

# Background Information Document for the proposed powerline connection between Bela Bela Photovoltaic (PV) Power Plant and Eskom “Tweekoppies – Warmbad” Substation, Bela-Bela Local Municipality, Waterberg District, Limpopo Province



## THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT PROCESS

The Environmental Impact Assessment process is a requirement in terms of GNR 982, and 983, published on 4 December 2014, as amended, under sections 24(5) and 44 of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998) for the development of a connection from the Eskom “Tweekoppies – Warmbad” substation to the already approved Bela Bela Photovoltaic (PV) Power Plant.

The proposed development will trigger a listed activity as included in GN Regulation 983 and includes the following:

- **Activity 11: The development of facilities or infrastructure for the transmission and distribution of electricity outside urban areas or industrial complexes with a capacity of more than 33 but less than 275 KV**

This process requires a Basic Environmental Impact Assessment to be conducted and Environmental Authorisation is required from the National Department of Forestry, Fisheries, and the Environment (DFFE). An Environmental Impact Assessment can be defined as the process of identifying, predicting, evaluating and mitigating the biophysical, social and other relevant effects of development proposals prior to major decisions been taken and commitments made. The most important objective is to promote development that is sustainable and optimises resource use and management opportunities.

AGES Limpopo (Pty) Ltd was appointed by Cetus Energy (Pty) Ltd to undertake the environmental impact assessment (EIA) for the proposed development and installation of a 132kV powerline connecting the approved Bela Bela Photovoltaic (PV) Power Plant on Portion 67 of the farm Tweefontein 462 KR (DFFE Ref No: 14/12/16/3/3/2/688) to the Eskom “Tweekoppies - Warmbad” substation. The EIA is conducted in order to identify and assess potential environmental impacts, proposing appropriate mitigation and management measures as part of an Environmental Management Programme. This process also gives the opportunity to initiate dialogue with interested and affected parties through a public participation process.

### The aim of this document is:

- To provide information about the proposed project
- To explain the environmental impact assessment process
- To provide an opportunity for participation in the environmental impact assessment process

The Consultation / Draft Basic Assessment Report will be submitted and made available for comments by I&APs and the Final Basic Assessment Report will be submitted to the DFFE for approval.

In addition, An Integrated Water Use License Application (IWULA) will be submitted to Department of Water and Sanitation for applicable water uses listed in Section 21 of the National Water Act, 1998 (Act 36 of 1998).

## LOCALITY

The powerline will traverse Portion 1 of the farm Roodekuil 498 KR, Portion 147 and Remainder of the farm Roodekuil 496 KR, Portion 24 of the farm Buiskop 464 KR, as well as Portions 16, 17, 18 and 19 of the farm Tweefontein 462 KR in the Bela Bela Municipality, Waterberg District of the Limpopo Province.

## DESCRIPTION OF ACTIVITY

Proposed development and installation of a **132kV powerline** connecting the approved Bela Bela Photovoltaic (PV) Power Plant on Portion 67 of the farm Tweefontein 462 KR: DFFE reference number: 14/12/16/3/3/2/688 to the Eskom "Tweekoppies - Warmbad" substation.

## DESCRIPTION OF THE ENVIRONMENT

### Vegetation:

The most recent classification of the area by Mucina & Rutherford shows that the site is classified as Central Sandy Bushveld.

### Topography:

The site and surrounding topography can be described as comprising slightly undulating plains. The highest point on the property is at the north-western corner at an elevation of 1210 m amsl. The lowest point is at the underpass under the N1 Highway at an elevation of 1155 m amsl. The southern corner of the property is at 1158 m amsl. The northern portion of the property is situated on a shallow concave hill slope. The remainder of the site is a valley floor.

### The geology underlying the study area:

Two basic soil profiles exist: a clayey profile within the drainage areas, where decomposition of the feldspar mineral occur; the remainder of the area where mechanical breakdown of the bedrock is the prevalent mode of disintegration of the sandstone bedrock. On the higher lying areas, the soil profile tend to be thicker (up to 4m thick) but in the lower lying areas the soil profile is generally thinner due to erosion. The sandy soil derived from the underlying sandstone is non-plastic, but poorly graded.

### Drainage:

Drainage on site occurs mainly as sheet-wash and sub-surface flow. The central portion of the property has a perched water table during the wet season.

### Climate:

The property is located in the summer rainfall region of South Africa, with an annual rainfall of approximately 481 mm per annum mostly from October to March.

## PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Public involvement is an essential part of the environmental impact assessment process. The proposed project will be advertised in a local newspaper to inform local communities and other stakeholders about the project and request them to register as interested and/or affected parties (I&AP's) if they wish to do so.

The public will also be requested to identify environmental issues. Site notices will be put up at the site and other strategic places. Landowners and neighbouring landowners will be notified in writing and a public meeting will be held if necessary. All issues and comments received from (I&AP's) will be recorded and presented to the project team and regulatory authorities. These issues and comments will be considered and will be addressed in the subsequent reports, which is the outcome of the environmental impact assessment process for this proposed development.

Comments and requests with regard to environmental issues can be made by written submissions to the person listed below on or before 26 September 2022.

## PRELIMINARY SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

The following preliminary significant environmental issues are being investigated during the EIA process:

- Impact of the construction on the physical environment.
- Socio-economic impacts.
- Visual impacts
- Management and mitigation measures to ensure that the ecological integrity is preserved.
- Additional concerns raised by I &AP's.

The possible impacts will be evaluated in terms of the severity, duration, extent, frequency and probability during construction and the operational phases. The methods to be used are internationally recognised and based on facts, experience, and expert opinion.

## PRELIMINARY TIME SCHEDULE

Project announcement and invitation to participate – 26 August – 26 September 2022

Submission of Consultation / Draft Report – October 2022

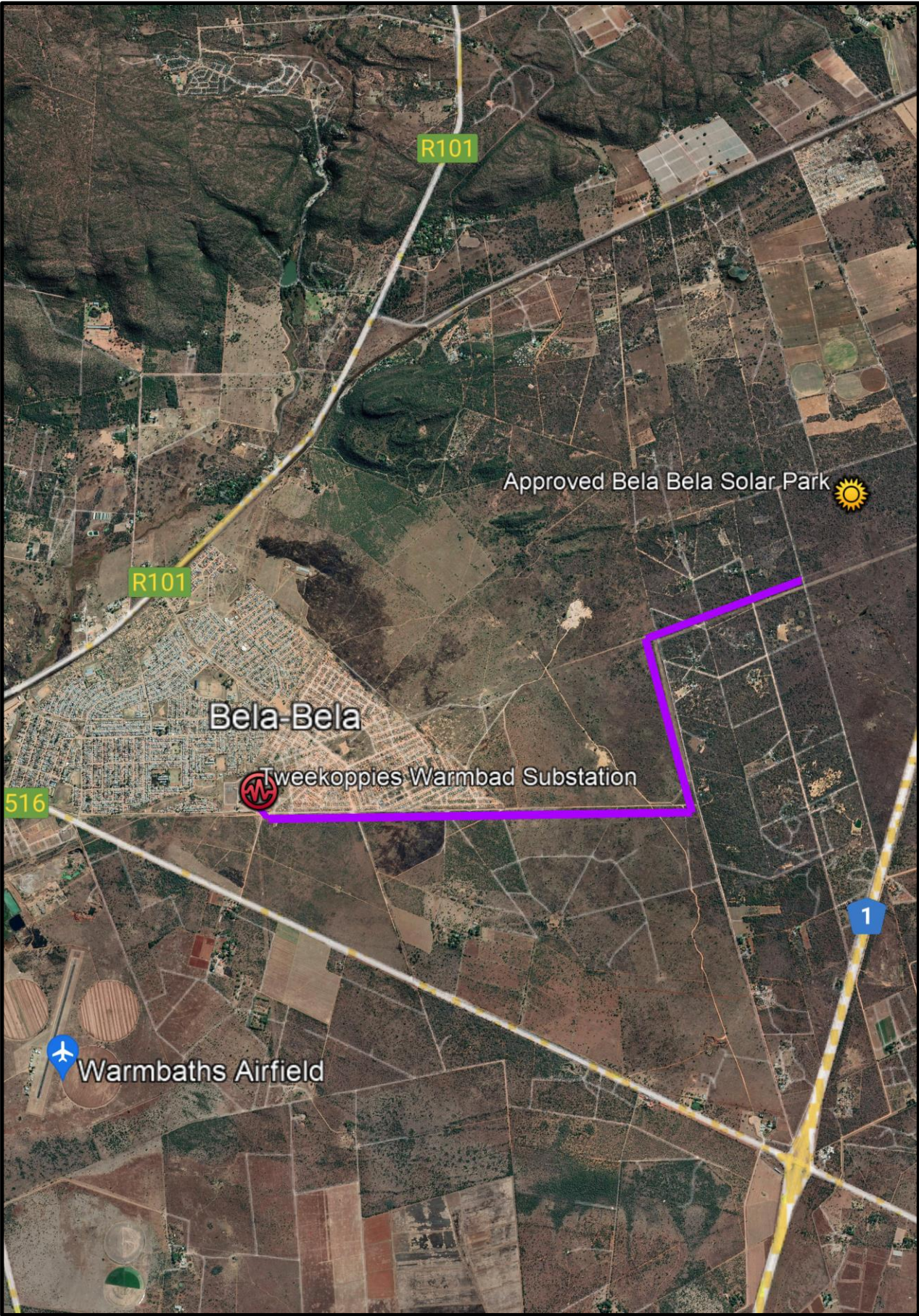
Submission of Final Basic Assessment Report – January 2023

## WHO TO CONTACT

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LOCALITY MAP





**RESPONSE FORM  
BELA BELA POWER LINE**

**CONTACT DETAILS:**

**Title:** .....

**First Name:** .....

**Surname:** .....

**E-mail:** .....

**Cell:** .....

**Telephone:** .....

**Fax:** .....

**Organization (if applicable):** .....

**Capacity (e.g. Chairperson, member, etc):** .....

**Physical Address:** .....

**Town:** ..... **Code:** .....

**Postal Address:** .....

**Town:** ..... **Code:** .....

**YOUR INTEREST IN THE MATTER:**

1. What is your main area of interest with regards to the proposed project?  
.....  
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2. Are there any concerns you would like to raise, at this stage, regarding the proposed project?  
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3. Are there any additional role-players whom we should involve in the process?  
If **“yes”**, please provide us with their contact details (Name, address & telephone numbers):  
.....  
.....

**Date:** ..... **Signature:** .....

**Contact person:** Ms. H. von Well  
**Tel/Fax:** 015 291 1577 **E-mail:** hvonwell@ages-group.com