



Our Ref: 1820/JM

9<sup>th</sup> October 2020

**To whom this may concern,**

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**Confirmation Letter of no change in potential impacts for the application for amendment of the Environmental Authorisation for the Aggeneys 2 Solar PV Facility, Part 2 Amendment, Northern Cape Province (DEA Reference Number: 14/12/16/3/3/1/2020)**

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ABO Wind Aggeneys 2 PV (Pty) Ltd is proposing the construction and operation of a Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) with a contracted capacity of up to 500MW/500MWh as part of the authorised Aggeneys 2 solar energy facility, on a site located 11km south-east of Aggeneys in the Northern Cape Province.

The project is located within the Springbok Renewable Energy Development Zone (REDZ), within ward 4 of the Khai-Ma Local Municipality and within the greater Namakwa District Municipality in the Northern Cape Province on the Remaining Extent of Bloemhoek 61.

The purpose and utilisation of a BESS is to save and store excess electrical output as it is generated, allowing for a timed release when the capacity is required. BESS systems therefore provide flexibility in the efficient operation of the electricity grid through decoupling of the energy supply and demand.

The development area of the battery energy storage system is ~ 5ha and is proposed within the area assessed and approved for the solar PV facility, and within either of the two authorised laydown areas. Both laydown areas authorised for the project are being considered for the placement.

The following infrastructure is associated with the BESS:

- Electrochemical battery storage systems with a maximum height of 3.5m; and
- Multi-core 22kV or 33kV underground cables, to follow internal access roads of the PV facility, to connect the battery storage area to the on-site facility substation.

It is the Developer's intention to bid the solar PV facility and the battery energy storage under the Risk Mitigation Independent Power Producer (IPP) Procurement Programme and/or Renewable Energy Independent Power Producer Procurement Programme (REIPPPP) of the Department of Mineral Resources and Energy and/or any future relevant procurement programme. Ultimately, the development of the solar PV facility as well as the battery energy storage system is intended to be part of

the renewable energy projects portfolio for South Africa, as contemplated in the Integrated Resources Plan (IRP).

In light of the above, Environmental Planning and Design was appointed to provide an opinion on whether the proposed amendments would change any impacts, mitigation measures or recommendations as identified in the Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment report dated March 2019 (undertaken by Environmental Planning and Design).

As the proposed battery storage is located within the original development footprint assessed within the Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment and because the proposed battery storage elements are the same height as the adjacent PV array (3.5m) and lower than the on-site substation (up to 10m), this proposed amendment will not change the findings and recommendations included the Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment report.

From a Landscape and Visual Impact perspective, there is no preference with regard to which laydown area is utilised for this purpose and both locations are considered to be acceptable.

Because the proposed BESS will not result in additional visual implications, the proposed amendment is acceptable from a landscape and visual impact perspective.

We trust this letter will provide you with the information required to make a decision on the amendment application. Should you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned using the contact details below.

Kind regards



Jon Marshall

**ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING AND DESIGN**

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