares of cumulatively transformed land. ➢ Detailed process flow and proof must be provided, to indicate how the specialist’s recommendations, mitigation measures and 	<p>by the EAP to the Specialist. The subsequent proposals supplied by the Specialists included their methodologies, which has subsequently been captured in the Plan of Study. The Solar PV Facility will have panels, not turbines.</p> <p>The specialist studies provided a detailed description of all limitations to their studies, most studies were undertaken in the correct seasons and those that were not taken in the right season, it was because the season wasn’t a factor.</p> <p>Where the appointed specialists specified contradicting recommendations, the EAP will indicate the most reasonable recommendation and substantiate it with defensible reasons; and were necessary, include further expertise advice.</p> <p>The Specialists studies were undertaken in accordance with the said protocols.</p> <p>(e) Please refer to the Cumulative Impacts Map on Appendix A and the impact assessment will include the said items.</p>
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	<p>conclusions from the various similar developments in the area were taken into consideration in the assessment of cumulative impacts and when the conclusion and mitigation measures were drafted for this project.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The cumulative impacts significance rating must also inform the need and desirability of the proposed development. ➤ A cumulative impact environmental statement on whether the proposed development must proceed. <p>General</p> <p>You are further reminded to comply with Regulation 21(1) of the NEMA EIA Regulations 2014, as amended, which states that: "If S&EIR must be applied to an application, the applicant must, within 44 days of receipt of the application by the competent authority, submit to the competent authority a scoping report which has been subjected to a public participation process of at least 30 days and which reflects the incorporation of comments received, including any comments of the competent authority"</p> <p>You are further reminded that the final SR to be submitted to this Department must comply with all the requirements in terms of the scope of assessment and content of Scoping reports in accordance with Appendix 2 and Regulation 21(1) of the EIA Regulations 2014, as amended.</p> <p>Further note that in terms of Regulation 45 of the EIA Regulations 2014, as amended, this application will lapse if the applicant fails to meet any of the timeframes prescribed in terms of these Regulations, unless an extension has been granted in terms of Regulation 3(7).</p> <p>You are hereby reminded of Section 24F of the National Environmental Management Act, Act No. 107 of 1998, as amended, that no activity may commence prior to an Environmental Authorisation being granted by the Department.</p>	<p>The draft scoping report was distributed to all registered Interested and Affected Parties, and the final scoping report will be submitted within 44 days of the receipt of the application, to the competent authority.</p> <p>The final Scoping Report will be submitted in accordance with Appendix 2 and Regulation 21(1) of the EIA Regulations 2014, as amended.</p> <p>This application is currently within the timeframes. An extension will be requested should it be foreseen that a timeframe will not be met.</p> <p>This application is to fulfil Section 24F of the National Environmental Management Act, Act No. 107 of 1998, as amended.</p>
SAHRA Official on the	The SAHRA Archaeology, Palaeontology and Meteorites (APM)	The HIA will include an archaeological and palaeontological

<p>SAHRIS Dashboard on 02/02/2023</p>	<p>Unit requests that the pending assessment of the impact to heritage resources comply with section 38(3) of the NHRA as required by section 38(8) of the NHRA. The HIA must include an archaeological and palaeontological component.</p> <p>The field-based archaeological component of the HIA must be conducted by a qualified archaeologist and must comply with the SAHRA 2007 Minimum Standards: Archaeological and Palaeontological Components of Impact Assessment Reports (see www.asapa.co.za or www.aphp.org.za for a list of qualified archaeologists).</p> <p>The proposed development is located within an area of very high Palaeontological Sensitivity as per the SAHRIS PalaeoSensitivity map. As such, a field-based based Palaeontological Impact Assessment (PIA) must be undertaken by a qualified palaeontologist. (See https://www.palaeosa.org/heritage-practitioners.html for a list of qualified palaeontologists). The report must comply with the 2012 Minimum Standards: Palaeontological Components of Heritage Impact Assessments.</p> <p>Any other heritage resources as defined in section 3 of the NHRA that may be impacted, such as built structures over 60 years old, sites of cultural significance associated with oral histories, burial grounds and graves, graves of victims of conflict, and cultural landscapes or viewsapes must also be assessed.</p> <p>Further comments will be issued upon receipt of the pending heritage reports and the Draft EIA inclusive of appendices.</p> <p>Should you have any further queries, please contact the designated official using the case number quoted above in the case header.</p>	<p>component.</p> <p>The HIA will be conducted by a qualified archaeologist and will comply with the SAHRA 2007 Minimum Standards.</p> <p>A field-based based Palaeontological Impact Assessment (PIA) will be undertaken by a qualified palaeontologist and the report will comply with the 2012 Minimum Standards: Palaeontological Components of Heritage Impact Assessments.</p> <p>A full Heritage Impact Assessment will be undertaken.</p> <p>The Draft EIA report with appendices will be uploaded onto SAHRIS in due course.</p> <p>Should any queries arise, the quoted case number will be used when liaising with the designated official.</p>
<p>DFFE Official (Biodiversity Conservation Directorate) on</p>	<p>The Directorate: Biodiversity Conservation has reviewed and evaluated the reports and doesn't have any objection to the draft Scoping Report and the Plan of Study. The final report must comply with the procedures for the assessment and minimum</p>	<p>The final report will comply with the procedures for the assessment and minimum criteria for reporting on identified environmental themes in terms of sections 24(5)(A) and (H) and 44 of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998.</p>

<p>09/02/2023, via email.</p>	<p>criteria for reporting on identified environmental themes in terms of sections 24(5)(A) and (H) and 44 of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998.</p> <p>The final report must comply with all the requirements as outlined in the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) guideline for renewable energy projects and the Best Practice Guideline for Birds & Solar Energy for assessing and monitoring the impact of solar energy facilities on birds in Southern Africa.</p> <p>In conclusion, the Public Participation Process documents related to Biodiversity EIA for review and queries should be submitted to the Directorate: Biodiversity Conservation at Email: BCAdmin@dffe.gov.za for the attention of Mr. Seoka Lekota.</p>	<p>The Best Practice Guideline for Birds & Solar Energy for assessing and monitoring the impact of solar energy facilities on birds in Southern Africa has been consulted and used by both the relevant specialist and EAP to come up with recommendations for mitigating faunal impacts.</p> <p>The Public Participation Process documents related to Biodiversity EIA for review and queries will be submitted to the Directorate: Biodiversity Conservation at Email: BCAdmin@dffe.gov.za for the attention of Mr. Seoka Lekota.</p>
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Departmental Comments received after Final Scoping Report Distribution:

Contact	Comment	Response
<p>Acceptance of Scoping Report by DFFE Official on 31/03/2023, via email.</p>	<p>This letter serves to inform you that the following information must be included to the Final Scoping Report:</p> <p>(a) Listed Activities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Please ensure that all relevant listed activities are applied for, are specific and can be linked to the development activity or infrastructure as described in the project description. • If the activities applied for in the application form differ from those mentioned in the final SR, an amended application form must be submitted. Please note that the Department's application form template has been amended and can be downloaded from the following link https://www.environment.gov.za/documents/forms <p>(b) Layout & Sensitivity Maps</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Please provide a layout map which indicates the following: • The proposed development of a 300MW Solar Photo Voltaic (PV) 	<p>(a)</p> <p>The Listed Activities that have been applied for in the application form do not differ from the Listed Activities in both the Draft and Final Scoping Report.</p> <p>b)</p> <p>Refer to Appendix A for the detailed layout map overlain with a sensitivity map, along with a cumulative map which shows</p>

	<p>plant on Portion 3 & Remainder of Farm Goedehoop 26 C, Portion 1, 6 & Remainder of Kwanselaars Hoek 40 C, Portion 4 of Taaibosch Fontein 41 C and the Remainder of Farm Riet Fountain 39 C, registration district Hanover, Emthanjeni Local Municipality, Pixley Ka Seme District Municipality; Northern Cape Province, for each development;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The proposed grid infrastructure for each of the above PV facilities, overlain by the sensitivity map; • All supporting onsite infrastructure e.g. roads (existing and proposed); • The location of sensitive environmental features on site e.g. CBAs, heritage sites, wetlands, drainage lines etc. that will be affected; • Buffer areas; and • All “no-go” areas. • The above map must be overlain with a sensitivity map and a cumulative map which shows neighbouring renewable energy developments and existing grid infrastructure. • Google maps will not be accepted. <p>(c) Public Participation Process</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Please ensure that all issues raised and comments received during the circulation of the SR from registered I&APs and organs of state which have jurisdiction (including this Department’s Biodiversity Section) in respect of the proposed activity are adequately addressed in the Final SR. Proof of correspondence with the various stakeholders must be included in the Final SR. Should you be unable to obtain comments, proof should be submitted to the Department of the attempts that were made to obtain comments. The Public Participation Process must be conducted in terms of Regulation 39, 40 41, 42, 43 & 44 of the EIA Regulations 2014, as amended. • A comments and response trail report (C&R) must be submitted 	<p>neighbouring renewable energy developments and existing grid infrastructure.</p> <p>(c) All issues raised and comments received during the circulation of the DSR from registered I&APs and organs of state which have jurisdiction (including this Department’s Biodiversity Section) in respect of the proposed activity have been adequately addressed in the Final SR. Refer to Section G (II) of the report, for the proof of correspondence with the various stakeholders, along with attempts that were made to obtain comments. The PPP was conducted in accordance with Regulation 39, 40 41, 42, 43 & 44 of the EIA Regulations 2014, as amended.</p> <p>Refer to Appendix C for the comments and response trail report</p>
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	<p>with the final SR. The C&R report must incorporate all historical comments for this development. The C&R report must be a separate document from the main report and the format must be in the table format as indicated in Annexure 1 of this comments letter. Please refrain from summarising comments made by I&APs. All comments from I&APs must be copied verbatim and responded to clearly. Please note that a response such as “Noted” is not regarded as an adequate response to I&AP’s comments.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The final SR must provide evidence that all identified and relevant competent authorities have been given an opportunity to comment on the proposed development; particularly the South African Astronomical Observatory, the Eastern Cape Environmental Department, the District and Local Municipalities. <p>(d) Specialist Assessments</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Specialist studies to be conducted must provide a detailed description of their methodology, as well as indicate the locations and descriptions of turbine positions, and all other associated infrastructures that they have assessed and are recommending for authorisations. • The specialist studies must also provide a detailed description of all limitations to their studies. All specialist studies must be conducted in the right season and providing that as a limitation, will not be accepted. • Should the appointed specialists specify contradicting recommendations, the EAP must clearly indicate the most reasonable recommendation and substantiate this with defensible reasons; and where necessary, include further expertise advice. • It is further brought to your attention that Procedures for the Assessment and Minimum Criteria for Reporting on identified Environmental Themes in terms of Sections 24(5)(a) and (h) and 44 of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998, when applying for Environmental Authorisation, which were promulgated 	<p>(C&R).</p> <p>Refer to Section G (II) of the report, for the proof that all identified and relevant competent authorities have been given an opportunity to comment on the proposed development.</p> <p>(d)</p> <p>The terms of reference for the Specialist Studies were provided by the EAP to the Specialist. The subsequent proposals supplied by the Specialists included their methodologies, which has subsequently been captured in the Plan of Study. The Solar PV Facility will have panels, not turbines.</p> <p>The specialist studies provided a detailed description of all limitations to their studies, most studies were undertaken in the correct seasons and those that were not taken in the right season, it was because the season wasn’t a factor.</p> <p>Where the appointed specialists specified contradicting recommendations, the EAP will indicate the most reasonable recommendation and substantiate it with defensible reasons; and where necessary, include further expertise advice.</p> <p>The Specialist studies were undertaken in accordance with the said protocols.</p>
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in Government Notice No. 320 of 20 March 2020 (i.e. “the Protocols”), and in Government Notice No. 1150 of 30 October 2020 (i.e. protocols for terrestrial plant and animal species), have come into effect. Please note that specialist assessments must be conducted in accordance with these protocols.

(e) Cumulative Assessment

• Should there be any other similar projects within a 30km radius of the proposed development site, the cumulative impact assessment for all identified and assessed impacts must be refined to indicate the following:

- Identified cumulative impacts must be clearly defined, and where possible the size of the identified impact must be quantified and indicated, i.e. hectares of cumulatively transformed land.
- Detailed process flow and proof must be provided, to indicate how the specialist’s recommendations, mitigation measures and conclusions from the various similar developments in the area were taken into consideration in the assessment of cumulative impacts and when the conclusion and mitigation measures were drafted for this project.
- The cumulative impacts significance rating must also inform the need and desirability of the proposed development.
- A cumulative impact environmental statement on whether the proposed development must proceed.

General

You are further reminded to comply with Regulation 21(1) of the NEMA EIA Regulations 2014, as amended, which states that: “If S&EIR must be applied to an application, the applicant must, within 44 days of receipt of the application by the competent authority, submit to the competent authority a scoping report which has been subjected to a public participation process of at least 30

(e)

Please refer to the Cumulative Impacts Map on Appendix A and the impact assessment will include the said items.

The draft scoping report was distributed to all registered Interested and Affected Parties, and the final scoping report was submitted within 44 days of the receipt of the application, to the competent authority.

	<p>days and which reflects the incorporation of comments received, including any comments of the competent authority”</p> <p>You are further reminded that the final SR to be submitted to this Department must comply with all the requirements in terms of the scope of assessment and content of Scoping reports in accordance with Appendix 2 and Regulation 21(1) of the EIA Regulations 2014, as amended.</p> <p>Further note that in terms of Regulation 45 of the EIA Regulations 2014, as amended, this application will lapse if the applicant fails to meet any of the timeframes prescribed in terms of these Regulations, unless an extension has been granted in terms of Regulation 3(7).</p> <p>You are hereby reminded of Section 24F of the National Environmental Management Act, Act No. 107 of 1998, as amended, that no activity may commence prior to an Environmental Authorisation being granted by the Department.</p>	<p>The final Scoping Report was submitted in accordance with Appendix 2 and Regulation 21(1) of the EIA Regulations 2014, as amended.</p> <p>This application is currently within the timeframes. An extension will be requested should it be foreseen that a timeframe will not be met.</p> <p>This application is to fulfil Section 24F of the National Environmental Management Act, Act No. 107 of 1998, as amended.</p>
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