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COMMENT AND RESPONSE REPORT

MARALLA EAST WIND ENERGY FACILITY

PUBLIC

FEBRUARY 2017

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BioTherm Energy (Pty) Ltd


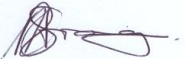
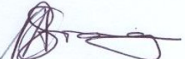
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1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

BioTherm Energy (Pty.) Ltd. (BioTherm) is the proponent and applicant for the Environmental Authorisation (EA) for the Maralla East Wind Energy Facility (WEF). BioTherm is a leading renewable energy project development and financing company that owns, develops, constructs and operates solar and wind projects in South Africa and Sub-Saharan Africa.

BioTherm has proposed the development of three Wind Energy Projects within the Western Cape and a portion of the Northern Cape, namely Maralla East, Maralla West and Esizayo Wind Energy Projects. The wind energy developments will consist of 3 x up to 250 MW. The Wind Energy Projects have been outlined in **Table 1-1**.

It must be stressed that the fact that there are several approved EA surrounding the site does not equate to actual 'development'. The surrounding projects, except for the Preferred Bidders, are still subject to the REIPPPP bidding process like the Maralla East WEF project. Depending on the next bid window Maralla East WEF due to its competitive nature may actually be selected as the next Preferred Bidder and commence with construction prior to other facilities with existing EA approvals. Some of the other proposed Wind Energy facilities received their EA several years ago, but have not secured Preferred Bidder status.

Table 1-1: Projects within the Wind Energy Development Project

PROJECT NUMBER	PROJECT NAME	LOCATION	TECHNOLOGY
1	Maralla East	Northern and Western Cape	Wind
2	Maralla West	Northern Cape	Wind
3	Esizayo	Western Cape	Wind

It is important to note that a separate Scoping and Environmental Impact Reporting (S&EIR) process is being undertaken for each of the above projects. This environmental impact report (EIR) bears relevance to the proposed Maralla East WEF Project only. The Maralla East and Maralla West projects entail separate EA applications and S&EIR processes.

WSP | Parsons Brinckerhoff, Environment and Energy, Africa (WSP | Parsons Brinckerhoff) has been appointed in the role of Independent Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP) to undertake the S&EIR processes for each of the seven projects collectively forming part of the solar energy development.

1.2 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Public participation is understood to be a series of inclusive and culturally appropriate interactions aimed at providing stakeholders with opportunities to express their views, so that these can be considered and incorporated into the S&EIR decision-making process. Effective public participation requires the prior disclosure of relevant and adequate project information to enable stakeholders to understand the risks, impacts, and opportunities of the Proposed Project.

The objectives of the public participation process can be summarised as follows:

- Identify relevant individuals, organisations and communities who may be interested in or affected by the Proposed Project;
- Clearly outline the scope of the Proposed Project, including the scale and nature of the existing and proposed activities;
- Identify viable Proposed Project alternatives that will assist the relevant authorities in making an informed decision;
- Identify shortcomings and gaps in existing information;
- Identify key concerns, raised by Stakeholders that should be addressed in the subsequent specialist studies;
- Highlight the potential for environmental impacts, whether positive or negative; and
- To inform and provide the public with information and an understanding of the Proposed Project, issues and solutions.

THE ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE STAKEHOLDER

Registered stakeholders have the right to bring to the attention of the competent authority any issues that they believe may be of significance to the consideration of the application. The rights of stakeholder are qualified by certain obligations, namely:

- Stakeholders must ensure that their comments are submitted within the timeframes that have been approved by the Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA), or within any extension of a timeframe agreed by the Proponent, EAP or competent authorities;
- Serve a copy of the comments submitted directly to the competent authorities, the Proponent or the EAP; and
- Disclose to the EAP any direct business, financial, personal or other interest that they might have in the approval or refusal of the application.

ROLE OF STAKEHOLDERS

The roles of stakeholders in a public participation process usually include one or more of the following:

- Assisting in the identification and prioritisation of issues that need to be investigated;
- Making suggestions on alternatives and means of preventing, minimising and managing negative impacts and enhancing Proposed Project benefits;
- Assisting in or commenting on the development of mutually acceptable criteria for the evaluation of decision options;
- Contributing information on public needs, values and expectations;
- Contributing local and traditional knowledge; and
- Verifying that their issues have been considered.

RESPONSIBILITY OF STAKEHOLDERS

In order to participate effectively, stakeholders should:

- Become involved in the process as early as possible;
- Register as a stakeholder;
- Advise the EAP of other stakeholders who should be consulted;

- Contribute towards the design of the public participation process (including timeframes) to ensure that it is acceptable to all stakeholders;
- Follow the process once it has been accepted;
- Read the material provided and actively seek to understand the issues involved;
- Give timeous responses to correspondence;
- Be respectful and courteous towards other stakeholders;
- Refrain from making subjective, unfounded or ill-informed statements; and
- Recognise that the process is confined to issues that are directly relevant to the application.

APPROACH TO STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

Our approach to stakeholder engagement is based on the following principles:

- Undertake meaningful and timely participation with stakeholders;
- Focus on important issues during the S&EIR process;
- Undertake due consideration of alternatives;
- Take accountability for information used;
- Encourage co-regulation, shared responsibility and a sense of ownership over the Proposed Project lifecycle;
- Apply "due process" particularly with regard to public participation as provided for in the EIA Regulations; and
- Consider the needs, interests and values of stakeholders.

1.3 EIA PROCESS NOTIFICATION

All notifications distributed to registered stakeholders are included in **Appendix A** of this report.

In accordance with the requirements of GNR 982, the proposed project was advertised in a local and regional newspaper. The purpose of the advertisement was to notify the public about the proposed project and to invite them to register as stakeholders (**Appendix B**). The relevant advertisement dates undertaken during scoping are listed in **Table 1-2**.

Table 1-2: Dates on which the Adverts were published

NEWSPAPER	PUBLICATION DATE
The Courier	9 September 2016
Die Noordwester	8 September 2016

1.4 SCOPING PHASE

SITE NOTICES

The official site notices were erected as per GNR 982 on the boundary fence of the proposed site. **Table 1-3** provides the detail with regards to these locations. In addition, general project notices, announcing the Proposed Project and inviting stakeholders to register, were placed at various locations in and around the project area as outlined in




LOCATION	PHOTOGRAPH
Site Boundary 32° 42' 39.4" S 20° 47' 22.2" E	
Site Boundary 32° 45' 01.1" S 20° 42' 53.68" E	
Site Boundary 32° 44' 21.0" S 20° 43' 28.3" E	

Table 1-4.

Table 1-3: Site Notice Locations




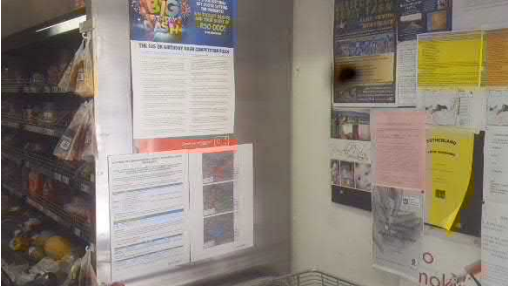
LOCATION	PHOTOGRAPH
Site Boundary 32° 42' 39.4" S 20° 47' 22.2" E	 <p>A photograph showing a utility pole with a sign that reads '042142 23.07 Wee Kang H. Kang'. Two large white notice boards are placed on the ground in a field of low-lying vegetation under a clear blue sky.</p>
Site Boundary 32° 45' 01.1" S 20° 42' 53.68" E	 <p>A photograph showing two large white notice boards attached to a wire fence. The fence is supported by wooden posts. The background shows a dirt road and a hilly landscape.</p>
Site Boundary 32° 44' 21.0" S 20° 43' 28.3" E	 <p>A photograph showing two large white notice boards attached to a wire fence. The fence is supported by wooden posts. The background shows a field of tall grass and a hilly landscape.</p>

Table 1-4: General Project Notice Locations

LOCATION		PHOTOGRAPH
Laingsburg Hub	Tourism	
Laingsburg Library	Public	
Laingsburg Municipality	Local	
Laingsburg OK		
Sutherland Municipality	Local	

LOCATION	PHOTOGRAPH
Sutherland OK	

PUBLIC REVIEW OF THE DRAFT SCOPING REPORT

The DSR was placed on public review for a period of 30 days from **15 September 2016** to **17 October 2016**, at the following venues:

- Sutherland Library
- Laingsburg Library
- WSP | Parsons Brinckerhoff Website

All registered stakeholders and authorising/commenting state departments were notified of the public review period as well as the locations of the DSR via email, sms, and the stakeholder meetings.

STAKEHOLDER MEETINGS

FOCUS MEETINGS

Informal one-on-one stakeholder meetings were held, as required, in order to present the proposed project to key stakeholders and to ask the stakeholder to raise concerns or queries. The one-on-one stakeholder meetings were facilitated at appropriate venues during the DSR review period (30 days). WSP | Parsons Brinckerhoff facilitated the meetings and was accompanied by the applicant during all meetings.

Two focus group meetings were held respectively with the following stakeholders:

- Laingsburg Local Municipality in Laingsburg on 29 September 2016.
- Mr and Mrs Hanekom (Landowner) in Stellenbosch on 28 September 2016.

PUBLIC MEETINGS

Table 1-5 outlines the meetings that were proposed to be held during the DSR review period. The meetings were proposed to outline the details of the proposed project and provided opportunities for stakeholders to raise issues, concerns and queries. The meetings were to establish lines of communication between stakeholders and the project team. The meetings were to be facilitated by WSP | Parsons Brinckerhoff's EIA team and were attended by BioTherm representatives. Invitations to the meetings were sent out in the form of telephone calls, emails, sms's, hand outs and site notices.

Table 1-5: Meetings held during the Draft Scoping Report Review Period

DATE	TIME	VENUE	ATTENDANCE
29 September 2016	18:00 to 20:00	JJ Ellis Hall (<u>Laingsburg</u>)	No

DATE	TIME	VENUE	ATTENDANCE
30 September 2016	09:00 to 11:00	NG Church Hall (Sutherland)	Yes

STAKEHOLDER REVIEW PRIOR TO DSR SUBMISSION

The DSR was made available to all stakeholders and authorities on **15 September 2016**, for a 30-day review period. The comments received from stakeholders have been recorded and incorporated into the FSR which has been submitted to the DEA as well as any other relevant commenting authorities including the DEADP.

1.5 EIA PHASE

STAKEHOLDER AND AUTHORITY CONSULTATION

There will continue to be ongoing communication between WSP | Parsons Brinckerhoff and stakeholders throughout the S&EIR process. These interactions include the following:

- A letter will be sent out to all registered stakeholders providing them with an update of the proposed project once the final scoping report has been approved;
- Interactions with stakeholders will be recorded in the comment and response report;
- Feedback to stakeholders will take place both individually and collectively; and
- Written responses (email, faxes or letters) will be provided to stakeholders acknowledging issues and providing information requested (dependent on availability).
- As per the GNR 982, particular attention will be paid to landowners, and neighbouring communities, specifically where literacy levels and language barriers may be an issue.

PUBLIC REVIEW OF THE DRAFT IMPACT ASSESSMENT REPORT

The draft EIR will be placed on public review for a period of 30 days from **2 February 2017** to **2 March 2017**, at the following venues:

- Laingsburg Public Library;
- Sutherland Public Library;
- Maitjiesfontein Community Centre; and
- WSP | Parsons Brinckerhoff Website.

All registered stakeholders and authorising/commenting state departments will be notified of the public review period as well as the locations of the draft EIR via email, sms, and the stakeholder meetings.

STAKEHOLDER MEETINGS

FOCUS MEETINGS

Informal one-on-one stakeholder meetings will be held, as required, in order to present the findings of the impact assessment to key stakeholders and to ask the stakeholder to raise concerns or queries. The one-on-one stakeholder meetings will be facilitated at appropriate venues during the draft EIR review period (30 days). WSP | Parsons Brinckerhoff will facilitate the meetings and will be accompanied by the applicant during all meetings.

PUBLIC MEETINGS

Table 1-6 outlines the meetings that are to be held during the draft EIR review period. The meetings will present the findings of the impact assessment and provide opportunities for stakeholders to raise issues, concerns and queries. The meetings will be facilitated by WSP | Parsons Brinckerhoff's EIA team and will be attended by BioTherm representatives. Invitations to the meetings will be sent out in the form of emails and sms's.

Table 1-6: Meetings to be held during the Draft Environmental Impact Report Review Period

DATE	TIME	VENUE
23 February 2017	16:30 – 18:30	Matjiesfontein Community Hall
24 February 2017	09:00 – 11:00	NG Church Hall Sutherland

1.6

STAKEHOLDER BREAKDOWN

Table 1-7 provides a breakdown of stakeholders currently registered on the database while **Figure 1-1** illustrates the number of stakeholders per representative sector.

Table 1-7: Breakdown of Stakeholders Currently Registered on the Database

REPRESENTATIVE SECTOR	FURTHER EXPLANATION	No. OF STAKEHOLDERS
Government departments	<p>All tiers of government, namely, national, provincial, local government and parastals. Inclusive of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Department of Energy → Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries → Department of Rural Development and Land Reform → Department of Water and Sanitation → Department of Mineral Resources → Department of Public Works → Department of Environmental Affairs → Department of Environmental Affairs: Biodiversity and Conservation → Western Cape Department of Transport and Public Works → Breede-Gouritz Catchment Management Agency → CapeNature → Department of Environmental Affairs and Development Planning → South African National Parks → Square Kilometre Array South Africa → National Energy Regulator South Africa → Eskom → South African National Energy Development Institute → South African Civil Aviation Authority → Astronomy Management Authority 	46

REPRESENTATIVE SECTOR	FURTHER EXPLANATION	No. OF STAKEHOLDERS
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → South African Astronomical Observatory → Laingsburg Local Municipality → Namakwa District Municipality → Karoo Hoogland Local Municipality → Central Karoo District Municipality → Heritage Western Cape → Civil Aviation Authority 	
Business and consultants	<p>Local and neighbouring businesses in the area.</p> <p>Representatives of consulting organisations that provide services in the area</p>	6
Non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and community based organisations	Agricultural unions, churches, and environmental NGOs	6
General public	Local communities, farmers, the landowner of the site, adjacent landowners and occupiers and other such individuals who may have an interest in the project	21

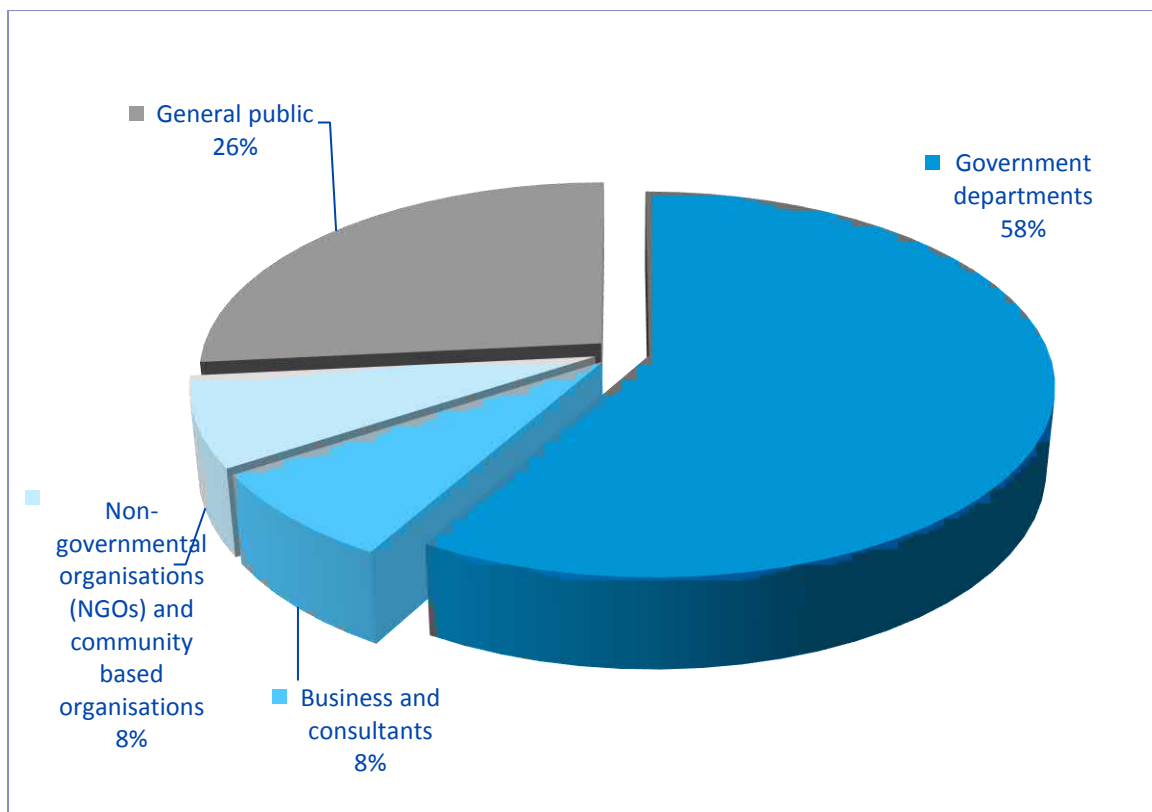


Figure 1-1: Pie chart showing the Breakdown of the Stakeholders currently Registered on the Database per representative sector

1.7 COMMENTS RECEIVED

Comments received from registered stakeholders have been captured and responded to within the comments and response tables included in Section 2 (Authorities), Section 3 (Stakeholders) and Section 4 (Landowners) below. The original comments and responses are included in **Appendix C** and **Appendix D**.

2 AUTHORITIES

AUTHORITY DETAILS	COMMENT	RESPONSE	REPORT REFERENCE
Department of Rural Development and Land Reform			
Mr Samuel Masemola 15 September 2016 Letter	I acknowledge with thanks receipt of your email dated 14 September 2016, regarding the above mentioned subject matter. Kindly note that the matter has been brought to the attention of the Deputy Director General: Spatial Planning and Land Use – Dr Nozizwe Makgalemele for attention and response. Should you wish to make a follow up on this kindly contact Ms Karen: Tel: 012 312 9665. Email: Karen.vanschalkwyk@drdlr.gov.za or Ms Baloi: Tel: 012 312 9851. Email: Malebo.Baloi@drdlr.gov.za	Ashlea Strong from WSP Parsons Brinckerhoff: Thank you for your response. We have added Ms van Schalkwyk and Ms Baloi to our stakeholder database.	Appendix H Appendix P
Mr Samuel Masemola 11 November 2016 Letter	I acknowledge with thanks receipt of your email dated 8 November 2016, regarding the above mentioned subject matter. Kindly note that the matter has been brought to the attention of the Deputy Director General: Spatial Planning and Land Use – Dr Nozizwe Makgalemele for attention and response. Should you wish to make a follow up on this kindly contact Ms Karen: Tel: 012 312 9665. Email: Karen.vanschalkwyk@drdlr.gov.za or Ms Baloi: Tel: 012 312 9851. Email: Malebo.Baloi@drdlr.gov.za	Thank you for your response. We appreciate your ongoing participation in our processes.	Appendix H Appendix P
Cape Nature			
Colin Fordam (Scientific Services – Cape Nature) 15 September 2016	Thanks for the notification of this BID. I have attached our standard requirements for submission to CapeNature. Please submit a hardcopy of the reports including specialist studies for review, in addition to all documentation on disc.	Ashlea Strong from WSP Parsons Brinckerhoff: Thank you for your response.	Appendix P Appendix H

Email	As this proposed development is in Laingsburg, I will be processing this case.	Our Cape Town Office is preparing your hard copies of the Draft Scoping Reports for the Maralla East and Esizayo Projects which fall within the Western Cape Province. The documents were couriered to George on 15 September 2016. WSP Parsons Brinckerhoff added Mr Fordam to the database.	
Colin Fordam (Scientific Services – Cape Nature) 17 October 2016 Formal Letter – Comments on DESR (Maralla East and Esizayo)	APPLICATION IN TERMS OF THE NEMA EIA REGULATIONS FOR THE PROPOSED CHANGE OF LAND USE BY CONSTRUCTION AND INSTALLATION OF TWO 250 MW WIND ENERGY FACILITIES (WEF) (ESIZAYO WEF AND MARALLA EAST WEF) AND ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE OVER THE CENTRAL KAROO AND NAMAKWA DISTRICT MUNICIPAL AREAS, WESTERN AND NORTHERN CAPE PROVINCES DEA REFERENCE NUMBERS: Not yet received	All Responses from Ashlea Strong from WSP Parsons Brinckerhoff:	-
	Cape Nature, as custodian of biodiversity in the Western Cape, would like to thank you for the opportunity to comment on the applications for the construction of two separate Wind Energy Facilities (WEFs) namely the Esizayo and Maralla East WEFs, near Laingsburg. Cape Nature received both applications on the 16th of September 2016 and would like to make the following comments. Please note that our comments only pertain to the biodiversity related impacts and not to the overall desirability of the application. Both the Esizayo and Maralla East WEF's are located to the north of Laingsburg, Western Cape. Esizayo is located wholly within the Western Cape with the Maralla East falls between the Western Cape and Northern Cape (Figure 1). Both WEF's fall within the Unpublished Department of Environmental Affairs Renewable Energy Zone Region (DEA REDZ) (2015). Both applications also fall within the extent of previous applications, for the Esizayo WEF (DEA ref: 12/12/20/2228- withdrawn/lapsed) and Maralla East (DEA ref: 12/12/20/1782 – approved).	WSP Parsons Brinckerhoff take cognisance of this information .	-
	The both WEFs consist of the following infrastructure: - “Up to 125 wind turbines generators with a generating capacity of between 2 and 4MW each. The turbines will have a hub height of up to 120m and rotor diameter of up to 150m. - Concrete foundation to support the turbines - Onsite 132kV Substation, with the transformers for voltage step up from medium voltage to high voltage. Substation will occupy an area of 150mx 150m - The medium voltage collector system will comprise of cables (1kV up to and including	WSP Parsons Brinckerhoff take cognisance of this information and confirm that it is correct.	-

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 33kV) that will be run underground, expect where a technical assessment suggest that overhead lines are applicable, in the facility connecting the turbines to the onsite substation - A laydown area for the temporary storage of materials during the construction activities. - The laydown area will be a maximum of 4ha in size - Permanent laydown for turbine crane platforms - Haul roads between 4 – 6m wide. Double width roads required in strategic places for passing - Temporary site compound for contractors - Operations and maintenance compound area including O&M building, car park and storage area” 		
	<p>The topographical setting for both sites is hilly and according to Mucina and Rutherford, the vegetation units that would be impacted are all Least Threatened (Figure 2). Both WEFs sites are dominated by Central Mountain Shale Renosterveld (Not Protected). In the South-Eastern portion of the Esizayo WEF there is also some of the Koedoesberge - Moordenaars Karoo Vegetation Unit (Hardly Protected) present. Similarly the North-Eastern portion of the Maralla East WEF there is some of the Roggeveld Shale Renosterveld Vegetation Unit (Not Protected) present. The conservation target for the Central Mountain Shale Renosterveld is listed as 27%, the Koedoesberge - Moordenaars Karoo Vegetation Unit is listed as 19 % and the Roggeveld Shale Renosterveld is listed as 27%.</p> <p>For both WEF facilities there is a variety of freshwater habitat present with numerous non-perennial streams and Freshwater Ecosystem Priority Areas (FEPAs) present.</p>	<p>WSP Parsons Brinckerhoff take cognisance of this information and confirm that it is correct.</p>	<p>-</p>
	<p>Following a review of both WEF Draft Scoping Reports, and given the above mentioned sensitivity of the site, CapeNature would like to make the following comments/recommendations:</p>	<p>-</p>	<p>-</p>
	<p>The map illustrating the extent of all three WEF facilities, in both draft scoping reports (labelled as Figure 1-1 and as the first map in Appendix P), appears offset. This is particularly noticeable with the Maralla East location which appears to be much further into the Northern Cape, than the Western Cape especially compared to Figure 1 of this comment. CapeNature used supplied map GPS coordinates to double check the locations illustrated (which are labelled POI on Figure 1). It is recommended that the Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP) confirm the location of the facilities and update the extent of these maps accordingly. Specialists should also be informed of any changes.</p>	<p>WSP Parsons Brinckerhoff noted this comment and has updated the figure in question.</p>	<p>Section 1.2 Figure 1.1</p>

	<p>The Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA) Renewable Energy (RE) Environmental Authorisation (EA) data for the second quarter of 2016 illustrated the following (Figure 1):</p> <p>The majority of the Esizayo WEF farm portions fall within the extent of a previous WEF application (DEA Ref #: 12/12/20/2228), by Inca Komsberg Wind Pty Ltd, which has been withdrawn or has lapsed. There is no mention of this application in the Esizayo Scoping Report (besides in Table 5-2). CapeNature would like to enquire why this application was discussed or stated in the Esizayo Final Scoping Report.</p>	<p>WSP Parsons Brinckerhoff is aware that the Esizayo WEF site is located on areas with previously existing EAs. However, these EAs on the Esizayo site have been withdrawn or have lapsed. It is understood that this is as a result of the proposed WEF not being identified as a preferred bidder.</p>	<p>Section 10.3 Appendix Y</p>
	<p>Similarly, the eastern portion of the Maralla East WEF site appears to fall on an approved WEF by Mainstream Renewable Power Sutherland property (DEA Ref #: 12/12/20/1782). There is no mention of this application in the Maralla East Draft Scoping Report (besides in Table 5-2). CapeNature would like to enquire if it is proposed that this facility co-exist with the other proposed WEF? Is it possible for both WEFs to receive Renewable Energy Independent Power Producer Procurement Programme (REIPPPP) status? CapeNature believes for transparency purposes, this should be discussed in more detail in the Maralla East Final Scoping Report.</p>	<p>WSP Parsons Brinckerhoff is aware that the Maralla East WEF site is located on areas with existing EAs. It is understood from the landowner that the previous developer has decided not to develop these portions of the previous application and that they are currently undertaking an amendment process to remove these farms from their EA.</p>	<p>Section 10.3 Appendix Y</p>
	<p>CapeNature recommends that the EAP consider including the following aspects in Section 2-2 of the Draft Scoping Report dealing with relevant legislation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The EAP did not mention Conservation of Agricultural Resources Act, 1983 (Act No. 43 of 1983) (“CARA”) legislation. In terms of the CARA landowners must prevent the spread of alien invasive plants on the property. The level of alien infestation is therefore not be seen as reducing the sensitivity of a site, nor is the subsequent removal of alien vegetation from a property regarded as a mitigation measure due to this is a legal requirement. Infestation by alien plants does not necessarily mean that an area is not important for biodiversity as some vegetation types are particularly prone to invasive alien infestation but may recover when cleared of alien vegetation. • In addition to CARA, in terms of the Alien and Invasive Species Regulations, NEM: BA ,2014, specific alien plant species (e.g. <i>Acacia mearnsii</i>) are either prohibited or listed as requiring a permit; aside from restricted activities concerning, inter alia, their spread, and should be removed; without the use of heavy machinery (as this could trigger activities listed i.t.o. the EIA Regulations of 2014). • CapeNature expects additional information regarding methods of alien plant control to be included in the Environmental Management Programmes (EMPr) of each application. 	<p>WSP Parsons Brinckerhoff have added a discussion regarding CARA in the Draft EIR.</p>	<p>Section 3.2</p>

	<p>The following comments relate to the Biodiversity Specialist Reports Appended to Appendix H of both Draft Scoping Reports:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recently the Fynbos Forum Ecosystem Guidelines for Environmental Assessment in the Western Cape v 2 (de Villiers et al., 2016) was released. Cape Nature recommends that the specialist review these guidelines and update the biodiversity report where required. • The most recent CBA layer for the Western Cape is the WCBF (Pence 2014)⁷ not Skowno et al. (2009) and the report should be updated in this regard. • In light of climate change concerns, Cape Nature recommends that the specialist considers cross referencing a study by Hughes et al. (2007)⁹ regarding suitable Riverine Rabbit (<i>Bunolagus monticularis</i>) habitat and (if required), updating the report accordingly. 	<p>These requirements have been included in the Biodiversity Specialist study.</p>	<p>Appendix L</p>
	<p>The following comments are from the Cape Nature Avifaunal specialist and relate to the Avifaunal Specialist Reports Appended to Appendix I of both Draft Scoping Reports:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are nests of raptors either within or just outside the property (Esizayo) and a roost on the boundary of the property (Maralla). In terms of the Verreaux's Eagle and Martial Eagle, where the exclusion zones are sighted around the nest and roost respectively, CapeNature cautions that it is possible that the foraging areas for these birds may occur inside the properties and that these exclusion zones, may need to be adapted to cater for such instances. It is probable that the Avifaunal Specialist is aware of this as he made mention of collisions in the Eastern Cape as a direct result of this, and this will have to be accounted for in the pre-construction monitoring phase. • The current layout of the turbines on both properties is fairly evenly dispersed over the entire property. These windfarms are all in natural vegetation and there is a strong possibility of habitat loss for sensitive species. The threatened Southern Black Korhaan for example (of which there are fairly high number of sightings on the properties), depends on natural vegetation for its existence and has disappeared from areas where the natural vegetation has been replaced by agriculture. These species can be catered for by concentrating turbines so that larger areas of undisturbed areas are available for them. The monitoring needs to take this into account and identify areas where these species occur in higher numbers so that turbine placement can be effectively implemented. • The one aspect that is not dealt with is the accumulative impact. Both sites are surrounded by other windfarm developments either proposed or at the bidding stage. Considering the size of the area that will eventually be under windfarms, this aspect needs to be addressed. Currently the accumulative impact is a difficult subject to address as there are a number of stakeholders involved because of the different applications, but DEA needs to be made aware of this and be reminded on a regular basis as they will 	<p>The following responses have been provided by the Avifauna Specialist:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The exclusion zones have since been revised, based on the results of the pre-construction monitoring, which provided a more accurate indication of potential high-risk zones. • The pre-construction monitoring revealed a strong concentration of Southern Black Korhaan in the west of the proposed Maralla East development site, spilling over slightly into Maralla West with very few sightings in the remainder of the study area. This could possibly be linked to the flat topography in this area. Only four turbines are located in this area, which means that displacement of the species from this area is highly unlikely. • The issue of cumulative impacts is addressed under Section 5.8 of this report. 	<p>Appendix M</p>

have to come up with a plan to address this issue. The other aspect is the accumulative impact of collisions that also need to be addressed.

- CapeNature is looking forward to analysing the avifaunal monitoring results and proposed mitigation measures in light thereof.

The following comments relate to the Bat Specialist Reports Appended to Appendix J of both Draft Scoping Reports:

- The reports refers to the 2014 good practice guidelines for monitoring bats at WEFS, however these guidelines were revised this year: http://www.sabaa.org.za/20160609_SAGoodPracticeGuidelinesforSurveyingBatsatWEFS_PreEIA_4th%20ed_FINAL.pdf. CapeNature recommends that the specialist update his report accordingly.
- Bat data is only going to be collected using passive recorders, which are located at three sites at Esizayo and four, including one with paired microphones at Maralla East. What is the total area of the study sites? It is recommended that the number of passive recording stations should be increased if > 20,000 ha. In general, the geographical coverage of the area is therefore extremely limited. This could also be addressed by including nightly surveys along vehicle tracks and even on foot, using a portable EM3 recorder.
- There should also be intensive roost searches and surveys conducted by the specialist, with appropriate buffers around known roosts recommended.
- There are references to bat mortalities recorded at two pilot WEF sites, but not to those recorded during post-construction monitoring at operational WEFs. Is there any data available on this, perhaps via the SA Bat Assessment Association?
- In the reports, the recommended buffers are changed from 200 m to 100 m for high sensitivity areas, and 100 m to 50 m for medium sensitivity areas. No explanation is given for this relaxing of the buffers and therefore can the specialist provide comment in this regarding especially considering the 2016 survey guidelines quoted below:

“For wind turbine developments, including all parts of the blades and towers, SABAAP recommends, as an absolute minimum, a buffer of 200m around all potentially bat important features, e.g. delineated watercourses, i.e. from the edge of the riparian zone or from the edge of the outer wetland zone (DWAf definition), woodland vegetation (any trees or bush clumps considered important on site, including alien vegetation), outbuildings (all structures considered as potentially important for bats – water towers, farm buildings, bridges, artificial roosts, etc.), rocky outcrops, topographical ridges and Protected Areas (as described in NEMA: Protected Areas Act 57 of 2003). The exception

The following responses have been provided by the Bat Specialist:

- This has been identified as a typing error in the report and has been rectified. However, it must be noted that the study commenced in October 2015 and thus the study design was done per the 2014 good practice guidelines.
- As mentioned above, the study commenced in October 2015 such that the study design was done per the 2014 good practice guidelines. The passive monitoring systems satisfy the requirements of the 2014 version of guidelines.
- The methodology of the study includes vehicle driven transects with the use of a Wildlife Acoustics SM2BAT+ bat detector. The transects have been carried out over every site visit for each season of the year.
- Roost searches on foot have been conducted during the site visits. No roosts were found.
- The bat monitoring study reports from operation wind energy facilities have not yet been made publicly available and thus no reference can

Appendix N

	<p>to the above distance is for confirmed or suspected roosts (permanent or seasonal roosts), where the following buffers should apply:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A buffer of 500 m for a colony of 1 – 50 Least Concern bats • A buffer of 1 km for a colony of 50 – 500 Least Concern bats • A buffer of 2.5 km for a colony of >500 High Risk Least Concern bats • A buffer of 500 m for a colony of 1 – 50 Low Risk Conservation Important bats • A buffer of 1 km for a colony of 1 – 50 Med-High Risk Conservation Important bats • A buffer of 1 km for a colony of 50 - 500 Low Risk Conservation Important bats • A buffer of 2.5 km for a colony of 50 - 500 Med-High Risk Conservation Important bats • A buffer of 2.5 km for a colony of 500 - 2000 Low Risk Conservation Important bats • A buffer of 10 km for a colony of 500 - 2000 Med-High Risk Conservation Important bats • A buffer of 20 km for a colony of >2000 Bats of any status or risk level “ <p><i>These are minimum values and they do not exempt the developer from implementing additional mitigation measures outside of the buffer zones where bat activity levels dictate. For other associated wind energy facility development, such as buildings, sub-stations, roads and powerlines, SABAAP recommends:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <i>For roads: The 200m minimum buffer applies to bat roosts, but roads can cross bat important foraging areas, as long as all the other water use license mitigation measures are in place in the case of wetlands and rivers.</i> ○ <i>For power lines: No powerline infrastructure should be constructed within 2km of any large known confirmed roosts and 500m from smaller confirmed roosts. However, power lines can cross bat important foraging areas area, as long as all the other water use license mitigation measures are in place in the case of wetlands and rivers.</i> ○ <i>For buildings and sub-station infrastructure: the 200m minimum buffer applies.”</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Curtailment (cut-in speeds) is rejected as being not effective enough to prevent bat mortalities. Can the specialist provide suitable evidence regarding this statement? There are several papers such as Arnett et al. (2011)¹⁰ and Baerwald et al. (2009)¹¹ that 	<p>be made to operational facilities at this time.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Specialist reduced the sensitivity buffer zones on the basis that the bat sensitivity map was extensive and strict within itself such that the Specialist feels the sensitive areas across the entire site were well covered and protected. Additionally, the relative abundance of bat activity detected across the site had been identified as relatively low. The recommended mitigation measures listed within this final report are also extensive and strict. Thus, the combination of the meticulous sensitivity map (which the developer has respected when devising the turbine layout), relatively low bat activity and extensive mitigation measures ensure sufficient bat protection and conservation. • Curtailment was not rejected as being not effective enough. The below paragraph comes directly from the introduction section of the report: <p>“Mitigation measures are being researched and experimented with globally, but are still only effective on a small scale. An exception is the implementation of curtailment processes, where the turbine cut-in speed is raised to a higher wind speed. This relies on the principle that the prey of bats will not be found in areas of strong winds and more energy is required for the bats to fly under these conditions. It is thought,</p> 	
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	<p>describe significant reductions in bat mortalities after the introduction of cut-in speeds. Therefore, it is possible that cut-in speeds are likely to be at least as effective, possibly more so, than relocating turbines.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alternatives regarding turbine design should be considered to mitigate risk of direct mortality, for e.g. minimize rotor swept area (shorter blades are better), and maximize the ground-to-blade-tip distance. Can the specialist provide comment regarding how effective this could be as a mitigation measure? • Given the extensive coverage of WEF projects across the region, can the specialist comment on how effective a provision for the possibility of temporary turbine shutdowns could be in case of mass mortality events, e.g. related to migration? 	<p>that by the implementation of such a measure, that bats in the area are not likely to experience as great an impact as when the turbine blades move slowly in low wind speeds. However, this measure is currently not effective enough to translate the impact of wind turbines on bats to a category of low concern.”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The report also makes mention of the correct placement of wind farms and of individual turbines significantly decreasing the impacts on bat fauna, and that turbine relocation is the first step of impact mitigation. • The incident of bat fatalities for migrating species has been found to be directly related to turbine height, increasing exponentially with altitude, as this disrupts the migratory flight paths (Howe et al. 2002, Barclay et al. 2007). Although the number of fatalities of migrating species increased with turbine height, this correlation was not found for increased rotor sweep (Howe et al. 2002, Barclay et al. 2007). • The preconstruction bat monitoring study results for Esizayo WEF indicate a lower relative bat abundance detected by the 80m microphone of the met mast monitoring system than the 10m microphone of the met mast monitoring system. Thus, general bat activity (not specific to migratory species) and diversity is higher nearer to the ground (nearer to 	
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		<p>canopy level) such that the blade tip height from the ground should be as high as possible. Additionally, reducing the rotor swept area of the turbines by using shorter blades decreases the probability of bat mortalities based on smaller 'danger zones' from the rotating blades.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Broad scale temporary turbine shut downs are, to date, the most effective means of mitigating the mortality of bats by turbines, and it is imperative that they be implemented in the case of a migratory event being detected. The pre-construction bat monitoring study did not identify a migratory event however, there is provision in the mitigation section of the final report in the case of such an event. The WEF mitigation must take on an adaptive management approach, and it is crucial that any suggested changes to the initial proposed mitigation schedule be implemented within a maximum of 2 weeks from the date of the recommendation. 	
	<p>CapeNature agrees with the Draft Scoping Reports that a Freshwater Habitat Impact Assessment (wetland) report, should be compiled. This report must accurately delineate the extent of any freshwater resources and determine the impact that both WEFs would have on the surrounding freshwater ecosystems. Suggested Terms of Reference for this study include (but are not limited to):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accurate wetland or riparian system delineation and characterisation as per DWAF (2008). All WEF infrastructure and development footprints should be overlaid on this map to accurately determine the impact the WEF would have on the freshwater resources. Suitable buffers should be also be delineated and illustrated. 	<p>The following responses have been provided by the Surface Water Specialist:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The surface water report provides an initial high-level identification of freshwater habitat systems within the site boundary. This is due to the extent of the site, accessibility constraints and lack of information relating to the positioning of operational and road infrastructure. Should Biotherm be recognised as a Preferred Bidder, the required 	<p>Appendix Q</p>

- In line with DWS (2014) guidelines the specialist must determine the Present Ecological State (PES) and Ecological Importance and Sensitivity (EIS) of impacted systems, which will in turn determine the DWS Recommended Ecological Category (REC)
- Identification, prediction and description of the potential impacts of that the proposed WEFs would have on the delineated wetland/riparian areas and the significance of these impacts (qualitative assessment), must be determined.
- Mitigation measures for the abovementioned identified impacts must be stated and rehabilitation measures proposed should decommissioning take place.

application for a Water Use Licence (WUL) in terms of Section 21 of the National Water Act (NWA) (Act 36 of 1998) may commence. This application (WULA) will require detailed functional assessments (i.e. PES, EIS and EcoServices) of freshwater habitats potentially affected. Therefore, a recommendation within this land capability and freshwater identification report (Section 8) is a more in-depth and thorough freshwater functional assessment be conducted should BioTherm be recognised as a Preferred Bidder. At this stage design details should be available allowing the freshwater specialist to assess specific areas within the site. Another recommendation is that the freshwater specialist be present onsite during the construction phase of the project, and conduct an in-depth site walkover prior to any site work to assess the area for any wetlands and watercourses which may be affected by the actions conducted during the construction phase (e.g. road construction).

- The potential impacts to the land and freshwater habitat systems were defined at a generic and high level. This entailed a desktop review and site visit from which an initial the scoping report was developed.
- Mitigative measures are presented within this report. Further site-specific mitigative measures must be

		included in the abovementioned full functional assessment.	
	It should be recorded under Table 9-5, regarding protected plant species, CapeNature may need to be approached to issue plant permits in terms of the Western Cape Nature Conservation Ordinance (No 19 of 1974) and its amendments.	The permits potentially required in terms of the Western Cape Nature Conservation Ordinance (No 19 of 1974) have been added to the FSR.	-
	To conclude both WEFs are located in sensitive ecosystems and therefore the investigation in alternative layouts (as is stated in the conclusions chapter of each report), is advised. CapeNature may provide additional comment on the Final Scoping Reports for both Esizayo and Maralla East WEFs and reserves the right to revise initial comment and request further information based on any additional information that may be received	WSP Parsons Brinckerhoff take note of CapeNature's right to provide additional comment.	Appendix H
Western Cape Department of Environmental Affairs and Development Planning (WC DEADP)			
Adri La Meyer (Directorate: Development Facilitation WCDEADP) 17 October 2016	COMMENT ON THE DRAR SCOPING REPORT AND PLAN OF STUDY FOR ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT FOR THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF THE MARALLA EAST WIND ENERGY FACILITY	All Responses from Ashlea Strong from WSP Parsons Brinckerhoff:	
Formal Letter – Comments on DESR – Maralla East	The Draft Scoping Report ("DSR") and Plan of Study for Environmental Impact Assessment ("EIA") dated September 2016 as received by the Department on 16 September 2016 refers.	-	
	Based on information contained in the DSR, the following consolidated comment by various directorates in Department is hereby offered. The Department requests that the following impacts pertaining to the receiving environment be assessed and taken into account with the final design and layout of the proposed wind energy facility ("WEF") and responded to in the Draft EIA Report.	WSP thanks the WC DEADP for providing comment on the Draft Scoping Report.	Appendix H
	It is understood that the applicant, BioTherm Energy (Pty) Ltd, proposes the following: - Development of a 250 megawatt WEF with associated infrastructure within the Komsberg Renewable Energy Development Zone ("REDZ"); - The Esizayo WEF development will include up to 125 turbines with each turbine occupying approximately 0.5ha; turbine hub height of up to 120m; and a rotor diameter of up to 150m; - Internal roads of approximately 60km in length and between 4m and 6m in width will be required;	WSP take cognisance of this information and confirm that it is correct.	-

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Development of an on-site 132kV substation (150m x 150m); and - Ancillary infrastructure (workshop, storage areas, office, temporary laydown area, cement botching plant, etc.) for the WEF will be required. - In addition to the proposed Esizayo WEF, it is understood that the applicant is also applying for the Maralla West WEF (Northern Cape) and the Maralla East WEF (Northern and Western Cape). 		
	<p>National Protected Areas Expansion Strategy ("NPAES") and Komsberg REDZ</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - This Directorate is concerned that the Komsberg REDZ overlaps with the Western Karoo NPAES focus area. The WEF development will involve alteration of landscape connectivity and in overlay with the identified ecological sensitivities (Critically Biodiversity Areas ("CBAs") and Ecological Support Areas). The competent authority therefore needs to verify whether the REDZ and NPAES strategies are compatible. - The entire development site with the exception of a very small portion in the northern corner of the development site, falls within a CBA and the majority of site overlaps with the Western Karoo NPAES focus area (Todd, May 2016). - It is noted that the development site is identified as priority area within the NPAES, not only because it is a large tract of unfragmented natural vegetation, but also due to its high climate and landscape variation, which is important for climate resilience. This Directorate is therefore concerned about the development of the site based on its importance for future ecological and climate resilient targets. - This Directorate supports the opinion of the Botanical Specialist (Todd, May 2016) that development within the NPAES will contribute to cumulative habitat loss with the potential to cumulatively compromise conservation targets, exacerbated by the amount of WEFs planned within the NPAES area. 	<p>These requirements have been included in the Biodiversity Specialist Study.</p>	<p>Appendix L</p>
	<p>Ecology impacts and mitigation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - It is noted from the DSR that species of concern are likely to be concentrated along the alluvial soils of the drainage lines and on the high-lying ridges of the site above 1300m. This Directorate is concerned about the conflict between the alluvial soils and high-lying ridges (i.e. areas of species concern) and the proposed placement of wind turbines. - This Directorate is also concerned about the location of the development site, which falls largely within a CBA. From the Scoping Biodiversity Specialist Study (Todd, May 2016) it appears that up to thirty (30) turbines are likely to be located within areas of high 	<p>These requirements have been included in the Biodiversity Specialist Study.</p>	<p>Appendix L</p>

	<p>ecological sensitivity/areas bordering on high ecological sensitivity. This Directorate does not support any turbines or infrastructure within areas of very high ecological sensitivity.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Furthermore. it appears that up to twenty (20) turbines are likely to be located within areas of medium-high ecological sensitivity. This Directorate does not support any turbines or infrastructure within areas of medium-high ecological sensitivity without further detailed information as to the exact degree of ecological sensitivity. - The Directorate supports the limitation on the placement of turbines and infrastructure in areas of medium ecological sensitivity. - This Directorate further recommends that consideration be given to the clustering of turbines and infrastructure to minimise ecological impact. - This Directorate supports the recommendation made by the Biodiversity Specialist that development within CBAs should not be encouraged.as it will cumulatively compromise the ecological functioning and integrity of the CBA. - This Directorate recommends that the development proposal be revised based on detailed ecological sensitivity mapping. including seasonal site species data. to inform a finer scale final WEF layout. 		
	<p>Aquatic impacts and mitigation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The proposed development site includes a key drainage feature namely the Roggeveld River which has been identified as vulnerable to any form of disturbance and development impact (Todd, May2016). This Directorate recommends the establishment of an appropriate ecological and hydrological buffer. which will prevent any potential impacts on the system. - The EIA phase should include an appropriate specialist assessment of the impacts on the aquatic feature or system and other potential impacts on the drainage lines. wetlands and riparian zones on the development site. - The final layout should be informed by the findings of the aforementioned assessment in such a way that it limits the impact on the receiving aquatic environment and delineate watercourses and wetlands. including river crossing.as for as possible. - The physical removal of riparian zones and disturbance to any alluvial watercourses and wetlands should be avoided. - This Directorate supports the use of existing roads regardless if these cross any wetlands to minimise the scale of any potential impacts due to activities that are associated with the proposed development. 	<p>The following responses have been provided by the Surface Water Specialist Study:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This report provides an initial high-level identification of freshwater habitat systems within the site boundary. This is due to the extent of the site, accessibility constraints and lack of information relating to the positioning of operational and road infrastructure. Should Biotherm be recognised as a Preferred Bidder, the required WULA in terms of NWA may commence. This application (WULA) will require detailed functional assessments (i.e. PES, EIS and EcoServices) of freshwater habitats potentially affected. Therefore, a recommendation within this land capability and freshwater 	<p>Appendix Q</p>

- This Directorate does not support any transmission line towers, substations or construction camps within the delineated watercourses and associated buffers.
- Any potential impacts on the sub-surface drainage lines, as a result of cut and fill activities should be firstly avoided by sound placement of the proposed wind turbines or be minimised through a conservative design and layout approach, which takes due cognisance of the site specific biophysical attributes, as well as the broad-scale ecological environment (e.g. corridor connectivity).

identification report (Section 8) is a more in-depth and thorough freshwater functional assessment be conducted should BioTherm be recognised as a Preferred Bidder. Appropriate buffers for the identified systems must then form part of the in-depth assessment report. At this stage design details should be available allowing the freshwater specialist to assess specific areas within the site and determine proximity of the structures to freshwater systems. Another recommendation is that the freshwater specialist be present onsite during the construction phase of the project, and conduct an in-depth site walkover prior to any site work to assess the area for any wetlands and watercourses which may be affected by the actions conducted during the construction phase (e.g. road construction).

- Agreed, as far as possible physical removal of riparian zones and disturbance to any alluvial watercourses and wetlands must be avoided.
- Agreed, as far as possible the existing road network must be utilised.
- Noted.
- Noted, the abovementioned detailed freshwater habitat assessment must provide recommendations in terms of placement of the wind turbines (and

	associated infrastructure) in relation to freshwater habitats.	
<p>Avifauna impacts and mitigation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - It is noted from the DSR that avifauna! impacts may result from both direct and indirect habitat transformation. including an impact on priority avifauna! species. This Directorate therefore supports the recommendation by the specialist that the development footprint (and hence habitat transformation) be restricted as for as possible. - This Directorate supports the recommendation of the Avifauna Specialist Study (Chris van Rooyen Consulting. April 2016) that all turbines should be excluded from east and west-facing slopes and nest buffers. - This Directorate does not support development of turbines within the avifaunal exclusion/buffer zones. as per Figure 3 of the Avifauna Specialist Study. 	<p>The following response has been provided by the Avifauna Specialist:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The exclusion zones have since been revised, based on the results of the pre-construction monitoring, which provided a more accurate indication of potential high-risk zones. 	Appendix M
<p>Access roads and infrastructure</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Access roads should follow existing access roads/internal roads as for as possible. - This Directorate will not support access roads/internal roads within areas of very high or high ecological sensitivity. - At the same time, cognisance should be given to limited road length, i.e. finding the optimal balance between cumulative road distances and ecological sensitivity impact avoidance. 	<p>WSP has taken cognisance of these requirements during the identification and assessment of access roads during the EIA phase.</p>	Section 7.4
<p>Visual and health impact</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - This Directorate supports the Visual Specialist Study (Gebhardt, July 2016) recommendation that prominent ridgelines in the landscape should be avoided when positioning turbines and other infrastructure. - Furthermore, it is noted from the DSR that steep slopes are visually sensitive. This Directorate furthermore supports the exclusion of steep slopes from the development footprint. 	<p>The following responses have been provided by the Visual Specialist:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prominent ridgelines and steep slopes are visually more sensitive than lower lying areas. However, the siting of turbines is constrained by wind farm efficiency which depends, in part, on precise turbine siting, based on local topography, the local 	Appendix T

- This Directorate acknowledges the visual intrusion due to turbine size/height and visibility, and the lack of screening opportunities in the landscape. This Directorate therefore recommends the elimination of turbines from any high sensitivity areas.
- This Directorate does not support the location of turbines within 800m from an occupied building and recommends that international standards and guidelines pertaining to shadow flickering be adopted.

wind regime, and other technical factors, which in turn influences the feasibility of the project. It is important for the site's sensitivities, including ridgelines, to be considered holistically to ensure the best possible ecological design. In the proposed site layout, the Applicant has reduced the number of turbines on the site from 125 to 70. Many of the turbines on higher lying areas have therefore been removed, but some remain. These will be more visible and have been discussed and rated accordingly in the VIA.

- While the natural vegetation provides little screening, the undulating, highly dissected topography of the area provides very effective screening. Additionally many dwellings are situated within the low lying valleys and are often surrounded by windbreaks and shade trees which provide good screening
- The PGWC guidelines recommend a buffer of 400m around rural dwellings. The unpublished draft National Wind and Solar PV Strategic Environmental Assessment recommends a buffer of 800m within the site boundary and 2 – 4km outside the site boundary, which can be relaxed depending on the viewshed and visibility.

The draft Visual Scoping Report stipulated the PGWC buffer for dwellings as a minimum requirement on the sensitivity map. The closest dwellings to a turbines are De Bron,

		<p>situated within the site boundary which is 700m away and Aanstoot, which 800m away. Aurora, also within the site boundary is about 1km away from the nearest turbine.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No dwellings more than 1,5km away from the turbines will be affected by shadow flicker (10 times the rotor blade diameter). Shadow flicker is discussed and assessed in greater detail in the VIA. 	
	<p>Heritage and archaeological impact and mitigation</p> <p>The final WEF layout must be subjected to an intensive heritage and archaeological survey and impact assessment, as per the specialist recommendations. All resulting micro-sitting mitigation measures identified must be reported on the in Draft EIA Report.</p>	<p>The following response has been provided by the Heritage specialist:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is not possible to do an intensive survey at the EIA phase, as the final layout of the facility has not been finalised. The walk-down of the most sensitive area must take place during the EMPPr. 	<p>Appendix R</p>
	<p>Paleontological impact and mitigation</p> <p>The final WEF layout must be subjected to an intensive paleontological impact assessment, as per the specialist recommendations. All resulting micro-sitting mitigation measures identified must be reported on the in Draft EIA Report.</p>	<p>The following response has been provided by the Palaeontological specialist:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A four-day palaeontological field study of the Esizayo WEF study area has been carried out by J. Almond and assistants (February, 2016), as recommended in the Scoping report (Almond 2016d). Given the large size of the study area and low level of bedrock exposure, the survey focused mainly on good bedrock exposures in riverbanks, erosion gulleys and steeper hillslopes, rather than on the development footprint. It was concluded that the bedrocks within the WEF study area are only sparsely fossiliferous and the 	<p>Appendix S</p>

		proposed WEF layout is unlikely to compromise unique, scientifically-important fossil heritage in EIA report. Accordingly, no recommendations for changes to the proposed layout have been made.	
	<p>Erosion prevention and mitigation</p> <p>This Directorate has noted that many parts of the development site are steep; hence vulnerability to the effects of erosion is considered a significant potential impact. The Draft EIA Report should clearly demonstrate how this potential impact will be prevented, mitigated and addressed.</p>	WSP has taken cognisance of this requirement and it is included in the Environmental Management Programme.	Appendix W
	<p>Cumulative impact</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - This Directorate is concerned about the high density of renewable energy development proposals in the greater surrounding area. Which questions the need and desirability of the Esizayo WEF development proposal. <p>This Directorate recommends that the Draft EIA Report, including specialist studies. Take cognisance of specialist studies from surrounding renewable energy applications/ other specialist</p>	A cumulative impact assessment has been included in the Draft EIA Report.	Section 10
	<p>WEF and electrical infrastructure applications</p> <p>This Directorate supports the requirement imposed by the competent authority that the Final EIA Report for this WEF application be submitted at the same time as the Final Basic Assessment Report for the power line application to aid impact assessment and decision-making.</p>	-	-
	<p>Specialist Impact Assessments</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - It is noted that a number of specialist studies have been undertaken as part of the Scoping Phase. - These studies were presumably undertaken for the purpose of identifying potential issues of concern and/or potential impacts upfront. The applicant/project team is however reminded to still undertake specialist impact assessment studies that are informed by the findings of the Scoping Phase. These specialist impact assessment studies must meet 	All in-house specialists will be peer reviewed. Peer Reviewers have been identified and appointed in this regard.	Section 5.1 Appendix J

	<p>the requirements of the relevant EIA Guidelines and any other requirements which the competent authority may have.</p> <p>As indicated by the competent authority during the pre-application meeting held on 25 August 2016, all specialist studies undertaken by in-house specialists (i.e. Social; Land capability & wetland; Noise and Traffic specialist studies) must be externally peer reviewed, at the applicant's own cost.</p>		
	<p>General</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - This Directorate prefers to attend a joint site inspection with the competent authority to inform further comments. <p>Please include the Department of Environmental Affairs' reference number in future documentation for referencing purposes.</p>	<p>WSP Parsons Brinckerhoff has noted the WC DEADP's request for a joint site visit.</p> <p>The DEA reference number for the Maralla East Project is 14/12/16/3/3/2/963.</p>	Appendix H
	<p>Directorate: Waste Management- Muneeb Baderoon (Muneeb.Baderoon@westerncape.gov.za; Tel: (021) 483 2965):</p> <p>Your attention is drawn to Schedule 3 of the National Environmental Management: Waste Act, 2008 (Act No. 59 of 2008), which defines and identifies categories and waste types. Category A. Section 15 of Schedule 3 identifies certain types of construction waste as hazardous waste (e.g. wastes from other construction and demolition, discarded metals, etc.). Such wastes must be stored in hazardous waste containers and be disposed of at a hazardous waste facility (i.e. it may not be disposed of with non-hazardous construction waste). Proof of waste disposal certificates must be made available to the Department upon request.</p>	<p>WSP has taken cognisance of this requirement and has been included in the Environmental Management Programme.</p>	Appendix W
	<p>Based on information contained in the DSR, this Directorate requires that the following impacts pertaining to the receiving environment be assessed and taken into account in the Draft EIA Report and Environmental Management Programme ("EMP"):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Storage and management of diesel, lubricants, oils, wastes, etc. to prevent and contain spillages; - Detailed assessment of waste types and volumes to be included in the Construction EMP; - Aspects related to waste management and minimisation, with specific emphasis on the disposal of construction waste; <p>General waste and the non-hazardous portion of construction waste should be stored and disposed of separately. This recommendation is due to general waste being disposed of on</p>	<p>WSP has taken cognisance of this requirement and has been included in the Environmental Management Programme.</p>	Appendix W

	the working phase of a waste disposal facility, whilst the non-hazardous construction waste is often used as cover material.		
	<p>Directorate: Air Quality Management- Peter Hermès (Peter.Harmse@westerncape.gov.za; Tel: (021)483 8343):</p> <p>Dust and vehicle exhaust emissions are likely to be generated during the construction phase of the proposed development. As per Section 2.2 of the DSR, the proposed development must comply with the National Dust Control Regulations (Government Notice No. R. 827) of 1 November 2013, promulgated in terms of the National Environmental Management: Air Quality Act, 2004 (Act No. 39 of 2004). These regulations prohibit a person from conducting any activity in such a way as to give rise to dust in such quantities and concentrations that the dust, or dust fall, may have a detrimental effect on the environment, including health.</p>	WSP has taken cognisance of this requirement and has been included in the Environmental Management Programme.	Appendix W
	The Acoustic Impact Assessment Report must be peer reviewed by an independent noise impact specialist and must take cognisance of the Western Cape Noise Control Regulations of 2013 (Provincial Notice 200/2013).	<p>The Environmental Acoustic Impact Assessment Report (EIA Phase) will be peer-reviewed by Mackenzie Hoy Consulting Acoustics Engineers, as with the Scoping Phase report.</p> <p>The Western Cape Noise Control Regulations have been considered and used for evaluation purposes in this Environmental Acoustic Impact Assessment (EIA Phase).</p>	Appendix U
	<p>Please direct all enquiries to the officials indicated in this correspondence should you require any clarity on any of the issues/comments provided.</p> <p>- The Department reserves the right to revise initial comments and request further information based on any or new information received.</p>	WSP thanks the WC DEADP for providing comment on the Draft Scoping Report.	Appendix T
<p>Adri La Meyer</p> <p>(Directorate: Development Facilitation WCDEADP)</p> <p>9 November 2016</p> <p>Email</p>	<p>Thank you for the e-mail notification as well as the copies of the FSRs for our information.</p> <p>As per the Department's comments dated 17 October 2016, the Directorate: Development Management (and possibly others) would like to schedule a joint site visit with DEA officials early within the new year. The purpose of the site inspection is to familiarise officials with the sites as well as obtain clarity on any issues/concerns. Would you be able to liaise with DEA on potential dates for such a site visit please?</p>	WSP Parsons Brinckerhoff has noted the WC DEADP's request for a joint site visit.	Appendix H

Department of Environmental Affairs			
<p>Ms Mmamohale Kabasa</p> <p>12 October 2016</p> <p>Formal Letter – Comments on DESR - Maralla East</p>	<p>COMMENTS ON THE DRAFT SCOPING REPORT FOR THE PROPOSED 250 MW MARALLA EAST WIND ENERGY FACILITY SOUTH OF THE TOWN OF SUTHERLAND WITHIN THE LAINGSBURG AND KAROO HOOGLAND LOCAL MUNICIPALITIES IN THE WESTERN AND NORTHERN CAPE PROVINCES</p>	<p>All Responses from Ashlea Strong from WSP Parsons Brinckerhoff:</p>	
	<p>The draft Scoping Report (SR) dated September 2016 and received by this Department on 16 September 2016 refers.</p> <p>This Department has the following comments on the abovementioned application:</p>		
	<p>Please ensure that all relevant listed activities are applied for, are specific and that it can be linked to the development activity or infrastructure as described in the project description.</p>	<p>All relevant listed activities have been included in the application form submitted to the DEA on 15 September 2016.</p>	<p>Section 3.2 Tables 3.1, 3.2 and 3.3</p>
	<p>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>	<p>The activities listed in the final scoping report were the same as those applied for in the application form. The requirement to amend the application form in the event that activities are added or removed at any time through the S&EIR process is noted.</p>	<p>Section 3.2 Tables 3.1, 3.2 and 3.3</p>
	<p>Please ensure that the application form is signed by the applicant and that the land owner consent form has been signed.</p>	<p>The application form was signed by the applicant and the land owner consent form was signed by the relevant land owner.</p>	<p>-</p>
	<p>It is noted that the development footprint falls across the Northern and Western Cape Provinces. Please ensure that all relevant activities have been identified and are included in the application form and will be assessed during the EIA process.</p>	<p>The development footprint of the Maralla East development is located in both the Northern and Western cape provinces.</p> <p>The activities listed in this EIR have been updated to ensure that all the relevant activities have been included. WSP Parsons Brinckerhoff amended the application form accordingly and have submitted it together with the final scoping report</p>	<p>Section 3.2 Tables 3.1, 3.2 and 3.3</p>

	<p>It is imperative that the relevant authorities are continuously involved throughout the EIA process as the development property possibly falls within geographically designated areas in terms of numerous GN R.985 Activities. Written comments must be obtained from the relevant authorities and submitted to this Department. In addition, a graphical representation of the proposed development within the respective geographical areas must be provided.</p>	<p>The GNR 985 activities included in the application form are only applicable to the Northern Cape.</p> <p>A graphical representation of the proposed development within the respective geographical area has been provided in this report.</p>	<p>Section 3.2 Figure 3.1</p>
	<p>The Environmental Assessment Practitioner is requested to provide additional information detailing the specifications of the proposed dangerous goods (GN R. 985 Activity 10) i.e. quantities, type of goods etc. In addition the impacts associated with this activity must be assessed.</p>	<p>The dangerous goods applicable to GNR 985 Activity 10 will include cement and diesel that will be required on site in quantities of more than 30m³.</p> <p>Impacts include the potential contamination of soil and surface resources and have been assessed.</p>	<p>Section 3.2 Tables 3.1, 3.2 and 3.3 Section 9.3 Section 9.7</p>
	<p>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 Square Kilometre Array South Africa, and the South African Astronomical Observatory.</p>	<p>Proof of correspondence with stakeholders during the scoping phase is included in the comment and response report.</p> <p>The project database included the Square Kilometre Array and the South African Astronomical Observatory from the inception of the project.</p>	<p>Appendix H Appendix P</p>
	<p>The Public Participation Report must contain clear and legible copies of the newspaper adverts.</p>	<p>Copies of the Newspaper adverts have been included in the Public Participation Report and as an appendix to this EIR.</p>	<p>Appendix F Appendix T</p>
	<p>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 development 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 and 44 of the EIA Regulations 2014.</p>	<p>The comments and response report has been updated to include all correspondence received to date.</p>	<p>Appendix H</p>
	<p>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</p>	<p>The comments and response report has been updated to include all correspondence received to date.</p>	<p>Appendix H</p>

	<p>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.</p>		
	<p>Please provide a description of any identified alternatives for the proposed activity that are feasible and reasonable, including the advantages and disadvantages that the proposed activity or alternatives will have on the environment and on the community that may be affected by the activity as per Appendix 2 of the EIA Regulations, 2014. Alternatively, you should submit written proof of an investigation and motivation if no reasonable or feasible alternatives exist in terms of Appendix 2.</p>	<p>The investigation undertaken to identify and motivate why no reasonable or feasible alternatives exist has been outlined in this report.</p> <p>In addition, advantages and disadvantages have been included for all alternatives where appropriate.</p>	<p>Section 7</p>
	<p>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.</p>	<p>WSP Parsons Brinckerhoff has taken note of this requirement. At this stage no contradictions have been noted.</p>	<p>-</p>
	<p>Where specialist studies are conducted in house or by a specialist other than a suitably qualified specialist in the relevant field, such specialist reports must be peer reviewed by a suitably qualified external specialist in the relevant field. The terms of reference for the peer review must include:</p> <p>A CV clearly showing expertise of the peer reviewer;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Acceptability of the terms of reference; - Is the methodology clearly explained and acceptable; Evaluate the validity of the findings (review data evidence); - Discuss the suitability of the mitigation measures and recommendations; - Identify any short comings and mitigation measures to address the short comings; - Evaluate the appropriateness of the reference literature; - Indicate whether a site inspection was carried out as part of the peer review; and - Indicate whether the article is well-written and easy to understand. 	<p>Peer reviewers have been identified and appointed for all relevant in-house specialist studies. The following peer reviews are currently underway and will be appended to the Final EIR:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Land capability and Wetlands → Noise Specialist Study → Social Study <p>The Traffic Specialist Study Peer Review has been completed and is included in this report.</p> <p>The CV for each independent specialist have been included.</p>	<p>Section 5.1 Appendix I Appendix J</p>
	<p>Therefore, peer reviewer's details must be included in the final scoping report for the following specialist reports: Noise specialist study, traffic specialist study, social study, soil, land capability specialist study and wetland specialist study.</p>	<p>Peer reviewers have been identified and appointed for all relevant in-house specialist studies. Curriculum Vitae for all the relevant Peer Reviewers have been included.</p>	<p>Section 5.1 Appendix J</p>

	<p>It is noted that the property is affected by numerous watercourses and NFEPA wetlands, and that activities that may trigger Section 19 and Section 21 of the National Water Act No. 36 of 1998 were applied for/included in the application form. Please note that a separate hydrological impact assessment must be conducted to assess the impacts of the proposed development on the surface hydrology of the area. The terms of reference for the study must include, inter alia the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Identification and sensitivity rating of all surface water courses for the impact phase of the proposed development; - Identification, assessment of all potential impacts to the water courses and suggestion of mitigation measures; and, - Recommendations on the preferred placement of the parabolic troughs and all associated infrastructure and preference must be provided to the avoidance of the watercourses on the property. 	<p>The requirements for the hydrological study have been included in the Surface Water Specialist Study.</p>	<p>Appendix Q</p>
	<p>Due to the number of similar applications in the area, all the specialist assessments must include a cumulative environmental impact assessment for all identified and assessed impacts. The cumulative impact assessment must indicate the following:</p> <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 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. 	<p>A detailed cumulative assessment is included in this report.</p>	<p>Section 10</p>
	<p>The terms of reference for the ecological assessment must also investigate the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The property falls within the National Protection Areas Expansion Strategy Focus Area (NPAES). The ecological study must assess the impact on the proposed development on the integrity of the NPAES in the area. 	<p>The additional terms of reference was forwarded to the Biodiversity specialist and has been incorporated in the Biodiversity Specialist Study.</p>	<p>Appendix L</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Must indicate the location of both private and government nature protection areas in the area. - Must indicate and describe the competing land uses in the area 		
	The Bat and Avifauna! specialist assessments must assess and make recommendations for definite measurements for the preferred hub heights and rotor diameter	The additional terms of reference was forwarded to the Avifauna and bat specialists and has been incorporated in the Avifauna and Bat Specialist Studies.	Appendix M Appendix N.
	The final SR must investigate and identify all traffic impacts and geotechnical impacts associated with the proposed development.	Traffic and geotechnical impacts were included in the final scoping report. A Traffic Impact Assessment is included in this report. Detailed Geotechnical Assessments are generally only undertaken once a project has been identified as a preferred bidder. Preliminary Geotechnical aspects have been referenced in the EMPr. Potential environmental and social implications, such as blasting requirements, have also been addressed accordingly in the EMPr.	Appendix O
	The final Scoping Report must indicate all private and government nature protection areas in the area, including any Important Bird Areas.	A discussion regarding land uses in the area is included in this EIR.	Section 8.4
	The final Scoping Report must indicate and describe the competing land uses in the area including the proposed project. This must further motivate the desirability of locating the wind energy facility at the preferred location.	This has been included this report. In addition, the CV of the Project Manager and Project Director for the project have been included.	Section 1.2 Table 1.2 Appendix A
	<p>In accordance with Appendix 2 of the EIA Regulations 2014, the details of-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the EAP who prepared the report; and - the expertise of the EAP to carry out Scoping and Environmental Impact assessment procedures; must be submitted. 	WSP Parsons Brinckerhoff takes note of this requirement.	Section 1.2 Table 1.2 Appendix A
	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.	WSP Parsons Brinckerhoff takes note of this requirement.	-

	<p>Further note that in terms of Regulation 45 of the EIA Regulations 2014, 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>	WSP Parsons Brinckerhoff takes note of this requirement.	
<p>Mr Sabelo Malaza Chief Director: Integrated Environmental Authorisations Department of Environmental Affairs Letter Signed by: Coenrad Agenbach Designation: Deputy Director: Strategic Infrastructure Developments Formal Letter 1 December 2016</p>	<p>ACCEPTANCE OF THE SCOPING REPORT FOR THE PROPOSED 250MW MARALLA EAST WIND ENERGY FACILITY SOUTH OF THE TOWN OF SUTHERLAND WITHIN THE LAINGSBURG AND KAROO HOOGLAND MUNICIPALITIES IN THE WESTERN AND NORTHERN CAPE PROVINCES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Scoping Report (SR) and Plan of Study for Environmental Impact Assessment (PoSEIA) dated October 2016 and received by this Department on 28 October 2016 refer. This Department has evaluated the submitted SR and the PoSEIA dated October 2016 and is satisfied that the documents comply with the minimum requirements of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations, 2014. The SR is hereby accepted by the Department in terms of Regulation 22 (a) of the EIA Regulations, 2014. You may proceed with the Environmental Impact Assessment process in accordance with the tasks contemplated in the PoSEIA and the requirements of the EIA Regulations, 2014. 	All Responses from Ashlea Strong from WSP Parsons Brinckerhoff:	
	<p>All comments and recommendations made by all stakeholders and Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) in the draft SR and submitted as part of the final SR must be taken into consideration when preparing an Environmental Impact Assessment report (EIAR) in respect of the proposed development. Please ensure that all mitigation measures and recommendations in the specialist studies are addressed and included in the final EIAR and Environmental Management Programme (EMPr).</p>	Please refer to the comment and response report and the EMPr for further details.	Appendix H Appendix W
	<p>Please ensure that comments from all relevant stakeholders are submitted to the Department with the final EIAR. This includes but is not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Northern Cape Department of Environment and Nature Conservation; The Western Cape Department of Environmental Affairs and Development Planning; The Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (DAFF); 	<p>All existing comments received have been included in the comment and response report.</p> <p>All the relevant stakeholders have been informed of the draft EIR public review period. Any additional comments received during the public review period will be</p>	Appendix H

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The provincial Department of Agriculture; • The South African Civil Aviation Authority (SACAA); • The Department of Transport, the District Municipality; • The Laingsburg Local Municipality; • The Karoo Hoogland Local Municipality; • The Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS); • The South African National Roads Agency Limited (SANRAL); • The South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA); • The Endangered Wildlife Trust (EWT); • Birdlife SA; • The Department of Mineral Resources; • The Department of Rural Development and Land Reform; • The Department of Environmental Affairs: Directorate Biodiversity and Conservation; and • The South African Astronomy Observation (SAAO). 	<p>included in the comment and response report and included in the final EIR.</p>	
	<p>Please be advised that the contact person for renewable projects at the SAAO office is Dr Ramotholo Sefako and he can be contacted on Tel: (011) 447 0025 or E-mail: rrs@sao.ac.za.</p>	<p>WSP Parsons Brinckerhoff takes note of these contact details. These details have been added to the stakeholder database.</p>	<p>Appendix P</p>
	<p>You are also required to address all issues raised by Organs of State and I&APs prior to the submission of the EIAr to the Department.</p>	<p>All existing comments received have been included and responded to in the comment and response report. All the relevant stakeholders have been informed of the draft EIR public review period. Any additional comments received during the public review period will be included in the comment and response report and included in the final EIR.</p>	<p>Appendix H</p>

	Proof of correspondence with the various stakeholders must be included in the EIAr. Should you be unable to obtain comments, proof should be submitted to the Department of the attempts that were made to obtain comments.	All existing comments received have been included and responded to in the comment and response report. All the relevant stakeholders have been informed of the draft EIR public review period. Any additional comments received during the public review period will be included in the comment and response report and included in the final EIR.	Appendix H
	The EAP must, in order to give effect to Regulation 8, give registered I&APs access to, and an opportunity to comment on the report in writing within 30 days before submitting the final EIAr to the Department.	I&APs have been afforded 30 days to review the draft EIR. The public review period runs from 2 February 2016 to 2 March 2017.	Appendix H Section 5.3
	In addition, the following additional information is required for the EIAr:		
	The EIAr must provide an assessment of the impacts and mitigation measures for each of the listed activities applied for.	This has been addressed in the EIR	Section 9
	The listed activities represented in the EIAr and the application form must be the same and correct.	All relevant listed activities included in the draft EIR and included in the application form submitted to the DEA on 15 September 2016.	Section 3.2 Tables 3.1, 3.2 and 3.3
	The study area for the development is affected by the National Protected Areas Expansion Strategy Focus Area (NPAES). As such the Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP) must properly identify the relevant sub-activities for GN R. 985 Activities 4, 10, 12, 14, 18 and 23. The application form must be amended to reflect the correct activities.	Activities 4, 10, 12, 14, 18 and 23 of GNR 985 have been updated to reflect the NPAES. The amended Application Form will be submitted with the Final EIR	Section 3.2 Tables 3.1, 3.2 and 3.3
	The EIAr must provide a description of all applicable activities for the proposed development. It is noted that whilst the SR states that certain activities are potentially applicable, this must be assessed and confirmed in the EIAr. As such, an amended application form may be required to be submitted with the EIAr.	Activities 4, 10, 12, 14, 18 and 23 of GNR 985 have been updated to reflect the NPAES. The amended Application Form will be submitted with the Final EIR	Section 3.2 Tables 3.1, 3.2 and 3.3
	The EIAr must provide the technical details for the proposed facility in a table format as well as their description and/or dimensions. A sample for the minimum information required is listed under point 2 of the EIA information required for wind energy facilities below.	This has been addressed in the EIR	Section 7.2 Table 7.1

	The EIAr must provide the four corner coordinate points for the proposed development site (note that if the site has numerous bend points, at each bend point coordinates must be provided) as well as the start, middle and end point of all linear activities.	This has been addressed in the EIR	Section 7.4 Figure 7.5
	<p>The EIAr must provide the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clear indication of the envisioned area for the proposed wind energy facility; i.e. placing of wind turbines and all associated infrastructure should be mapped at an appropriate scale. • Clear description of all associated infrastructure. This description must include, but is not limited to the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Power lines; ○ Internal roads infrastructure; and; ○ All supporting onsite infrastructure such as laydown area, guard house and control room etc. ○ All necessary details regarding all possible locations and sizes of the proposed satellite substation and the main substation. 	This has been addressed in the EIR	Chapter 7 Chapter 11
	The EIAr must also include a comments and response report in accordance with Appendix 2 h (iii) of the EIA Regulations, 2014.	The comment and response report is included.	Appendix H
	The EIAr must include the detail inclusive of the PPP in accordance with Regulation 41 of the EIA Regulations.	The PPP undertaken for this S&EIR Process in this report.	Section 5
	Details of the future plans for the site and infrastructure after decommissioning in 20-30 years and the possibility of upgrading the proposed infrastructure to more advanced technologies.	At this stage in the process, post Decommissioning options have not yet been defined. It remains a possibility that technologies will evolve over time and the option to upgrade the facility is noted. However, in the event that upgrading the facility is not considered the site will be demolished and rehabilitated to its current state.	-
	It is imperative that the relevant authorities are continuously involved throughout the EIAr process as the development property possibly falls within geographically designated areas in terms of GN R. 985. Written comments must be obtained and submitted to this Department.	The authority consultation process is discussed in Section 4.2 and Section 5.3. All written comments from the relevant provisional commenting authority are	Appendix H Figure 3.1

	<p><u>In addition, a graphical representation of the proposed development within the respective geographical areas must be provided.</u></p>	<p>included in the comment and response report. A graphical representation of the location of the project is included in the EIR</p>	
	<p>The impacts associated with activity GN R. 985 Activity 10 must be adequately assessed. Areas where dangerous goods are to be stored must be identified and assessed.</p>	<p>The dangerous goods referred to above will include cement and diesel that will be required on site in quantities of more than 30m³. Impacts associated with this activity are assessed in the EIR.</p>	<p>Section 9.3 Section 9.7</p>
	<p>Please note that this Department will not issue a favourable authorisation for a development layout that encroaches and/or overlaps preferred layouts of approved and valid environmental authorisations.</p>	<p>A letter to prove that the previous Environmental authorisation has lapsed has been included in the EIR.</p>	<p>Appendix Y</p>
	<p>Further to the above, the holders of all valid EAs adjacent to the site must be notified of the proposed development and comments must be obtained from these developers.</p>	<p>The neighbouring developers have been notified through the public participation process. No comments have been received as yet.</p>	<p>Appendix H Appendix P</p>
	<p>It is noted that the property is affected by numerous watercourses and NFEPA wetlands and that activities, which may trigger Section 19 and Section 21 of the National Water Act No. 36 of 1998, were applied for/included in the application form. <u>Please note that a separate hydrological impact assessment</u> must be conducted to assess the impacts of the proposed development on the surface hydrology of the area. The terms of reference for the study must include, inter alia the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identification and sensitivity rating of all surface water courses for the impact phase of the proposed development; • Identification, assessment of all potential impacts to the water courses and suggestion of mitigation measures; and • Recommendations on the preferred placement of the parabolic troughs and all associated infrastructure and preference must be provided to the avoidance of the watercourses on the property. 	<p>A separate Surface Water Specialist study has been compiled.</p>	<p>Appendix Q</p>
	<p>The terms of reference for the ecological assessment must also investigate the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The property falls within the National Protection Areas Expansion Strategy Focus Area (NPAES). The ecological study must assess the impact of the proposed development on the integrity of the NPAES in the area. 	<p>This is included in the Biodiversity Specialist Study.</p>	<p>Appendix L</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Must indicate the location of both private and government nature protection areas in the area. • Must indicate and describe the competing land uses in the area. 		
	<p>The terms of reference for the visual assessment must also investigate the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assess and rate the cumulative impact of multiple WEFs in the landscape. • The South African Astronomy Observatory must be thoroughly engaged and their comments included as part of the EIAr. 	<p>This is included in the Visual Specialist Study.</p> <p>Visual Specialist Response:</p> <p>The cumulative visual assessment is included in Section 5.3 of the VIA.</p> <p>The South African Astronomy Observatory has been included in WSP's public participation process, no comments have been received to date. Correspondence is included in the Comments and Responses Report prepared by WSP.</p>	Appendix T
	<p>A significant amount of materials and equipment will be delivered to the site during the construction phase of the development and will thus have impacts on the environment. The impacts of this activity must be fully identified and assessed. The terms of reference for the <u>traffic impact assessment</u> must be expanded to include the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evaluate the impacts of the proposed development on existing road network and traffic volumes. The study must determine the specific traffic needs during the different phases of implementation, namely wind turbine construction and installation, operation and decommissioning; • Identify the position and suitability of the preferred access road alternative; • Evaluate the roadway capacity of the road network; • Confirm the associated clearances required for the necessary equipment to be transported from the point of delivery to the various sites; • Confirm freight and transport requirements during construction, operation and maintenance; Propose origins and destinations of equipment; and • Determine (Abnormal) Permit requirements if any. 	<p>This is included in the Transport Specialist Study.</p>	Appendix O
	<p>The bat and avifauna! specialist assessments must assess and make recommendations for definite measurements for the preferred hub heights and rotor diameter.</p>	<p>This is included in the Avifauna and bats Specialist Studies.</p>	Appendix M Appendix N

	The bat specialist assessment must take into consideration the latest guidelines for the delineation of buffers by the South African Bat Assessment Advisory Panel.	This is included in the bats Specialist Study.	Appendix N
	<p>The approach of using a desktop assessment for the socio-economic impact assessment is not supported. A <u>comprehensive socio-economic impact assessment</u> with the following terms of reference must be undertaken:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clearly describe the potential social issues associated with the proposed facility; • Assess the socio-economic profile of the region and the social characteristics of the receiving environment; • Comparison of similar large-scale projects and applying the lessons learnt to the proposed project; • Analyse the potential socio-economic impacts of the proposed project and provide a description and the significance rating for the construction, operational and decommissioning phases; • Meet with relevant stakeholders and document their socio-economic concerns; and, • Provide implementable guidelines for limiting or mitigating negative impacts and optimising benefits of the proposed development. 	A site visit was undertaken in January 2017. This is included in the Socio-Economic Specialist Study	Appendix V
	The ecological assessment must provide a cumulative assessment of the total loss of land within the NPAES and the CBAs.	This is included in the Biodiversity Specialist Study.	Appendix L Section 10
	It is noted that the ecological assessment was conducted in the incorrect season. As such, the ecological assessment must be conducted within the correct season. This also applies to all other specialist studies to be conducted.	<p>This is included in the Biodiversity Specialist Study.</p> <p>A preliminary site visit to the study area was conducted on the 4th of April 2016 and a follow-up site visit on the 8th and 9th of September 2016. The primary purpose of the initial site visit was to investigate and identify sensitive features within the site as well as provide a preliminary characterization of the habitats and ecosystems within the site for the Scoping phase. The follow-up site visit was in the wet season and was used to verify the sensitivity and characteristics of areas identified as potentially sensitive,</p>	Appendix L

		<p>especially the highest-lying ground which is of limited extent and most vulnerable to cumulative impact.</p> <p>Apart from the above site visits, the adjacent areas have been sampled on many occasions over a period of several years. This includes the project areas of the adjacent Rietkloof and Brandvallei projects as well as the area between the site and Komsberg substation. This information is used to inform the current study as appropriate and contributes towards reducing any remaining uncertainty associated with the study</p>	
	<p>All turbines within the high ecological areas, the high avifauna! areas as well as the high bat areas must be removed or relocated.</p>	<p>This has been included in the Avifauna and Bat Specialist Studies. In addition, please refer to the EIR for a detailed discussion on the sensitivity mapping process and its influence over the turbine layout.</p>	<p>Section 11.2 Appendix M Appendix N</p>
	<p>Should in-house specialists be used for any specialist study, then the specialist study must be peer reviewed by external specialists. The format of the peer-review must address the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Acceptability of the ToR; • Is the methodology clearly explained and acceptable; • Evaluate the validity of the findings (review data evidence); • Discuss the mitigation measures and recommendations; • Evaluate the appropriateness of the reference literature; • Is the article well-written and easy to understand; and • Identify any short comings. 	<p>Peer reviewers have been identified and appointed for all relevant in-house specialist studies. The following peer reviews are currently underway and will be appended to the Final EIR:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Land capability and Wetlands → Noise Specialist Study → Social Study <p>The Traffic Specialist Study Peer Review has been completed and is included in this report.</p> <p>The CV for each independent specialist have been included.</p>	<p>Section 5.1 Appendix I Appendix J</p>
	<p>Information on services required on the site, e.g. sewage, refuse removal, water and electricity. Who will supply these services and has an agreement and confirmation of capacity been obtained? Proof of these agreements must be provided.</p>	<p>For such agreements to be in place, the project must first achieve preferred bidder status. These agreement will be</p>	<p>-</p>

	negotiated once preferred bidder status has been achieved.	
The EIA must provide a detailed description of the need and desirability, not only providing motivation on the need for clean energy in South Africa of the proposed activity. The need and desirability must also <u>indicate if the proposed development is needed in the region and if the current proposed location is desirable for the proposed activity compared to other sites</u> . The need and desirability must take into account cumulative impacts of the proposed development in the area.	A detailed Need and Justification has been included in the EIR.	Section 6
Due to the number of similar applications in the area, all the specialist assessments must include a cumulative environmental impact assessment for all identified and assessed impacts. The cumulative impact assessment must 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 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. 	A detailed cumulative assessment is included in the EIR.	Chapter 10
A copy of the final site layout map. All available biodiversity information must be used in the finalisation of the layout map. Existing infrastructure must be used as far as possible e.g. roads. The layout map must indicate the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wind turbine positions and its associated infrastructure; Permanent laydown area footprint; 	Please refer to the Site Development Proposal Map included at the beginning of the EIR.	Appendix X

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Internal roads indicating width (construction period width and operation period width) and with numbered sections between the other site elements which they serve (to make commenting on sections possible); • Wetlands, drainage lines, rivers, stream and water crossing of roads and cables indicating the type of bridging structures that will be used; • The location of sensitive environmental features on site e.g. CBAs, heritage sites, wetlands, drainage lines etc. that will be affected by the facility and its associated infrastructure; • Substation(s) and/or transformer(s) sites including their entire footprint; • Connection routes (including pylon positions) to the distribution/transmission network; • All existing infrastructure on the site, especially roads; • Buffer areas; • Buildings, including accommodation; and • All "no-go" areas. 		
	An environmental sensitivity map indicating environmental sensitive areas and features identified during the EIA process.	This requirement has been included in the EIR.	Section 11.2 Appendix X
	A map combining the final layout map superimposed (overlain) on the environmental sensitivity map.	This requirement has been included in the EIR.	Section 11.2 Appendix X
	<p>A shapefile of the preferred development layout/footprint must be submitted to this Department. The shapefile must be created using the Hartebeesthoek 94 Datum and the data should be in Decimal Degree Format using the WGS 84 Spheroid. The shapefile must include at a minimum the following extensions i.e..shp; .shx; .dbf; prj; and, .xml (Metadata file). If specific symbology was assigned to the file, then the .avi and/or the.lyr file must also be included. Data must be mapped at a scale of 1:10 000 (please specify if an alternative scale was used). The metadata must include a description of the base data used for digitizing. The shapefile must be submitted in a zip file using the EIA application reference number as the title. The shape file must be submitted to:</p> <p>Postal Address:</p> <p>Department of Environmental Affairs</p>	WSP Parsons Brinckerhoff have taken note of this requirement.	-

	<p>Private Bag X447 Pretoria 0001</p> <p>Physical address: Environment House 473 Steve Biko Road Pretoria</p> <p>For Attention: Muhammad Essop</p> <p>Integrated Environmental Authorisations Strategic Infrastructure Developments Telephone Number: (012) 399 9406</p> <p>Email Address: MEssop@environment.gov.za</p>		
	<p>The Environmental Management Programme (EMPr) to be submitted as part of the EIA must include the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All recommendations and mitigation measures recorded in the EIA and the specialist studies conducted. • The final site layout map. • Measures as dictated by the final site layout map and micro-siting. • An environmental sensitivity map indicating environmental sensitive areas and features identified during the EIA process. • A map combining the final layout map superimposed (overlain) on the environmental sensitivity map. • An alien invasive management plan to be implemented during construction and operation of the facility. The plan must include mitigation measures to reduce the invasion of alien species and ensure that the continuous monitoring and removal of alien species is undertaken. • A plant rescue and protection plan which allows for the maximum transplant of conservation important species from areas to be transformed. This plan must be 	<p>The following requirements are included in the Draft EMPr.</p>	<p>Appendix W</p>

compiled by a vegetation specialist familiar with the site and be implemented prior to commencement of the construction phase.

- A re-vegetation and habitat rehabilitation plan to be implemented during the construction and operation of the facility. Restoration must be undertaken as soon as possible after completion of construction activities to reduce the amount of habitat converted at any one time and to speed up the recovery to natural habitats.
- An open space management plan to be implemented during the construction and operation of the facility. x. A traffic management plan for the site access roads to ensure that no hazards would result from the increased truck traffic and that traffic flow would not be adversely impacted. This plan must include measures to minimize impacts on local commuters e.g. limiting construction vehicles travelling on public roadways during the morning and late afternoon commute time and avoid using roads through densely populated built-up areas so as not to disturb existing retail and commercial operations.
- A transportation plan for the transport of components, main assembly cranes and other large pieces of equipment.
- A storm water management plan to be implemented during the construction and operation of the facility. The plan must ensure compliance with applicable regulations and prevent off-site migration of contaminated storm water or increased soil erosion. The plan must include the construction of appropriate design measures that allow surface and subsurface movement of water along drainage lines so as not to impede natural surface and subsurface flows. Drainage measures must promote the dissipation of storm water run-off.
- A fire management plan to be implemented during the construction and operation of the facility.
- An erosion management plan for monitoring and rehabilitating erosion events associated with the facility.
- Appropriate erosion mitigation must form part of this plan to prevent and reduce the risk of any potential erosion.
- An effective monitoring system to detect any leakage or spillage of all hazardous substances during their transportation, handling, use and storage. This must include precautionary measures to limit the possibility of oil and other toxic liquids from entering the soil or storm water systems.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Measures to protect hydrological features such as streams, rivers, pans, wetlands, dams and their catchments, and other environmental sensitive areas from construction impacts including the direct or indirect spillage of pollutants. 		
	The EAP must provide detailed motivation if any of the above requirements is not required by the proposed development and not included in the EMPr.	WSP Parsons Brinckerhoff has taken note of this requirement.	-
	Please ensure that all the relevant Listing Notice activities are applied for, that the Listing Notice activities applied for are specific and that they can be linked to the development activity or infrastructure in the project description. You are hereby reminded that should the EIAr fail to comply with the requirements of this acceptance letter, the EIAr will be rejected.	WSP Parsons Brinckerhoff has taken note of this requirement.	-
	The applicant is hereby reminded to comply with the requirements of Regulation 45 with regard to the time period allowed for complying with the requirements of the Regulations, and Regulations 43 and 44 with regard to the allowance of a comment period for interested and affected parties on all reports submitted to the competent authority for decision-making. The reports referred to are listed in Regulation 43(1).	WSP Parsons Brinckerhoff has taken note of this requirement.	-
	Furthermore, it must be reiterated that, should an application for Environmental Authorisation be subject to the provisions of Chapter II, Section 38 of the National Heritage Resources Act, Act 25 of 1999, then this Department will not be able to make nor issue a decision in terms of your application for Environmental Authorisation pending a letter from the pertinent heritage authority categorically stating that the application fulfils the requirements of the relevant heritage resources authority as described in Chapter II, Section 38(8) of the National Heritage Resources Act, Act 25 of 1999. Comments from SAHRA and/or the provincial department of heritage must be provided in the EIAr.	Comments from SAHRA are included in the comment and response report.	Appendix H
	You are requested to submit two (2) electronic copies (CD/DVD) and two (2) hard copies of the EIAr to the Department as per Regulation 23(1) of the EIA Regulations, 2014.	WSP Parsons Brinckerhoff has taken note of this requirement.	-
	Please also find attached information that must be used in the preparation of the EIAr. This will enable the Department to speedily review the EIAr and make a decision on the application.	WSP Parsons Brinckerhoff has taken note of these requirements.	-
	You are hereby reminded of Section 24F of the National Environmental Management Act, Act No 107 of 1998, as amended, which stipulates that no activity may commence prior to an Environmental Authorisation being granted by the Department.	WSP Parsons Brinckerhoff has taken note of this requirement.	-

A. EIA INFORMATION REQUIRED FOR WIND ENERGY FACILITIES												
	<p>1. General site information</p> <p>The following general site information is required:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Descriptions of all affected farm portions • 21 digit Surveyor General codes of all affected farm portions • Copies of deeds of all affected farm portions • Photos of areas that give a visual perspective of all parts of the site • Photographs from sensitive visual receptors (tourism routes, tourism facilities, etc.) • Facility design specifications including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Type of technology ○ Structure height ○ Surface area to be covered (including associated infrastructure such as roads) ○ Structure orientation ○ Laydown area dimensions (construction period and thereafter) ○ Generation capacity • Generation capacity of the facility as a whole at delivery points <p>This information must be indicated on the first page of the EIAR. It is also advised that it be double checked as there are too many mistakes in the applications that have been received that take too much time from authorities to correct.</p>	<p>As requested this information has been included at the beginning of the EIR</p>										
	<p>2. Sample of technical details for the proposed facility</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="width: 20%;">Component</th> <th>Description/</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Location of the site</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Facility area</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>SG Codes</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Site access</td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Component	Description/	Location of the site		Facility area		SG Codes		Site access		<p>As requested this information has been included at the beginning of the EIR</p>
Component	Description/											
Location of the site												
Facility area												
SG Codes												
Site access												

Export capacity	
Proposed technology	
Hub height from ground	
Rotor diameter	
Area occupied by	
Area occupied by both permanent and construction laydown	
Area occupied by buildings	
Width and length of	
Proximity to grid connection	
Type and height of	

3. Site maps and GIS information

Site maps and GIS information should include at least the following:

- All maps/information layers must also be provided in ESRI Shapefile format
- All affected farm portions must be indicated
- The exact site of the application must be indicated (the areas that will be occupied by the application)
- A status quo map/layer must be provided that includes the following:
 - Current use of land on the site including:
 - Buildings and other structures
 - Agricultural fields
 - Grazing areas
 - Natural vegetation areas (natural veld not cultivated for the preceding 10 years) with an indication of the vegetation quality as well as fine scale mapping in respect of Critical Biodiversity Areas and Ecological Support Areas

As requested this information has been included at the beginning of the EIR Appendix X

- Critically endangered and endangered vegetation areas that occur on the site
 - Bare areas which may be susceptible to soil erosion
 - Cultural historical sites and elements
 - Rivers, streams and water courses
 - Ridgelines and 20m continuous contours with height references in the GIS database
 - Fountains, boreholes, dams (in-stream as well as off-stream) and reservoirs
 - High potential agricultural areas as defined by the Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries
 - Buffer zones (also where it is dictated by elements outside the site):
 - 500m from any irrigated agricultural land
 - 1km from residential areas
 - Indicate isolated residential, tourism facilities on or within 1km of the site
- A slope analysis map/layer that include the following slope ranges:
 - Less than 8% slope (preferred areas for WIND TURBINE and infrastructure)
 - between 8% and 12% slope (potentially sensitive to WIND TURBINE and infrastructure)
 - between 12% and 14% slope (highly sensitive to WIND TURBINE and infrastructure)
 - steeper than 18% slope (unsuitable for WIND TURBINE and infrastructure)
- A site development proposal map(s)/layer(s) that indicate:
 - Foundation footprint
 - Permanent laydown area footprint
 - Construction period laydown footprint

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Internal roads indicating width (construction period width and operation period width) and with numbered sections between the other site elements which they serve (to make commenting on sections possible) ○ River, stream and water crossing of roads and cables indicating the type of bridging structures that will be used ○ Substation(s) and/or transformer(s) sites including their entire footprint. ○ Cable routes and trench dimensions (where they are not along internal roads) ○ Connection routes to the distribution/transmission network (the connection must form part of the EIA even if the construction and maintenance thereof will be done by another entity such as ESKOM) ○ Cut and fill areas at WIND TURBINE sites along roads and at substation/transformer sites indicating the expected volume of each cut and fill ○ Borrow pits ○ Spoil heaps (temporary for topsoil and subsoil and permanently for excess material) ○ Buildings including accommodation <p>With the above information authorities will be able to assess the strategic and site impacts of the application.</p>		
	<p>4. Regional map and GIS information</p> <p>The regional map and GIS information should include at least the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● All maps/information layers must also be provided in ESRI Shapefile format ● The map/layer must cover an area of 20km around the site ● Indicate the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ roads including their types (tarred or gravel) and category (national, provincial, local or private) ○ Railway lines and stations ○ Industrial areas ○ Harbours and airports 	<p>As requested this information has been included at the beginning of the EIR</p>	<p>Appendix X</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Electricity transmission and distribution lines and substations ○ Pipelines ○ Waters sources to be utilised during the construction and operational phases ○ A visibility assessment of the areas from where the facility will be visible ○ Critical Biodiversity Areas and Ecological Support Areas ○ Critically Endangered and Endangered vegetation areas ○ Agricultural fields ○ Irrigated areas ○ An indication of new road or changes and upgrades that must be done to existing roads in order to get equipment onto the site including cut and fill areas and crossings of rivers and streams. 		
	<p>5. Important stakeholders</p> <p>Amongst other important stakeholders, comments from the National Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries must be obtained and submitted to the Department. Any application, documentation, notification etc. should be forwarded to the following officials:</p> <p>Ms Mashudu Marubini Delegate of the Minister (Act 70 of 1970) E-mail: MashuduMa@daff.gov.za Tel 012-319 7619</p> <p>Ms Thoko Buthelezi Agriland Liaison office E-mail: ThokoB@daff.gov.za Tel 012-319 7634</p> <p>All hardcopy applications I documentation should be forwarded to the following address:</p> <p>Physical address:</p>	<p>These stakeholders have been included in the Stakeholder Database</p>	<p>Appendix P</p>

	<p>Delpen Building Cnr Annie Botha and Union Street Office 270 Attention: Delegate of the Minister Act 70 of 1970</p> <p>Postal Address: Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries Private Bag X120 Pretoria 0001 Attention: Delegate of the Minister Act 70 of 1970</p> <p>In addition, comments must be requested from Eskom regarding grid connectivity and capacity. Request for comment must be submitted to: Mr John Geeringh Eskom Transmission Megawatt Park D1Y38 PO Box 1091 JOHANNESBURG 2000 Tel: 011 516 7233 Fax: 086 661 4064 John.geeringh@eskom.co.za</p>		
B. AGRICULTURE STUDY REQUIREMENTS			
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Detailed soil assessment of the site in question, incorporating a radius of 50 m surrounding the site, on a scale of 1:10 000 or finer. The soil assessment should include the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identification of the soil forms present on site • The size of the area where a particular soil form is found 	<p>These requirements are included in the Soils and Land Capability Specialist Study</p>	<p>Appendix K</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GPS readings of soil survey points • The depth of the soil at each survey point • Soil colour • Limiting factors • Clay content • Slope of the site • A detailed map indicating the locality of the soil forms within the specified area, • Size of the site • Exact locality of the site • Current activities on the site, developments, buildings • Surrounding developments, land uses and activities in a radius of 500 m of the site • Access routes and the condition thereof • Current status of the land (including erosion, vegetation and a degradation assessment) • Possible land use options for the site • Water availability, source and quality (if available) • Detailed descriptions of why agriculture should or should not be the land use of choice • Impact of the change of land use on the surrounding area • A shape file containing the soil forms and relevant attribute data as depicted on the map. 		
<p>C. ASTRONOMY GEOGRAPHIC ADVANTAGE ACT, 2007 (ACT NO. 21 OF 2007)</p>			
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The purpose of the Act is to preserve the geographic advantage areas that attract investment in astronomy. The entire Northern Cape Province excluding the Sol Plaatjie Municipality had been declared an astronomy advantage area. The Northern Cape optical and radio telescope sites were declared core astronomy advantage areas. The Act allowed for the declaration of the Southern Africa Large Telescope (SALT), MeerKAT and Square Kilometre Array (SKA) as astronomy and related scientific endeavours that had to be protected. 	<p>Although the proposed project is not within the Core SKA area, any renewable energy project being proposed within the Northern Cape should receive comment from SKA, regardless of the proposed technology. Comments from the SKA, obtained during the scoping process</p>	<p>Appendix H</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> You are requested to indicate the applicability of the Astronomy Geographic Advantage Act, Act No. 21 of 2007 on the application in the BARIEIR. You must obtain comments from the Southern African Large Telescope (SALT) if the proposed development is situated within a declared astronomy advantage area. 	<p>stated that the Maralla West WEF will have no impact on the SKA.</p>	
Western Cape Department of Environmental Affairs and Development Planning			
<p>Adri La Meyer 22 September 2016 Email</p>	<p>I received this e-mail from our CapeNature colleagues. Please register the Department of Environmental Affairs and Development Planning as a state Department having an interest in the Esizayo WEF application.</p> <p>I'm not sure if you have been in contact with our George office (EIA component) for comment? If not, can you please provide this Department with 1 x hard copy and 3 x CDs of the DSR please (marked for my attention)?</p> <p>Please do not hesitate to contact me for any clarity.</p>	<p>Ashlea Strong from WSP Parsons Brinckerhoff:</p> <p>Thank you so much for your email.</p> <p>I can confirm that we do indeed have the Western Cape Department of Environmental Affairs and Development Planning listed as a commenting Authority on our database for both the Esizayo and Maralla East Wind Energy Developments.</p> <p>We have forwarded a hard copy and a CD of both reports through to Mr Gavin Benjamin at the following address:</p> <p>Western Cape Department of Environmental Affairs and Development Planning, Directorate: Development Management, (Region 3 – Central Karoo District and Eden District)</p> <p>93 York Street, Fourth Floor, York Park Building, George, 6350</p> <p>In addition, I can confirm that I have also added you to our database so that you can also receive the project information going forward to keep you abreast of the projects' progress.</p> <p>Please confirm if you would still like a couple of CD copies sent through to your office?</p>	<p>Appendix H</p>

<p>Adri La Meyer 23 September 2016 Email</p>	<p>Thank you very much for the confirmation. If it is not too much effort, would you be able to provide me with 3 x CDs of the DSR (only for Esizayo since I believe Maralla falls outside the boundaries of the Western Cape)? This will enable me to collate the comments for the entire Department (EIA, Waste, Air Quality and Pollution and Waste). Please can you send it to me at the details indicated below?</p> <p>Can you also please confirm that Maralla is not applicable to the Western Cape?</p>	<p>Ashlea Strong from WSP Parsons Brinckerhoff:</p> <p>I will arrange the CDs for your today.</p> <p>It will be 2 sets of CDs – one set for the Esizayo Wind Farm (which is entirely in the Western Cape) and one set for the Maralla East Wind Farm (which has a small section that sits in the Western Cape). Maralla West is completely inside the Northern Cape.</p>	<p>Appendix H</p>
<p>Adri La Meyer 26 September 2016 Email</p>	<p>I hope you are well. I received the CDs on Friday, many thanks for that. I wasn't in the office, but one of my colleagues received it.</p> <p>I note that the commenting period on the DSR ends on 15 October 2016. However, please be advised that the 15th is on a Saturday. Also, I noted that you counted 24 September 2016 as part of the 30-day PPP. Please note that the 24th was a public holiday and should therefore be excluded from the PPP timeframes. Can I therefore assume that the PPP for commenting on the DSR ends on 17 October 2016?</p> <p>Regulation 3(1): Subject to subregulations (2) and (3), when a period of days must in terms of these Regulations be reckoned from or after a particular day, that period must be reckoned as from the start of the day following that particular day to the end of the last day of the period, but if the last day of the period falls on a Saturday, Sunday or public holiday, that period must be extended to the end of the next day which is not a Saturday, Sunday or public holiday.</p> <p>Regulation 3(5): Where a prescribed timeframe is affected by one or more public holidays, the timeframe must be extended by the number of public holiday days falling within that timeframe.</p>	<p>Ashlea Strong from WSP Parsons Brinckerhoff:</p> <p>That is correct. The PPP will end on the 17th of October 2016.</p>	<p>Appendix H</p>
<p>Western Cape Department of Transport and Public Works</p>			
<p>Mr Malcolm Watters Chief Director: Road Network Management 06 October 2016</p>	<p>Your letter 47579 dated 15 September 2016 refers.</p> <p>BioTherm Energy (Pty) Ltd proposes development of a 250 MW wind energy facility between Sutherland and Laingsburg.</p> <p>This Branch would like to register as an interested and affected party.</p>	<p>Ashlea Strong from WSP Parsons Brinckerhoff:</p> <p>Thank you for your letter.</p> <p>I can confirm that we have included your comments in our comment and response report for the projects concerned. In addition we have added registered you as</p>	<p>Appendix H Appendix P</p>

<p>Letter dated: 5 October 2016</p>	<p>The proposal affects Provincial Roads Trunk road 20/1, Main Road 318, Minor Roads 6162, 6163 and 8405 and possibility other proclaimed roads (dependent on routes taken by construction and delivery vehicles).</p> <p>This Branch offers the following initial comment on the proposed project and will provide further comment when application is made in terms of the Land Use Planning Act in terms of Act 21 of 1940 and Ordinance 19 of 1976, the following conditions apply:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A building restriction line of 95m is applicable along trunk, main and divisional roads and is measured from the centreline of the road reserve. • A building restriction line of 500m is applicable from the centerlines of intersecting trunk, main and divisional roads and where these roads intersect other roads. • No advertising of any nature is allowed on the turbine structures • Turbines should be located a distance equal to or greater than their toppling distance plus 5m from the road reserve boundary • Turbines shall be located far enough from the road reserve boundary so that they do not present a distraction to motorists and this Branch may require the applicant to engage the services of a traffic engineer to assess such impact once the location of the wind turbines have been determined. • A 5m building line is applicable • A Traffic Impact Assessment (TIA) will be required when the LUPA application is made. Amongst the usual items that the TIA addresses it should also consider the impact on road infrastructure and what maintenance measures may be required during construction and decommissioning of the facility. 	<p>an interested and affected party on the database.</p> <p>We take note of the relevant comments and will be forwarding them through to the client as well as the traffic specialist for further consideration in the Environmental Impact Reports.</p> <p>We look forward to your continued participation in our processes.</p>	
Commission on Restitution of Land Rights – Regional Land Claims Commissioner: Northern Cape			
<p>Pabalelo Mokale 11 October 2016 Formal Letter</p>	<p>Letter from WSP Environmental:</p> <p>RE: STATUS OF CLAIMS FOR THE RESTITUTION OF LAND RIGHTS LODGED AGAINST PROPERTIES IDENTIFIED FOR THE PROPOSED MARALLA EAST WIND ENERGY FACILITY, SUTHERLAND, NORTHERN AND WESTERN CAPE.</p> <p>BioTherm Energy (Pty) Ltd (BioTherm) has proposed the development of three Wind Energy Projects (up to 250MW) within the Western Cape and a portion of the Northern Cape, namely Maralla East, Maralla West and Esizayo Wind Energy Projects.</p>	<p>Response from RLCC:</p> <p>Land Claims Enquiry</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Remainder of farm Welgemoed no. 268 2. Remainder of farm SChalkwykskraal no.204 	<p>Appendix H</p>

WSP | Parsons Brinckerhoff, Environment and Energy, Africa (WSP | Parsons Brinckerhoff) has been appointed in the role of Independent Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP) to undertake the S&EIR processes for each of the three wind energy projects. This request is specific to the Proposed Maralla East Wind Energy Facility in the Northern and Western Cape.

Please can you advise whether land claims have been lodged on the properties listed below:

- Farm Welgemoed 268, Remainder;
- Farm Schalkwykskraal 204, Remainder; and
- Farm Drie Roode Heuvels 180, Remainder.

Please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned should you require any further information

3. Remainder of farm Drie Roode Heuvels no.180

We refer to your letter dated 11 October 2016.

We confirm that as at the date of this letter no land claims appear on our database in respect of the Property. This includes the database for claims lodged by 31 December 1998 and those lodged between 1 July 2014 and 27 July 2016 in terms of the Restitution of Land Rights Amendment Act, 2014.

Whilst the Commission takes reasonable care to ensure the accuracy of the information it provides, there are various factors that are beyond the Commission's control, particularly relating to claims that have been lodged by not yet been gazetted such as:

- Some Claimants referred to properties they claim dispossession of rights in land against using historical property descriptions which may not match the current property description; and
- Some Claimants provided the geographic descriptions of the land they claim without mentioning the particular actual property description they claim dispossession of rights in land against.

The Commission therefore does not accept any liability whatsoever if through the process of further investigation of claims it is found that there is in fact a land claim in respect of the above property.

		If you are aware of any change in the description of the above property after 19 June 1913 kindly supply us with such description so as to enable us to do a further search.	
<p>Pabalelo Mokale</p> <p>11 October 2016</p> <p>Formal Letter</p>	<p>Letter from WSP Environmental:</p> <p>PROPERTIES IDENTIFIED FOR THE PROPOSED TRANSMISSION INTEGRATION FOR THE MARALLA WIND ENERGY FACILITIES, SUTHERLAND, NORTHERN AND WESTERN CAPE.</p> <p>BioTherm Energy (Pty) Ltd (BioTherm) has proposed the development of three Wind Energy Projects (up to 250MW) within the Western Cape and a portion of the Northern Cape, namely Maralla East, Maralla West and Esizayo Wind Energy Projects.</p> <p>WSP Parsons Brinckerhoff, Environment and Energy, Africa (WSP Parsons Brinckerhoff) has been appointed in the role of Independent Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP) to undertake the S&EIR processes for each of the three wind energy projects. This request is specific to the Proposed Transmission Integration Maralla Wind Energy Facilities in the Northern and Western Cape.</p> <p>Please can you advise whether land claims have been lodged on the properties listed below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Remainder of Drie Roode Heuvels Farm No. 180; • Remainder of Annex Drie Roode Heuwels Farm No. 181; • Remainder of Leeuwe Hoek Farm No. 183; • Remainder of Zwanepoels Hoek Farm No. 184; • Remainder of Orange Fontein Farm No. 185 • Remainder of De Hoop Farm No. 202; • Remainder of Orange Fontein Farm No. 203; • Portion 1 of Orange Fontein Farm No. 203; • Portion 2 of Orange Fontein Farm No. 203; • Portion 3 of Orange Fontein Farm No. 203; • Portion 4 of Orange Fontein Farm No. 203; 	<p>Response from RLCC:</p> <p>Land Claims Enquiry</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Remainder of Drie Roode Heuvels Farm No. 180; 2. Remainder of Annex Drie Roode Heuwels Farm No. 181; 3. Remainder of Leeuwe Hoek Farm No. 183; 4. Remainder of Zwanepoels Hoek Farm No. 184; 5. Remainder of Orange Fontein Farm No. 185 6. Remainder of De Hoop Farm No. 202; 7. Remainder of Orange Fontein Farm No. 203; 8. Portion 1 of Orange Fontein Farm No. 203; 9. Portion 2 of Orange Fontein Farm No. 203; 10. Portion 3 of Orange Fontein Farm No. 203; 11. Portion 4 of Orange Fontein Farm No. 203; 12. Remainder of Schalkwykskraal Farm No. 204; 	<p>Appendix H</p>

- Remainder of Schalkwykskraal Farm No. 204;
- Portion 2 of Schalkwykskraal Farm No. 204;
- Portion 1 of De Plaat Farm No. 205;
- Remainder of Kentucky Farm No. 206;
- Portion 1 of Volvenkop Farm No. 207;
- Portion 2 of Volvenkop Farm No. 207;
- Portion 3 of Volvenkop Farm No. 207;
- Remainder of Rheeboeke Fontein Farm No. 209;
- Portion 1 of Rheeboeke Fontein Farm No. 209;
- Portion 3 of Rheeboeke Fontein Farm No. 209;
- Remainder of Strandvastigheid Farm No. 210; and
- Portion 2 of Strandvastigheid Farm No. 210.

Please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned should you require any further information.

13. Portion 1 of De Plaat Farm No. 205;
14. Remainder of Kentucky Farm No. 206;
15. Portion 1 of Volvenkop Farm No. 207;
16. Portion 2 of Volvenkop Farm No. 207;
17. Portion 3 of Volvenkop Farm No. 207;
18. Remainder of Rheeboeke Fontein Farm No. 209;
19. Portion 1 of Rheeboeke Fontein Farm No. 209;
20. Portion 3 of Rheeboeke Fontein Farm No. 209;
21. Remainder of Strandvastigheid Farm No. 210; and
22. Portion 2 of Strandvastigheid Farm No. 210.

We refer to your letter dated 11 October 2016.

We confirm that as at the date of this letter no land claims appear on our database in respect of the Property. This includes the database for claims lodged by 31 December 1998 and those lodged between 1 July 2014 and 27 July 2016 in terms of the Restitution of Land Rights Amendment Act, 2014.

Whilst the Commission takes reasonable care to ensure the accuracy of the information it provides, there are various factors that are beyond the Commission's

		<p>control, particularly relating to claims that have been lodged by not yet been gazetted such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Some Claimants referred to properties they claim dispossession of rights in land against using historical property descriptions which may not match the current property description; and - Some Claimants provided the geographic descriptions of the land they claim without mentioning the particular actual property description they claim dispossession of rights in land against. <p>The Commission therefore does not accept any liability whatsoever if through the process of further investigation of claims it is found that there is in fact a land claim in respect of the above property.</p> <p>If you are aware of any change in the description of the above property after 19 June 1913 kindly supply us with such description so as to enable us to do a further search.</p>	
Commission on Restitution of Land Rights – Regional Land Claims Commissioner: Western Cape			
<p>David Smit 11 October 2016 Formal Letter</p>	<p>Letter from WSP Environmental:</p> <p>RE: STATUS OF CLAIMS FOR THE RESTITUTION OF LAND RIGHTS LODGED AGAINST PROPERTIES IDENTIFIED FOR THE PROPOSED MARALLA EAST WIND ENERGY FACILITY, SUTHERLAND, NORTHERN AND WESTERN CAPE.</p> <p>BioTherm Energy (Pty) Ltd (BioTherm) has proposed the development of three Wind Energy Projects (up to 250MW) within the Western Cape and a portion of the Northern Cape, namely Maralla East, Maralla West and Esizayo Wind Energy Projects.</p>	<p>Response from RLCC:</p> <p>No response received to date</p>	<p>Appendix H</p>

	<p>WSP Parsons Brinckerhoff, Environment and Energy, Africa (WSP Parsons Brinckerhoff) has been appointed in the role of Independent Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP) to undertake the S&EIR processes for each of the three wind energy projects. This request is specific to the Proposed Maralla East Wind Energy Facility in the Northern and Western Cape.</p> <p>Please can you advise whether land claims have been lodged on the properties listed below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Farm Welgemoed 268, Remainder; • Farm Schalkwykskraal 204, Remainder; and • Farm Drie Roode Heuvels 180, Remainder. <p>Please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned should you require any further information</p>		
<p>David Smit 11 October 2016 Formal Letter</p>	<p>Letter from WSP Environmental:</p> <p>PROPERTIES IDENTIFIED FOR THE PROPOSED TRANSMISSION INTEGRATION FOR THE MARALLA WIND ENERGY FACILITIES, SUTHERLAND, NORTHERN AND WESTERN CAPE.</p> <p>BioTherm Energy (Pty) Ltd (BioTherm) has proposed the development of three Wind Energy Projects (up to 250MW) within the Western Cape and a portion of the Northern Cape, namely Maralla East, Maralla West and Esizayo Wind Energy Projects.</p> <p>WSP Parsons Brinckerhoff, Environment and Energy, Africa (WSP Parsons Brinckerhoff) has been appointed in the role of Independent Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP) to undertake the S&EIR processes for each of the three wind energy projects. This request is specific to the Proposed Transmission Integration Maralla Wind Energy Facilities in the Northern and Western Cape.</p> <p>Please can you advise whether land claims have been lodged on the properties listed below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Remainder of Drie Roode Heuvels Farm No. 180; • Remainder of Annex Drie Roode Heuwels Farm No. 181; • Remainder of Leeuwe Hoek Farm No. 183; • Remainder of Zwanepoels Hoek Farm No. 184; • Remainder of Orange Fontein Farm No. 185 • Remainder of De Hoop Farm No. 202; 	<p>Response from RLCC:</p> <p>No response received to date</p>	<p>Appendix H</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Remainder of Orange Fontein Farm No. 203; • Portion 1 of Orange Fontein Farm No. 203; • Portion 2 of Orange Fontein Farm No. 203; • Portion 3 of Orange Fontein Farm No. 203; • Portion 4 of Orange Fontein Farm No. 203; • Remainder of Schalkwykskraal Farm No. 204; • Portion 2 of Schalkwykskraal Farm No. 204; • Portion 1 of De Plaat Farm No. 205; • Remainder of Kentucky Farm No. 206; • Portion 1 of Volvenkop Farm No. 207; • Portion 2 of Volvenkop Farm No. 207; • Portion 3 of Volvenkop Farm No. 207; • Remainder of Rheebokke Fontein Farm No. 209; • Portion 1 of Rheebokke Fontein Farm No. 209; • Portion 3 of Rheebokke Fontein Farm No. 209; • Remainder of Strandvastigheid Farm No. 210; and • Portion 2 of Strandvastigheid Farm No. 210. <p>Please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned should you require any further information.</p>		
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Laingsburg Local Municipality

Laingsburg Local Municipality Meeting 29 September 2016	Mr B Kleinbooi: There seems to have been approval as sub-contractors have been appointed. Have you got local labour?	Ashlea Strong from WSP Parsons Brinckerhoff: The are no sub-contractors appointed for these projects as yet. We are still in the EIA process, haven't received the EAs yet and BioTherm hasn't submitted the project into the REIPPP bidding window.	Appendix H
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	There is still a long way to go before contractors and sub-contractors are required.	
Mr B Kleinbooi: We have been lied to in the past on these type of projects. Only white people where appointed.	Noted.	Appendix H
Mr M Gouws: How many jobs will be created?	Ashlea Strong from WSP Parsons Brinckerhoff: As this stage of the process we cannot provide specific numbers. Tulani Koom from BioTherm Energy: Currently with the speed at which technology is changing, it is hard to pin point the type of jobs required and who the specific sub-contractors will be at this stage.	Appendix H
Mr B Kleinbooi: This is where I have a problem. We need to know now how many jobs will be created. There is nothing attached here in terms of jobs	Mr J Venter: The projects are so far in the future this information is not yet available.	Appendix H
Mr P Williams: Will the electricity that is generated from the wind energy facility be affordable? NERSA are increasing tariffs again.	Michael Barnes from BioTherm Energy: As an IPP we connect the WEF to the Eskom sub-station in the area and it is then distributed by Eskom. Wind is the cheapest form of energy and costs approximately 60 cents per MW. However, BioTherm sell the electricity to Eskom and therefore the cost saving may not necessarily be realised by the consumer	Appendix H

	<p>Mr B Kleinbooi:</p> <p>Is this 60 cents a true reflection of the generation process? In addition, are we sure it won't have an impact on water? There is also a grave yard that we want protected.</p>	<p>Ashlea Strong from WSP Parsons Brinckerhoff:</p> <p>The exact location of the graveyard which Mr Kleinbooi is referring to is unknown. Several graveyards were recorded during the survey. They have been identified. More unmarked graveyards may exist.</p> <p>We have a number of specialists undertaking specialist assessments. The impact on water has been identified as low at this stage as water is only required during the construction phase. The HIA has not identified any grave yards within the development areas. However, if there are specific sites you would like them to investigate please forward us the information.</p>	<p>Appendix H</p>
	<p>Mr B Kleinbooi:</p> <p>Will the community benefit?</p> <p>Mr M Gouws:</p> <p>What is the Socio-economic benefit?</p>	<p>Tulani Koom from BioTherm Energy:</p> <p>The REIPPP program requires that you commit a certain percentage of the revenue for the local community benefit. It is difficult to give the exact percentage at this stage of the project. The current minimum threshold in the programme is 0.6% for socio-economic development with an overall target of 1.5% and 0.9% for enterprise development with a target of 0.6% respectively. This may change and therefore the percentage can't be defined now.</p> <p>In terms of community upliftment. The construction phase will create job opportunities but there is also a recruitment process to be followed. Once the facility is operational there is a requirement for jobs, local procurement,</p>	<p>Appendix H</p>

		<p>socio-economic development and enterprise development.</p> <p>There is a requirement to submit quarterly reports to the DoE on socio-economic development and enterprise development for monitoring purposes, example being:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Putting learners through school → New equipment for clinics → BioTherm currently runs the following initiatives at existing facilities: → Equipment for hospitals → Appointing teachers → Helped 22 learners go through university → Skills development (Hospitality, conservation etc.). <p>BioTherm is extremely committed to community upliftment</p>	
<p>Mr B Kleinbooi: Mr Todd built a WEF and nobody from the community benefitted</p>			Appendix H
<p>Mr J Venter: Where is pollution covered?</p>		<p>Ashlea Strong from WSP Parsons Brinckerhoff:</p> <p>Pollution is covered within all the specialist studies to some degree</p>	Appendix H
<p>Mr P Williams: What about impact on the vegetation?</p>		<p>Ashlea Strong from WSP Parsons Brinckerhoff:</p> <p>The impact on the vegetation forms part of the Biodiversity Study.</p>	Appendix H

	<p>Mr J Venter: What about noise and animals Impacts?</p>	<p>Ashlea Strong from WSP Parsons Brinckerhoff:</p> <p>The impacts of noise from the wind energy facility on residential receptors is assessed in the Environmental Acoustic Impact Assessment Report (EIA Phase) – see Section 4. Impacts on animals is dealt with the in the Biodiversity study.</p> <p>MB: Our experience with our wind farm in Caledon is that the sheep actually use the turbines shadows for shade and seem to be unfazed about the noise</p>	Appendix H
	<p>Mr B Kleinbooi: What are the decibels associated with the wind farm?</p>	<p>Ashlea Strong from WSP Parsons Brinckerhoff:</p> <p>The resultant noise levels associated with the wind energy facility are discussed thoroughly in the Environmental Acoustic Impact Assessment Report (EIA Phase) – see Section 4.</p> <p>Michael Barnes from BioTherm Energy:</p> <p>It must be noted that the more wind there is, the more noise is generated. However, the wind also decreases the amount of sound emanating from the site. It is a very difficult impact to mitigate.</p>	Appendix H
	<p>Mr B Kleinbooi: Is there high criminal activity associated with wind farms?</p>	<p>Michael Barnes from BioTherm Energy:</p> <p>In our experience, no. The only vulnerable equipment is the met masts' (Meteorological mast) solar panel and battery.</p>	Appendix H

		<p>Ashlea Strong from WSP Parsons Brinckerhoff:</p> <p>There will need to be access control to ensure that unauthorised personnel do not enter the site.</p>	
	<p>Mr B Kleinbooi: What about a WEF being a tourist attraction?</p> <p>Mr J Venter: They can also be an educational attraction.</p>	<p>Michael Barnes from BioTherm Energy:</p> <p>Yes, this is a possibility. In the USA people go on tours of WEF.</p>	Appendix H
	<p>Mr B Kleinbooi: How much of the technology is imported?</p>	<p>Tulani Koom from BioTherm Energy:</p> <p>The DoE stipulates that in terms of wind facilities a minimum of 40% or more must be locally made (i.e. in South Africa). There is a large local component to these projects.</p>	Appendix H
	<p>Mr B Kleinbooi: What about community trusts associated with these projects?</p>	<p>Tulani Koom from BioTherm Energy:</p> <p>During the bidding windows 1 to 4.75 projects were required to have a community trust with a minimum of a 5% community shareholding. However, the community trust requirements result in problems as they are expensive to maintain. What the market is suggesting is we find ways to uplift the community sooner with though the trusts.</p>	Appendix H
	<p>Mr P Williams: In your experience so far what are some of the negative experiences? What are the farmer's benefits (landowner)? Longer term impacts on health and shorter term cash input? Where there anti WEF people and why?</p>	<p>Michael Barnes from BioTherm Energy:</p> <p>In terms of Health and Safety accidents we have only ever really had one injured hand. BioTherm are very serious when it comes to Health and Safety. In terms of farmer (landowner) benefits there is a</p>	Appendix H

		<p>lease option. At this stage of the project BioTherm have entered into a monthly or quarterly lease agreements with the landowner. If the project is selected as a preferred bidder and the project becomes operational, the landowner will receive a certain % revenue. In terms of the powerline servitudes, there is a once off fee for the landowner who owns the land on which the servitudes will run. BioTherm is very open and transparent with the community so they have not experienced any strikes or issues with the local communities on our operational facilities. There are however a number of conservation groups which are against WEF however, no legal action has been taken against BioTherm.</p> <p>Ashlea Strong from WSP Parsons Brinckerhoff:</p> <p>We have received some concerns from leisure farmers in the area. The main concerns are the cumulative impacts associated with the number of wind farms being proposed in the area. The concerns were mainly centred around:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Sterilising of the area; → Tourism; → Social Impacts; and → Biodiversity. <p>We have received no other major comments or issues raised at this stage.</p>	
	<p>Mr B Kleinbooi:</p> <p>What about land claims? The submission of land claims is currently open. what happens if a person opens a land claim on the farm? In terms of the community trusts and procurement</p>	<p>Tulani Koom from BioTherm Energy:</p> <p>This is not something BioTherm can control or decided on. We will need to let</p>	<p>Appendix H</p>

	(enterprise development) we need to train the community now so they can get their documents in order.	the Department of Rural Development and Land Reform run their process. From BioTherm's perspective it's out of our hands. We will train the community in terms of the community trust. To prepare for procurement/ training for jobs, it's impossible to do it now as the projects are not guaranteed.	
	<p>Gwynne Harding:</p> <p>What endangered species have been identified in the area? Specifically interested in the Owls.</p>	<p>Ashlea Strong from WSP Parsons Brinckerhoff:</p> <p>The Avifauna specialist has identified all the endangered species that could potentially occur in the development areas. A table is included in the report. Specific mention has been made with regards to the Martial and Vereaux's Eagles and the Greater Flamingo. I believe there is an owl on the list but don't believe they have actually seen it. We will forward you the relevant reports (I.e. Avifauna and Biodiversity) for your information.</p>	Appendix H
Civil Aviation Authority			
<p>Lizelle Stroh</p> <p>Obstacle Inspector</p> <p>08 November 2016</p> <p>Email</p>	<p>Your enquiry regarding approval from the SACAA with regard to PV farms refers.</p> <p>There is a SACAA process whereby permission is applied for wrt obstacles which could pose an aviation hazard. More information can be obtained at http://www.caa.co.za. Click on information for industry 'Obstacles' on the LHS. Forms, Part 139-27 and submit on the form itself.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Kindly provide a .kml (Google Earth) file reflecting the footprint of the proposed development site including the proposed overhead electric power line route that will evacuate the generated power to the national grid. Also indicate the highest structure of the project & the Overhead electric power transmission line. 	<p>Thank you for your comments.</p> <p>We have included them in the Comment and Response Report and have forwarded the information to the Client for their attention.</p> <p>It should be noted that these applications will not be compiled until the Client has identified the preferred alignment for the transmission lines and received their Environmental Authorisations for the relevant projects.</p>	Appendix H

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Note that there may be other wind farms and PV farms in the area. Unique names are preferable. Please always use the proposed PV farm name in the Subject box when corresponding via email with this office and indicate the name & address which should appear on the CAA approval/decline letter. There is an assessment fee of R770 per application. For billing purposes: company name VAT nr. and postal details. Kindly ensure that all the above data is forwarded. Incomplete data causes unnecessary delays. 	We look forward to your ongoing participation in these projects.	
Department of Water and Sanitation			
<p>C Schwartz Northern Cape Region (Lower Orange Water Management Area) 25 October 2016 Formal Letter</p>	<p>The Department of Water & Sanitation (DWS) hereby acknowledges receipt of the Draft Environmental Scoping Report for the proposed Maralla East Wind Energy Facility near Sutherland, Northern Cape.</p> <p>The Department takes note of the proposed activity and therefore provides the following comments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Any spillage of any hazardous materials including diesel that may occur during construction and operation must be reported immediately to this Department Damaging the beds and banks of a water course has been identified as one of the characteristic flow of a watercourse is identified as a water use by the National Water Act and carrying out of such activity will need a Water Use Licence Application in terms of the above-mentioned act. Stormwater must be diverted from the construction works and roads and must be managed in such a manner as to disperse runoff and to prevent the concentration of stormwater flow Please indicate where the water that will be used for construction purposes will be sourced from. <p>Please feel free to contact this department, should there be any enquiries.</p>	<p>The following responses have been provided by the Surface Water Specialist:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Noted. Noted. Spill response has been addressed within the site-specific EMP. It is specified that all major spills are reported to the DWS immediately. A representative onsite must be trained in the use of the spill kit stop, contain and remove contamination, to prevent further pollution of the environment. Agreed. It is understood that if Biotherm become the preferred bidder then the Water Use Licence Application (WULA) process will proceed. This will then require a full functional assessment (i.e. PES, EIS and EcoServices) of the freshwater habitats that may potentially be impacted upon by the proposed development. At this stage design details should be available allowing the freshwater specialist to assess 	<p>Appendix H Appendix Q Appendix W</p>

		<p>specific areas within the site and determine proximity of the structures to freshwater systems.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stormwater management and erosion control have been addressed within this report and the site-specific EMPr. A stormwater management plan must be compiled and approved by DWS. • The source has not been confirmed at this stage and would be covered under the WULA. It will more than likely come from existing farm boreholes within the property. 	
Heritage Western Cape			
<p>Nonceba Mabija 15 November 2016 Email</p>	<p>The Proposed Maralla East Wind Energy facility near Sutherland</p> <p>Heritage Western Cape acknowledged the email that was submitted on the 04 November 2016 , However a payment of R1100 is required as well the hardcopy of the HIA of the above mentioned application.</p> <p>attached is the payment instruction.</p> <p>please ensure you use our case number : 16041211</p> <p>NB: It is essential that you ensure that the case number is used as the bank reference for any payment made to us. Failure to do so will determine that HWC regards your application as unpaid for and any payment made will be forfeited.</p> <p>Kindly note that your application has now been placed on hold and will only be addressed once the information requested had been received</p>	<p>No response required.</p>	<p>Appendix H</p>

3

STAKEHOLDERS

STAKEHOLDERS DETAILS	COMMENT	RESPONSE	REPORT REFERENCE
Falcon Oil and Gas			
Ann Flynn 14 September 2016 Email	<p>Thank you for the below email. I wondered if it would be possible for you to provide my details to the relevant person in Bio-Therm. We met with a number of the BioTherm team late last year to discuss our respective projects in the Karoo.</p> <p>Just by way of background, Falcon holds a Technical Cooperation Permit covering an area of approximately 7.5 million acres (approximately 30,327 km²), in the southwest Karoo Basin. The TCP was granted to Falcon in terms of section 77 of the Mineral and Petroleum Resources Development Act 28 of 2002 (“MPRDA”) and provides Falcon exclusive rights to apply for an exploration right over the underlying acreage which Falcon invoked, having submitted an exploration right application in April 2010.</p> <p>We have worked extensively with a number of wind operators whose projects are further advanced and have a co-existence agreement template which we would like to share and open discussions.</p>	<p>Ashlea Strong from WSP Parsons Brinckerhoff:</p> <p>The following name and contact details were sent through to Ms Flynn:</p> <p>Ludwig van Aarde LvAarde@biothermenergy.com P: +27 (0) 11 367 4600</p>	Appendix P Appendix H
Ann Flynn 22 September 2016 Email	<p>I wanted to follow up on my email below regarding discussions with someone in Biotherm regarding the co-existence of our respective projects in the Karoo.</p> <p>We would very much appreciate if you could provide details to us on this.</p> <p>Further to my earlier email. We are based on Dublin, Ireland therefore attendance is not possible at the meeting.</p>		
Transnet Freight Rail			

Riaan Karriem 22 September 2016 Email	Hi Mrs. Lourens Please find attached for your depot's attention. Thanking you in advance	Ashlea Strong from WSP Parsons Brinckerhoff: No response required. Ms Lourens was added to the Stakeholder Database.	Appendix P Appendix H
Infrastructure Assessment Management			
Stephanie Kot 22 September 2016 Email	With reference to the attached notification, I would hereby like to register as an Interested & Affected Party for the EIA for the proposed Maralla West, Maralla East and Esizayo Renewable Energy Wind Projects. Please add me to your I&AP databases for these three projects.	Ashlea Strong from WSP Parsons Brinckerhoff: Thank you for your response. WSP Parsons Brinckerhoff have added Ms Kot to the stakeholder database.	Appendix P Appendix H
Breede-Gouritz Catchment Management Agency			
Makhosi Mthimkhulu 22 September 2016 Email	Please forward us the exact GPS coordinates of the project that falls within the Western Cape Province.	Ashlea Strong from WSP Parsons Brinckerhoff: Thank you for your email. I have attached the maps of the 2 projects that fall within the western cape – the corner co-ordinates are on the maps. The Esizayo Project falls completely within the Western Cape, while the Maralla East Project has only a small portion of the site that falls within the Western Cape. In the event that you require additional information on these sites I have attached our notification letter for your information. This letter provides details on the public meetings that are to be held next week on the 29th and 30th of September in Laingsburg and Sutherland respectively together with the website where you can access the Draft Scoping Reports. We look forward to your continued participation in our processes.	Appendix E Appendix T

<p>Makhosi Mthimkhulu 12 October 2016 Email</p>	<p>Thank you for the email. Please forward us the Hard Copy of the EIA reports.</p>	<p>Ashlea Strong from WSP Parsons Brinckerhoff:</p> <p>Thank you for your email.</p> <p>As discussed, please access the Draft Scoping Reports from our Website as hard copies will not reach you in time before the Review period closes.</p> <p>However, we have put you on the list to receive hard copies of the Final Scoping and Draft EIA Reports.</p> <p>Thank you for you participation in this process.</p>	<p>Appendix T</p>
<p>Makhosi Mthimkhulu 8 November 2016 Email</p>	<p>Please complete the attached documents and forward them back to me.</p> <p><i>Attachments include the following water use licence forms:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>DW763 NWA Section 21c</i> • <i>DW768 NWA Section 21i</i> • <i>DW758 NWA Company Information</i> • <i>DW781 Supplementary Form</i> 	<p>Thank you for your email.</p> <p>We appreciate your identification of the water use licence forms that are applicable to the wind projects mentioned above. However, we would like to highlight the fact that the water use licence application process will only be undertaken in the event that the projects are awarded preferred bidder status. In the meantime, we have included your comment in the Comment and response Report and have forwarded your request to the Client for their information.</p> <p>We look forward to your ongoing participation in our processes.</p>	
<p>Phakamani Buthelezi (Chief Executive Officer) 18 November 2016 Formal Letter</p>	<p>Comments on Proposed Maralla East Wind Energy Facility in the Northern and Western Cape Province</p> <p>The above mentioned report, dated 28 October reference number (Project Number: 47579) has reference.</p> <p>The Breede-Gouritz Catchment Management Agency (BGCMA) has the following comments:</p>	<p>The following responses have been provided by the Surface Water Specialist:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This report provides an initial high-level identification of freshwater habitat systems within the site boundary. This is due to the extent of the site, accessibility constraints and lack of information relating to the positioning of operational and road infrastructure. Should Biotherm be recognised as a Preferred Bidder, the required WULA in terms of NWA may 	

- No operation is allowed within 100m of a water resource or 1:100 year floodline whichever is the greatest. If the proposed activity falls within these criteria, you need to apply for water use licence to ensure that the riparian ecological status of the water resource will not be negatively impacted.
- Refer to page 117 of your report. The crossing of watercourses constitutes a Water use Authorisation in terms of section 21 of the National Water Act (NWA) 1998 (Act No. 36 of 1996). Please submit a Water Use License application to this Agency.
- Please note that no water may be abstracted from any surface water body and groundwater unless authorised by this Agency.
- Please note that any development within 500m from the boundary of any wetland requires a water use license according to this Department's regulations
- No surface, ground or stormwater may be polluted as a result of any activities on site.
- The rehabilitation of the site must ensure that the final conditions of the site is environmentally acceptable and that there will be no adverse long term effects on the surrounding environment especially the water resources.
- If the rehabilitation of the site include the storage of water authorisation will be required before any water is stored.
- Please note that all requirements as stipulated in the National water Act (NWA) 1998 (Act No 36 of 1998) must be adhered to.
- Please note that this Agency reserves the right to amend and/or add to the comments made above in the light of subsequent information received.

If you have any questions please don't hesitate to contact the official at the above mentioned details.

commence. This application (WULA) will require detailed functional assessments (i.e. PES, EIS and EcoServices) of freshwater habitats potentially affected. Therefore, a recommendation within this land capability and freshwater identification report (Section 8) is a more in-depth and thorough freshwater functional assessment be conducted should BioTherm be recognised as a Preferred Bidder. Appropriate buffers for the identified systems must then form part of the in-depth assessment report which will require flood line information. At this stage design details should be available allowing the freshwater specialist to assess specific areas within the site and determine proximity of the structures to freshwater systems (including the 1:100 flood line). Another recommendation is that the freshwater specialist be present onsite during the construction phase of the project, and conduct an in-depth site walkover prior to any site work to assess the area for any wetlands and watercourses which may be affected by the actions conducted during the construction phase.

- Noted.
- The source has not been confirmed at this stage and would be covered under the WULA. It will more than likely come from existing farm boreholes within the property.
- Noted. Hence the study site included looking at a 500m radius of the site. This will also have to be taken into consideration during the in-depth functional assessment mentioned above.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Noted. Mitigative measures are presented within this report. Further site-specific mitigative measures must be included in the abovementioned full functional assessment. • Noted. The rehabilitation must be monitored by a suitably qualified specialist to ensure it is successful. Any storage triggering the need for a WUL in terms of Section 21(b) of NWA must be included in the WULA. • Noted. • Noted. 	
Stephan Pienaar			
Stephan Pienaar 26 September 2016 Email	I hereby wish to register as stakeholder and Interested and Affected Party on the above projects.	Ashlea Strong from WSP Parsons Brinckerhoff: Thank you for your email. I can confirm that I have added you to the project database for the above-mentioned projects. Attached please find the original notification letter that was sent out. The notification also outlines the details of the two public meetings that we will be holding later this week if you able to attend. We are looking forward to your continued participation on these projects.	Appendix P Appendix H
Warren Petterson			
Warren Petterson 26 September 2016 Email	With reference to your proposed windfarms (reference attached) I would like to register as an I & AP. We are farmers in the area and are greatly concerned with the extent to which various companies such as your clients are attempting to establish WEF's in our area. Little regard is given to the potential impact of the proposals on the table. The accumulative presence of the various	Ashlea Strong from WSP Parsons Brinckerhoff: Thank you for your email and comments.	Appendix P Appendix H Section 10 (Cumulative Impact Assessment)

	<p>proposals will destroy a massive part of the Karoo. I am sure you are aware of the other proposals as your WEF's border on the others.</p> <p>Besides the significant visual impact, the destruction of the landscape, noise and the numerous significant environmental impacts of various Fauna and Flora, there is a social impact that seems to be ignored.</p> <p>The above issues along with Increases in numbers of people in the area for construction and maintenance will result in the area becoming a less attractive destination for people who enjoy the pristine environment, attracting less tourists and potentially driving the "weekend "or "leisure" farmer away.</p> <p>Most of the surrounding farms are sheep farms, operating at marginal levels. The attraction to those whose who may be remunerated by means of a turbine on their property is obvious, and to your client a soft target. Increases in a non-agricultural workforce will add to the high rate of stock theft and other issues that the local population are currently faced with. The long term impact is that these farms will be farmed less, and the impact will spill over to the surrounding/neighbor farms who have no benefit from the WEF's. Over 20 years the impact will be significant and create a void in that part of the Karoo from both an agricultural perspective and a leisure farmer perspective.</p> <p>I believe that your choice of area is not suitable and that you should be looking at already disturbed, more intensively used environments instead of destroying one of the most pristine areas in our country. The combined size of these farms is definitely a reason for concern.</p> <p>As a qualified EAP I am sure that you will be taking the Environmental and other impacts into account and that your assessment will not be blurred by the commercially driven investors in these projects.</p>	<p>I can confirm that you have been added to the database and your comment has been included in the comment and response report.</p> <p>I can also confirm that we are required to do a detailed cumulative impact assessment in which all specialist studies must reference the studies undertaken for the surrounding projects and must provide proof that other specialist reports conducted for renewable energy projects in the area were reviewed and indicate how the recommendations, mitigation measures and conclusions have been taken into consideration when drafting the conclusion and mitigation measures for this project.</p> <p>Attached please find the original notification letter that was sent out. The notification also outlines the details of the two public meetings that we will be holding later this week if you able to attend.</p> <p>We are looking forward to your continued participation on these projects.</p> <p>Visual Specialist Response:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Concerns regarding cumulative visual impact are noted. The issues pertinent to cumulative visual impact are discussed in detail in Chapter 5 of the VIA. 	<p>Appendix T</p> <p>Appendix U</p> <p>Appendix L</p> <p>Appendix V</p>
<p>Warren Petterson</p> <p>11 October 2016</p> <p>Email</p>	<p>Do you have a link for to access the documents please?</p>	<p>Ashlea Strong from WSP Parsons Brinckerhoff:</p> <p>Thank you for your email.</p> <p>You can access the relevant Scoping Reports on our website.</p> <p><i>(the relevant link was inserted into the email response)</i></p>	<p>Appendix H</p> <p>Appendix P</p>

Warren Petterson

17 October 2016

Email

We are very opposed to your proposal, as collectively along with the other adjoining applications the impact will be massive. It seems as if the WEF's are targeting the sparkly populated areas of the Karoo as it is seen as a soft target. Farmers are generally poor and welcome any promise of additional income, regardless of the cost/impact to the land and environment. Furthermore, as the area is sparsely populated the resistance against any such proposal is generally a lot less. This reduces the complexity of the study and takes away the necessity to conduct in depth specialist studies that need to bear the possibility of high level interrogation.

In the Scoping Report certain issues of concern are noted:

- You mention that the entire area is a critical biodiversity area, with as many as 61 threatened species and many listed species. Surely this should raise alarm bells, especially from the point of view of being an independent EIP.
- Although there may be green energy down the line for a period, what is the opportunity cost in terms of the environmental footprint actually producing the infrastructure and then installing and maintaining it. This information is absent from the report.
- Although several companies are suggesting that the area around this proposal has ideal wind conditions in terms of the REDZ, however if you look at the REDZ area, it covers a large portion of the country, many areas being far more environmentally suitable than the pristine, critical biodiversity area of the Karoo. Many areas are close to urban areas, these also have access to power grids, roads and the expectation is to find such infrastructure close to urban areas rather than in pristine areas.
- Your report admits that employment benefits are minimal to the local community which has large levels of unemployment, as well as the fact that the chance of attracting workers from other areas is significant.
- You admit to potential traffic impacts during construction, decommissioning as well as operating phases. We struggle enough with the maintenance of our local roads without having to have the excess traffic burden on our road infrastructure, which has no or a limited maintenance budget.

Ashlea Strong from WSP | Parsons Brinckerhoff:

Thank you for your email. We can confirm that we have noted your objections and comments and have recorded them in the comment and response report.

In addition, please find the following comments on each of your queries / concerns:

- In terms of the critical biodiversity area, the biodiversity specialist has identified the impact on the critical biodiversity area and will be addressing it further in the EIA phase. We have informed them of your concern.
- We will endeavour to address this in the EIA Report
- Additional information regarding the REDZ will be included in the EIA Report
- Although it is difficult to identify the exact employment benefits at this stage of the project, the EIA report will endeavour to provide additional information in this regard.
- We have forwarded your concerns regarding the traffic impact on to the relevant traffic specialist for consideration in the EIA Phase.
- We have forwarded your concerns regarding the visual impacts onto the visual specialist for consideration in the EIA Phase.

Thank you for your participation in our processes. We look forward to your future contributions.

Visual Specialist Response:

- The proximity of the proposed WEFs to other potential WEFs in the area will not reduce the

Appendix P

Appendix H

Section 10 (Cumulative Impact Assessment)

Appendix T

Appendix U

Appendix L

Appendix V

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In the table highlighting the significance of the various impacts, the visual impact, impact on Fauna and Flora as well as some others are considered to be high. These are the most significant impacts and cannot be overlooked. One of your statements suggests that the fact that there will/may be other WEF adjacent to this one, will reduce the visual impact! What sort of argument is this; it will obviously increase the significance significantly? The positions are all high lying and will be seen from miles away. This includes the interlinking local power lines, access roads scarring the landscape as well as the turbine structures. <p>In summary we are opposed to these three WEF's as well as all the surrounding ones. We feel that an attempt is being made to industrialise the Karoo, foreign money is being used to fund the projects and these investors are getting a good return at our expense.</p> <p>I trust that you will note our concerns seriously and convey our sentiment to the relevant parties.</p> <p>We will oppose these WEF's to the end.</p>	<p>visual impact. The cumulative visual impact on the landscape will be higher.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The comment referred to may have related to the degree of visual intrusion. Visual intrusion is an assessment of how similar the proposed structures are to other elements or landuses in the area. As discussed in the VIA, the WEF will differ in visual character to current agricultural activities and infrastructure, but is more congruent with existing power related infrastructure. If the area is developed as a REDZ the proposal is visually consistent with this intended landuse. However this does not mean the visual impact on the landscape is less, the cumulative impact will be greater within this zone. 	
Steve Swanepoel			
<p>Steven Swanepoel 14 October 2016 Email</p>	<p>Re proposed development of Maralla West, East and Esizayo wind projects.</p> <p>Please be advised that both myself and Gail Louw are vehemently opposed to any form of wind farms within an eighty kilometre radius of the farms Paalfontein and Keurkloof situated in the Matjiesfontein area.</p> <p>We object strongly in terms of environment, visual affects, security, ecology, fauna and flora.</p> <p>Kindly confirm receipt of our objection.</p>	<p>Ashlea Strong from WSP Parsons Brinckerhoff:</p> <p>Thank you for your email.</p> <p>I confirm that we have received and recorded your objection in the Comment and Response Report for the relevant wind facility projects.</p> <p>We have also forwarded your concerns to the relevant specialists for their attention during the EIA Phase.</p> <p>In addition, I can confirm that I have added both yourself and Ms Louw to the project database so that you can receive all future correspondence in this regard.</p> <p>We look forward to your future participation and contribution to the process.</p>	<p>Appendix P Appendix H Section 10 (Cumulative Impact Assessment) Appendix T Appendix U Appendix L Appendix V</p>

		Visual Specialist Response:	
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The cumulative visual concerns for the greater area are noted and assessed in Chapter 5 of the VIA. The proposed WEFs are however, not likely to be visible from more than 10km away. 	
Invader Plant Specialists			
Dr Graham Harding 10 October 2016 Email	<p>I have just looked at your three reports for the proposed/planned farms in the area north of Laingsburg.</p> <p>My company, as the name suggests, specialises in Invasive Alien Vegetation management. We consult, train and project manage in this field. We have done a small project with Biotherm at the Caledon facility. We have also done extensive work on the Amakhala wind farm Bedford and the Tsitsikama Community wind farm west of Humansdorp.</p> <p>One of our strengths is that we have 2 registered Pest Control Operators (PCO) and have compiled numerous Invasive Alien Plant (IAP) management plans. Being compliant with the Fertilizer, Farm Feeds, Agricultural and Stock Remedies Act (36 of 1947) means that we can advise on management methods and herbicide usage. Our biggest customer in this regard is SAPPI mills RSA. We also compiled the Management plan for the 2 wind farms mentioned above. We also have extensive knowledge of IAP across RSA and especially in the arid Karoo.</p> <p>My reason for writing is that we would like to be considered when you get to developing your management plans for the sites. Know that we can develop detail plans for the site and assist with all aspects of IAP management from project management , training and monitoring</p>	<p>Ashlea Strong from WSP Parsons Brinckerhoff:</p> <p>Thank you for your email.</p> <p>We have captured your comment in our comment response report and have added your details to our database.</p> <p>We will forward your request through to the client for their information.</p>	Appendix P Appendix H
Dr Graham Harding 08 November 2016 Email	<p>Our hope is to get involved with Invasive vegetation management planning and monitoring on sites such as these.</p> <p>On all docs the Invasive plant legal issues are incorrect. They are no longer CARA but NEMBA listed. Please see attached summary,</p>	<p>Thank you for your email.</p> <p>Thank you for bring our error to our attention – we will ensure that the reference to invasive species is corrected in the Draft Environmental Impact Assessment Reports. Thank you for the information provided – it will be most useful.</p>	Appendix P Appendix H Section 3

<p>Dr Graham Harding 08 November 2016 Email</p>	<p>It is a pleasure. Please remember us when you start to look at EMP and Invasive Alien Plant plans and monitoring.</p>	<p>No response required.</p>	<p>-</p>
<p>Square Kilometre Array (SKA)</p>			
<p>Email to Dr Adrian Tiplady 04 October 2016</p>	<p>Email sent by Michael Barnes of BioTherm Energy:</p> <p>Dear Selaelo and Adrian</p> <p>I hope you both are well.</p> <p>We have submitted 3 EIA applications and scoping reports to the DEA for the proposed development of three wind energy projects. As part of the Public Consultation the DEA requires the SKA to provide comment on the wind energy projects and identify any risk they may pose on the SKA. Please see attached kmz's showing the locations of the wind energy projects.</p> <p>All three projects will consist of up to 70 turbines with a maximum hub height of 120m and a maximum rotor diameter of 150m.</p> <p>The Esizayo wind energy project is located approximately 30km northeast of Laingsburg in the Western Cape.</p> <p>The Maralla West wind energy project and Maralla East wind energy project are located adjacent to one another and are located approximately 34km south of Sutherland in the Northern Cape.</p> <p>Please can you provide an high level risk assessment on the potential projects and the risks they may pose on the SKA.</p> <p>Please provide a separate assessment letter for each the wind energy project.</p>	<p>Response from SKA (Selaelo Matlhane):</p> <p>Thank you</p> <p>SKA do an assessment and submit comments.</p> <p>Response from SKA (Dr Adrian Tiplady):</p> <p>The Esizayo WEF is located within the Western Cape, and will have no impact on the SKA. Both Maralla projects are located a significant distance from the SKA and so will have a very low impact risk of impact.</p>	<p>Appendix P Appendix H</p>
<p>Email to Dr Adrian Tiplady 12 October 2016</p>	<p>Email sent by Michael Barnes of BioTherm Energy:</p> <p>The DEA has requested a formal response.</p> <p>Again you can place all three facilities on one letter.</p>	<p>No Response received as yet.</p>	<p>Appendix P Appendix H</p>

South African Astronomical Observatory			
<p>Email to Ramotholo Sefako</p> <p>19 October 2016</p>	<p>Email sent by Bronwyn Fisher of WSP Parsons Brinckerhoff:</p> <p>Dear Dr Sefako</p> <p>My colleague Ashlea Strong sent the SAAO notification of the proposed Maralla West, Maralla East and Esizayo Wind Energy Facilities in the Laingsburg and Sutherland area on 15 September 2016, 22 September and 11 October 2016. I would just like to ensure that SAAO received the notifications and have had a chance to review the Draft Environmental Scoping Reports that were put out for public review.</p> <p>We welcome any comments that the SAAO may have on the proposed developments.</p> <p>Please note that the reports are still available on our website:</p> <p>http://www.wsp-pb.com/en/WSP-Africa/What-we-do/Services/All-Services-A-Z/Technical-Reports/</p> <p>Please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any questions or require any additional information.</p>	<p>Response from Mr Ramotholo Sefako:</p> <p>I am really sorry that I was not able to look at this before the deadline. I will look at this as soon as possible and hopefully send you our comments. Unfortunately, I am not able to look at this today or tomorrow, but hopefully I will be able to do that on Friday.</p>	<p>Appendix P</p> <p>Appendix H</p>
G7 Renewable Energies (Pty) Ltd			
<p>Karen de Bruyn</p> <p>06 October 2016</p> <p>Email</p>	<p>Kindly register me as an I&AP for the following projects:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Draft Environmental Scoping Report For The Proposed Maralla East Wind Energy Facility Near Sutherland, Northern And Western Cape – Biotherm Energy (Pty) Ltd • Draft Environmental Scoping Report For The Proposed Maralla West Wind Energy Facility Near Sutherland, Northern Cape – Biotherm Energy (Pty) Ltd • Draft Environmental Scoping Report For The Proposed Esizayo Wind Energy Facility Near Laingsburg, Western Cape – Biotherm Energy (Pty) Ltd 	<p>Ashlea Strong from WSP Parsons Brinckerhoff:</p> <p>I can confirm that you have been added to our project database for the projects below as requested.</p> <p>We look forward to your continued participation in our processes.</p>	<p>Appendix P</p> <p>Appendix H</p>
<p>Karen de Bruyn</p> <p>15 November 2016</p>	<p>Please can you provide me with copies of the three comments and responses reports as these are not available online.</p>	<p>Thank you for your email.</p> <p>As per your request - attached please find the three comment and response reports for the Esizayo,</p>	<p>Appendix P</p> <p>Appendix H</p>

Email		Maralla East and Maralla West Projects as submitted with the Final Scoping Reports. Looking forward to your continued participation in our processes.	
Andries Le Roux			
Andries le Roux 11 October 2016 Email	Kan ek die scoping reports iewers aflaai?	Ashlea Strong from WSP Parsons Brinckerhoff: Thank you for your email. You can Click here to access the relevant Scoping Reports on our website.	Appendix P Appendix H
Birdlife Africa			
Samantha Ralston-Paton 14 October 2016 Email	Email from WSP Environmental: Thank you for taking my call earlier. As discussed, the Scoping Reports can be found on our website: http://www.wsp-pb.com/en/WSP-Africa/What-we-do/Services/All-Services-A-Z/Technical-Reports/ Would you be able to provide us with comments by next Friday? Please don't hesitate to contact either myself or my colleague Ashlea Strong if you have any questions or require any further information. Ashlea's details are: Tel: 011 361 1392 Cell: 082 786 7819 Email: Ashlea.Strong@wspgroup.co.za	Response from Birdlife: Please could you send me the avifaunal specialist studies for these projects. I am not sure if the error was on our side or yours, but i will do my best to review the documents as soon as possible. Response from WSP: Thanks for the request – unfortunately our website limits us in terms of the amount of information we are able to upload so we will typically include the scoping report and not the appendices (noting that they are available on request). Due to the number of reports involved, I have set up a drop box with this information. Please just confirm receipt of the invitation and that you are able to download the reports (I have invited both you and Simon to the folder). Thank you so much for your assistance and participation in these processes.	Appendix P Appendix H

Windlab Development South Africa (Pty) Ltd			
Ben Brimble 14 October 2016 Email	Please register me as an I&AP.	Ashlea Strong from WSP Parsons Brinckerhoff: Thank you for your email. I can confirm that you have been added to the stakeholder database for both the Esizayo and Maralla East Wind Energy Facilities. We look forward to your ongoing participation in our processes.	Appendix P Appendix H
Sutherland Community			
30 September 2016 Sutherland Meeting Public	William Kruger: The other wind farms planned for the area such as G7 there are lots of wind masts. What about other wind farms? At Beerfontein they have applied for 100 turbines	Michael Barnes from BioTherm Energy: There are other ones such as Mainstream, ACED, G7, Soetwater (which they will start building soon as they received preferred bidder status in Round 4.5). There is also the Hidden Valley Project.	Appendix H
	Mr E van Zyl: I farm directly next to De Kom on the farm Kentucky and I rent land on the farm Oranjefontein	Ashlea Strong from WSP Parsons Brinckerhoff: The farm Kentucky is adjacent to the Maralla East and West WEFs and will be traversed by the powerlines. Michael Barnes from BioTherm Energy: Oranjefontein is the farm for the preferred bidder for the Soetwater WEF.	Appendix H
	William Kruger: In which town will most of the people coming into the area be located and which town will local employment come from?	Michael Barnes from BioTherm Energy: Sorting out where workers will stay will be the contractor's responsibility and will only be finalised at a later stage.	Appendix H

		Tulani Koom from BioTherm Energy: The Department of Energy (DoE) requires that local employment must come from the municipal district. This allows for upliftment on a broader scale.	
	Mr E van Zyl: Did you notify landowners of the proposed project?	Ashlea Strong from WSP Parsons Brinckerhoff: Yes, we did. We advertised the projects in Die Noordwester and sent out emails to the stakeholder database, which includes the landowners. We have just been advised that we should rather advertise in Die Burger as it is the paper that is read by the landowners in the area. An announcement was also made in the NG church	Appendix H
Dirk Olivier			
Dirk Olivier 08 November 2016 Email	Dankie vir die Inligting Mooi Dag	It is only a pleasure. Thank you for your email. We look forward to your continued participation in our processes.	Appendix P Appendix H
Wind-Energy Enercon South Africa (Pty) Ltd			
Jonathan Visser 28 November 2016 Email	Please can I ask that you add me to the I&APs for the following projects: ESIZAYO WIND ENERGY FACILITY MARALLA EAST WIND ENERGY MARALLA WEST WIND ENERGY Thank you for the assistance	Thank you for your email. I can confirm that you have been added to our project database for all three wind facilities. We look forward to your future participation in our processes.	Appendix P Appendix H
Western Cape Black Eagle Project			
Lucia Rodrigues	I would like to register as an interested and affected party for this proposed development.	Thank you for your email.	Appendix P

<p>28 November 2016</p> <p>Email</p>	<p>Are you able to forward the necessary forms please?</p>	<p>Your email is sufficient to be registered – I will just require the following information:</p> <p>Tel number:</p> <p>Cell Number:</p> <p>Email:</p> <p>Postal Address:</p> <p>I can then add you to the database.</p>	<p>Appendix H</p>
<p>Lucia Rodrigues</p> <p>29 November 2016</p> <p>Email</p>	<p>Thanks for your prompt response.</p> <p>Tel number: 021 788 5580</p> <p>Cell number: 083 325 8881</p> <p>Email: signet@webafrica.org.za</p> <p>Postal address: P O Box 356 Muizenberg 7950</p> <p>I have a copy of the Final Environmental Scoping Report, but have not been able to access the appendices.</p> <p>The ones I am interested in are;</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Avifaunal specialist study Appendix I 2. Appendix T 3. Appendix Y <p>Are you able to forward them to me please? The report mentions that further avifaunal monitoring is underway; would that also be by Chris van Rooyen?</p>	<p>Thank you for your email and your information – I will add them to the database.</p> <p>As requested please find attached the relevant appendices.</p> <p>Please note that Appendix T – the Comment and Response report I have included an email version – the only difference is that it doesn't have all the actual letters and emails in the appendices as these make it 45MB and therefore too big for email purposes – I hope that this version will provide you with the information you require.</p> <p>The 12 months of pre-construction monitoring recommended by the proposed Birdlife Guidelines have just come to an end. This was undertaken by Chris van Rooyen. The Environmental Impact Report and relevant specialist studies are currently being compiled.</p>	<p>Appendix P</p> <p>Appendix H</p> <p>Appendix M</p>
<p>Lucia Rodrigues</p> <p>04 December 2016</p> <p>Email</p>	<p>I would also like to register as an I&AP for Maralla East and West please. Are you able to forward the two Avifaunal Specialist studies please? Appendix I.</p>	<p>Thank you for your email below and your call earlier.</p> <p>As discussed – I have already added you to the consolidated I&AP database for the wind facilities.</p>	<p>Appendix P</p> <p>Appendix H</p> <p>Appendix M</p>

		<p>As promised – herewith the Avifauna studies for the Maralla East and West Facilities for your information and review.</p>													
<p>Renee Rust</p>															
<p>Renee Rust 30 November 2016 Email</p>	<p>With reference to your mail below of the proposed development of the Maralla West, Maralla East and Esizayo energy wind projects.</p> <p>I am the owner of the farm, Rietfontein, adjacent to Matjiesfontein village/Lord Milner Hotel and understandably greatly concerned with the proposed windfarms in the area. From your email and naming of projects it is impossible to ascertain what these projects propose and WHERE they are.</p> <p>It is unreasonable to name these projects in such a manner that it is confusing to the local people to know where and what these projects entail. One would think it may be to cause premeditated confusion so that it is difficult and near impossible for owners/farmers who will be affected by these projects to raise an objection. I object to the treatment of local people and their concerns.</p> <p>Thus, I would like you to give me the exact location and extent of these projects proposed. Please use local names of the towns and farms to show clearly where these projects will occur and what they entail. Does this mean that there will be 20 projects with a total of 1,600 turbines? This will destroy a large area of critical biodiversity and change the landscape indisputably. Who are the people who will benefit financially from these projects and why such a large number of turbines? What concern do the companies involved have for the environment and to what extent have legitimate impact studies been done?</p>	<p>I would like to confirm that I have added you to our EIA database, which will mean that you will get all future EIA related correspondence. WSP Parsons Brinckerhoff have been appointed to undertake the EIAs for three Wind Energy Facilities in the area. These projects are outlined below (together with the farms names of the properties they are located on) – I have also included a map showing the location of the three projects. Each project would have approximately 70 turbines.</p> <p>To date we have complete the Scoping phase of the EIA. We are currently compiling the EIA reports and associated documentation. These reports will be released into the public domain in early 2017.</p> <p>Esizayo – This project is located approximately 20km north of Maitjiesfontein along the R354</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="1301 1002 1845 1225"> <thead> <tr> <th>Farm Name & Number</th> <th>Province</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Portion 1 of Aanstoot Farm No. 72</td> <td>Western Cape</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Annex Joseph's Kraal Farm No.84</td> <td>Western Cape</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Aurora Farm No. 285</td> <td>Western Cape</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Maralla East – This project is located approximately 38km south of Sutherland</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="1301 1337 1845 1441"> <thead> <tr> <th>Farm Name & Number</th> <th>Province</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Farm Welgemoed 268 Remainder</td> <td>Western Cape</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Farm Name & Number	Province	Portion 1 of Aanstoot Farm No. 72	Western Cape	Annex Joseph's Kraal Farm No.84	Western Cape	Aurora Farm No. 285	Western Cape	Farm Name & Number	Province	Farm Welgemoed 268 Remainder	Western Cape	<p>Appendix P Appendix H Appendix R Appendix S</p>
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Farm Welgemoed 268 Remainder	Western Cape														

		Farm Schalkwykskraal 204, Remainder	Northern Cape
		Farm Drie Roode Heuvels 180, Remainder	Northern Cape
		Maralla West – This project is located approximately 38km south of Sutherland	
		Farm Name & Number	Province
		Farm Drie Roode Heuvels 180, Remainder	Northern Cape
		Farm Annex Drie Roode Heuvels 181, Remainder	Northern Cape
		Farm Wolven Hoek 182, Portion 1	Northern Cape
		Farm Wolven Hoek 182, Portion 2	Northern Cape
Renee Rust 9 December 2016 Email	Thank you for your reply and information. I am an archaeologist heritage practitioner and it is a further concern whether Archaeological Assessments have been done in these.	Only a pleasure. I can confirm that we have undertaken both heritage and palaeontological assessments for all three projects. Both scoping level and EIA level assessment have been undertaken. The specialists are currently finalising their detailed studies for inclusion in the EIA Reports	Appendix R Appendix S
Renee Rust 9 December 2016 Email	I would like to view these reports. Are they available?	With pleasure – I have attached the reports compiled for the scoping phase earlier in the year. The EIA studies will be available next year	Appendix R Appendix S

4 LANDOWNERS

LANDOWNER DETAILS	COMMENT	RESPONSE	REPORT REFERENCE
Mr and Mrs G Hanekom			
Mr and Mrs Hanekom 28 September 2016 Landowner Meeting Minutes	Mrs D Hanekom: The community is difficult to approach as there is a lot of negativity due to things happening that nobody gets input into.	Ashlea Strong from WSP Parsons Brinckerhoff: We have planned a meeting on Friday in Sutherland. We were informed that this is the best time to have a meeting as all the farmers will be in town	Appendix H
	Mrs D Hanekom: Have you had any response to public notices or adverts yet?	Ashlea Strong from WSP Parsons Brinckerhoff: We have received comments from people who were not previously on our database specifically relating to the cumulative impact of the wind facilities in the region. Michael Barnes from BioTherm Energy: The DEA have requested that we do a cumulative impact assessment looking at all the proposed wind farms in the area. We will be the first to do this. Ashlea Strong from WSP Parsons Brinckerhoff: Public concerns to date have been on the cumulative visual impact and the impact on farming. As the EAP we have to respond and show that we have taken all comments into account and referenced in the EIA report. Michael Barnes from BioTherm Energy: The farms covering each project area are large and cover several thousands of hectars, whereas the total amount of land lost will be a maximum of approximately 200ha, hence the loss is only a small percentage over the project area. For Example	Appendix H

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		Maralla East has a project area of approximately 4700ha, this means that a maximum of 4-5% of the land will be disturbed.	
	<p>Mr G Hanekom: How do you mitigate the visual impact?</p>	<p>Ashlea Strong from WSP Parsons Brinckerhoff: You can't really. You can add a buffer to slightly reduce the impact.</p>	<p>Appendix H Appendix W</p>
	<p>Mrs D Hanekom: We recently asked the community what they need. All they said they want is an ambulance. If people know that there are these initiatives associated with the projects then they will be more positive towards the development.</p> <p>Mr G Hanekom: The socio-economic development has both positive and negative aspects and depends on how the money is spent.</p>	<p>Tulani Koom from BioTherm Energy: The Department of Energy (DoE) requires the local community members to be employed during construction and operations, as well as to participate in the facilities procurement (if any) benefits (B&B's, catering etc...). During operation a certain percentage of the revenue from the project needs to be invested back into the community for socio-economic and enterprise development. Initiatives could include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Education- schools upliftment programmes, bursaries for tertiary education and training teachers → New equipment for clinics <p>Ashlea Strong from WSP Parsons Brinckerhoff: The influx of workers could mean conflict between locals and migrants.</p>	<p>Appendix H</p>