

DEA REFERENCE NO: 14/12/16/3/3/2/963

# COMMENT AND RESPONSE REPORT

MARALLA WEST WIND ENERGY FACILITY

PUBLIC

FEBRUARY 2017

# COMMENT AND RESPONSE REPORT

## MARALLA WEST WIND ENERGY FACILITY

**BioTherm Energy (Pty) Ltd**

**Type of document (version)**  
**Public**




Project no: 47579  
Date: February 2017

---

**WSP | Parsons Brinckerhoff**  
199 Bryanston Drive  
Bryanston  
2152

Tel: +27 11 361 1392  
Fax: +27 11 361 1381  
**[www.wspgroup.com](http://www.wspgroup.com)**  
**[www.pbworld.com](http://www.pbworld.com)**

# QUALITY MANAGEMENT

ISSUE/REVISION	FIRST ISSUE	REVISION 1	REVISION 2	REVISION 3
Remarks	Comment and Response Report – Maralla West Wind Energy Facility			
Date	February 2017			
Prepared by	Bronwyn Fisher			
Signature				
Checked by	Ashlea Strong			
Signature				
Authorised by	Ashlea Strong			
Signature				
Project number	47579			
Report number	1			
File reference				

---

# PRODUCTION TEAM

## CLIENT

Environmental Manager                      Michael Barnes

Environmental Manager                      Mohammed Yusuf

## WSP | PARSONS BRINCKERHOFF

Project Director                              Nigel Seed

Project Manager                              Ashlea Strong

Environmental Consultant                      Bronwyn Fisher

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>1</b>	<b>INTRODUCTION.....</b>	<b>1</b>
1.1	BACKGROUND INFORMATION.....	1
1.2	PUBLIC PARTICIPATION.....	1
1.3	EIA PROCESS NOTIFICATION.....	3
1.4	SCOPING PHASE.....	3
1.5	EIA PHASE.....	7
1.6	STAKEHOLDER BREAKDOWN.....	8
1.7	COMMENTS RECEIVED.....	10
<b>2</b>	<b>AUTHORITIES.....</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>28</b>	<b>CTOBER 2016.....</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>29</b>	<b>STAKEHOLDERS.....</b>	<b>50</b>
<b>30</b>	<b>LANDOWNERS.....</b>	<b>67</b>

---

## APPENDICES

<b>APPENDIX A</b>	<b>STAKEHOLDER NOTIFICATIONS</b>
<b>APPENDIX B</b>	<b>ADVERTISEMENTS</b>
<b>APPENDIX C</b>	<b>ORIGINAL COMMENTS RECEIVED - AUTHORITIES</b>
<b>APPENDIX D</b>	<b>ORIGINAL COMMENTS RECEIVED - STAKEHOLDERS</b>

# 1 INTRODUCTION

## 1.1 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

BioTherm Energy (Pty.) Ltd. (BioTherm) is the proponent and applicant for the Environmental Authorisation (EA) for the Maralla West Wind Energy Facility (WEF) facility. 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 West WEF project. Depending on the next bid window Maralla West 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 West 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 **Table 1-4**.



Table 1-3: Site Notice Locations




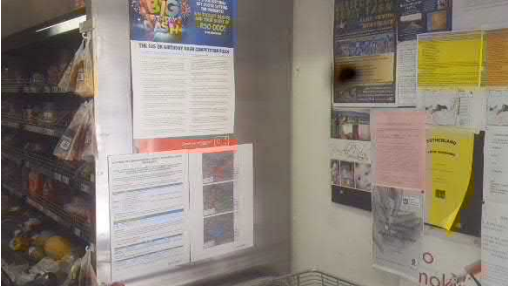
LOCATION	PHOTOGRAPH
Site Boundary 32° 42' 39.4" S 20° 47' 22.2" E	 <p>A photograph showing a utility pole with a sign that reads '042142 23.07 Wee Kang H. Kang'. Two large white posters with text and maps are placed on the ground in a field of low-lying vegetation under a clear blue sky.</p>
Site Boundary 32° 44' 21.0" S 20° 43' 28.3" E	 <p>A photograph showing two large white posters with text and maps attached to a wire fence. The fence is supported by wooden posts, and the background shows a dirt road and a hilly landscape.</p>
Site Boundary 32° 45' 01.1" S 20° 42' 53.68" E	 <p>A photograph showing two large white posters with text and maps attached to a wire fence. The fence is supported by wooden posts, and 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
<b>Government departments</b>	<p>All tiers of government, namely, national, provincial, local government and parastals. Inclusive of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>→ Department of Energy</li> <li>→ Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries</li> <li>→ Department of Rural Development and Land Reform</li> <li>→ Department of Water and Sanitation</li> <li>→ Department of Mineral Resources</li> <li>→ Department of Public Works</li> <li>→ Department of Environmental Affairs</li> <li>→ Department of Environmental Affairs: Biodiversity and Conservation</li> <li>→ Western Cape Department of Transport and Public Works</li> <li>→ Breede-Gouritz Catchment Management Agency</li> <li>→ CapeNature</li> <li>→ Department of Environmental Affairs and Development Planning</li> <li>→ South African National Parks</li> <li>→ Square Kilometre Array South Africa</li> <li>→ National Energy Regulator South Africa</li> <li>→ Eskom</li> <li>→ South African National Energy Development Institute</li> <li>→ South African Civil Aviation Authority</li> <li>→ Astronomy Management Authority</li> </ul>	46

REPRESENTATIVE SECTOR	FURTHER EXPLANATION	No. OF STAKEHOLDERS
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>→ South African Astronomical Observatory</li> <li>→ Laingsburg Local Municipality</li> <li>→ Namakwa District Municipality</li> <li>→ Karoo Hoogland Local Municipality</li> <li>→ Central Karoo District Municipality</li> <li>→ Heritage Western Cape</li> <li>→ Civil Aviation Authority</li> </ul>	
<b>Business and consultants</b>	<p>Local and neighbouring businesses in the area.</p> <p>Representatives of consulting organisations that provide services in the area</p>	6
<b>Non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and community based organisations</b>	Agricultural unions, churches, and environmental NGOs	6
<b>General public</b>	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

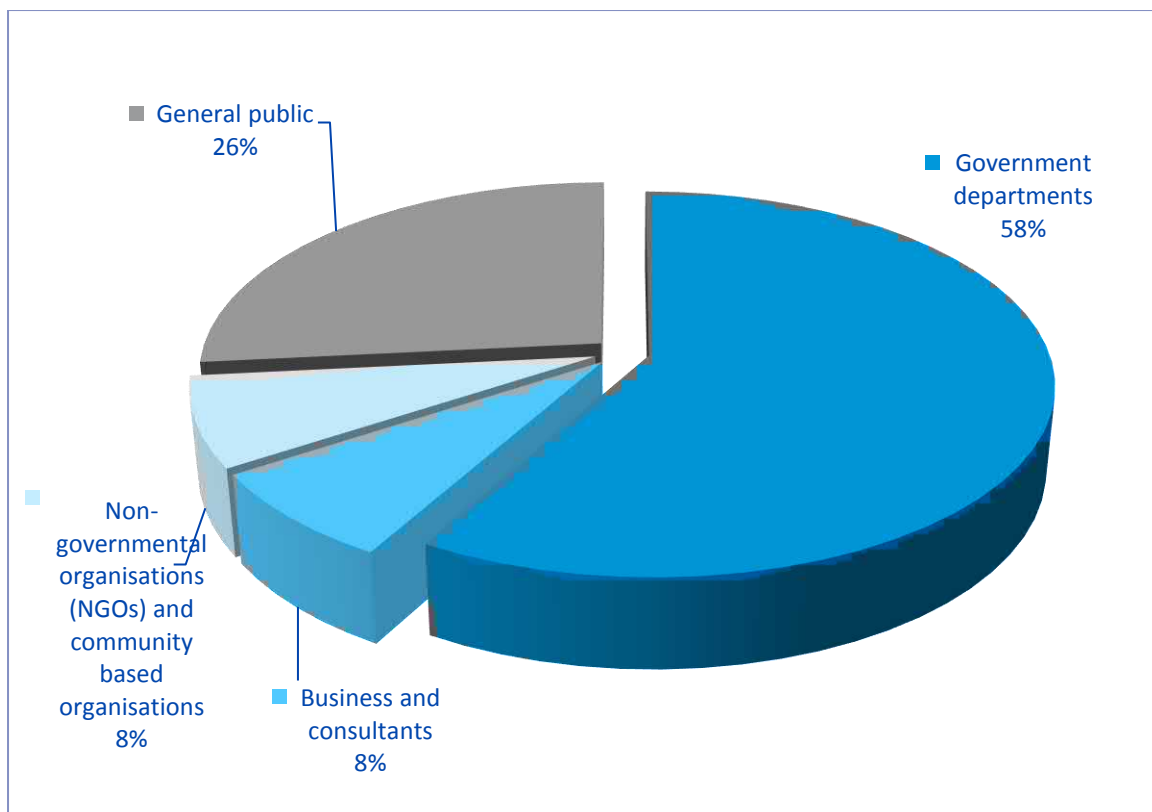


Figure 1-1: Pie chart showing the Breakdown of the Stakeholders currently Registered on the Database per representative sector

## 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
<b>Department of Rural Development and Land Reform</b>			
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: <a href="mailto:Karen.vanschalkwyk@drdlr.gov.za">Karen.vanschalkwyk@drdlr.gov.za</a> or Ms Baloi: Tel: 012 312 9851. Email: <a href="mailto:Malebo.Baloi@drdlr.gov.za">Malebo.Baloi@drdlr.gov.za</a>	<b>Ashlea Strong from WSP   Parsons Brinckerhoff:</b>  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: <a href="mailto:Karen.vanschalkwyk@drdlr.gov.za">Karen.vanschalkwyk@drdlr.gov.za</a> or Ms Baloi: Tel: 012 312 9851. Email: <a href="mailto:Malebo.Baloi@drdlr.gov.za">Malebo.Baloi@drdlr.gov.za</a>	<b>Ashlea Strong from WSP   Parsons Brinckerhoff:</b>  Thank you for your response.  We appreciate your ongoing participation in our processes.	Appendix H Appendix P
<b>Department of Environmental Affairs</b>			
Ms Mmamohale Kabasa 12 October 2016	COMMENTS ON THE DRAFT SCOPING REPORT FOR THE PROPOSED 250 MW MARALLA WEST WIND ENERGY FACILITY SOUTH OF THE TOWN OF SUTHERLAND WITHIN THE KAROO HOOGLAND LOCAL MUNICIPALITY IN THE NORTHERN CAPE PROVINCE	<b>All Responses from Ashlea Strong from WSP   Parsons Brinckerhoff:</b>	



Formal Letter – Comments on DESR - Maralla West	The draft Scoping Report (SR) dated September 2016 and received by this Department on 16 September 2016 refers.		
	This Department has the following comments on the abovementioned application:		
	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.	All relevant listed activities have been included in the application form submitted to the DEA on 15 September 2016.	Section 3.2 Tables 3.1, 3.2 and 3.3
	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 <a href="https://www.environment.gov.za/documents/forms">https://www.environment.gov.za/documents/forms</a> .	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.	Section 3.2 Tables 3.1, 3.2 and 3.3
	Please ensure that the application form is signed by the applicant and that the land owner consent form has been signed.	The application form was signed by the applicant and the land owner consent form was signed by the relevant land owner.	-
	It is noted that the development footprint is restricted only to the Northern Cape Province. Please ensure that all relevant activities have been identified and are included in the application form and will be assessed during the EIAr process.	The development footprint of the Maralla West development is located in both the Northern and Western cape provinces. 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	Section 3.2 Tables 3.1, 3.2 and 3.3
	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 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.	The GNR 985 activities included in the application form are only applicable to the Northern Cape. A graphical representation of the proposed development within the respective geographical area has been provided in this report.	Section 3.2 Figure 3.1
	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.	The dangerous goods applicable to GNR 985 Activity 10 will include cement and	Section 3.2

	<p>quantities, type of goods etc. In addition the impacts associated with this activity must be assessed.</p>	<p>diesel that will be required on site in quantities of more than 30m<sup>3</sup>. Impacts include the potential contamination of soil and surface resources and have been assessed.</p>	<p>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. 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&amp;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&amp;R) must be submitted with the final SR. The C&amp;R report must incorporate all historical comments for this development. The C&amp;R report must be a separate document from the main report and the format must be in the table format as indicated in Annexure 1 of this comments letter.</p>	<p>The comments and response report has been updated to include all correspondence received to date.</p>	<p>Appendix H</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. 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>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"> <li>- Acceptability of the terms of reference;</li> <li>- Is the methodology clearly explained and acceptable; Evaluate the validity of the findings (review data evidence);</li> <li>- Discuss the suitability of the mitigation measures and recommendations;</li> <li>- Identify any shortcomings and mitigation measures to address the shortcomings;</li> <li>- Evaluate the appropriateness of the reference literature;</li> <li>- Indicate whether a site inspection was carried out as part of the peer review; and</li> <li>- Indicate whether the article is well-written and easy to understand.</li> </ul>	<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"> <li>→ Land capability and Wetlands</li> <li>→ Noise Specialist Study</li> <li>→ Social Study</li> </ul> <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> <p>Identification and sensitivity rating of all surface water courses for the impact phase of the proposed development;</p> <p>Identification, assessment of all potential impacts to the water courses and suggestion of mitigation measures; and,</p>	<p>The requirements for the hydrological study have been included in the Surface Water Specialist Study.</p>	<p>Appendix Q</p>

	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>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"> <li>- 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.</li> <li>- 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.</li> <li>- The cumulative impacts significance rating must also inform the need and desirability of the proposed development.</li> <li>- A cumulative impact environmental statement on whether the proposed development must proceed.</li> </ul>	A detailed cumulative assessment is included in this report.	Section 10
	<p>The terms of reference for the ecological assessment must also investigate the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 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.</li> <li>- Must indicate the location of both private and government nature protection areas in the area.</li> <li>- Must indicate and describe the competing land uses in the area</li> </ul>	The additional terms of reference was forwarded to the Biodiversity specialist and has been incorporated in the Biodiversity Specialist Study.	Appendix L
	The final Scoping Report must identify the preferred access road for assessment.	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 Bat and Avifauna! specialist assessments must assess and make recommendations for definite measurements for the preferred hub heights and rotor diameter	Traffic and geotechnical impacts were included in the final scoping report.	Appendix O

	<p>A Traffic Impact Assessment is included in this report.</p> <p>Detailed Geotechnical Assessments are generally only undertaken once a project has been identified as a preferred bidder.</p> <p>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.</p>	
The final SR must investigate and identify all traffic impacts and geotechnical impacts associated with the proposed development.	Maps illustrating private and government nature protection areas and Important Bird Areas are included in this EIR.	Section 8.4 Figure 8.12 Section 8.6 Figure 8.15
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
In accordance with Appendix 2 of the EIA Regulations 2014, the details of- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- the EAP who prepared the report; and</li> <li>- the expertise of the EAP to carry out Scoping and Environmental Impact assessment procedures; must be submitted.</li> </ul>	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.	-
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 the these Regulations, unless an extension has been granted in terms of Regulation 3(7).	WSP   Parsons Brinckerhoff takes note of this requirement.	-

	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.		
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	ACCEPTANCE OF THE SCOPING REPORT FOR THE PROPOSED 250MW MARALLA WEST WIND ENERGY FACILITY SOUTH OF THE TOWN OF SUTHERLAND WITHIN THE KAROO HOOGLAND MUNICIPALITY IN THE NORTHERN CAPE PROVINCE  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.	<b>All Responses from Ashlea Strong from WSP   Parsons Brinckerhoff:</b>	
	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).	Please refer to the comment and response report and the EMPr for further details.	Appendix H Appendix W
CTOBER 2016	Please ensure that comments from all relevant stakeholders are submitted to the Department with the final EIAR. This includes but is not limited to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Northern Cape Department of Environment and Nature Conservation;</li> <li>The Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (DAFF);</li> <li>The provincial Department of Agriculture, the South African Civil Aviation Authority (SACAA);</li> <li>The Department of Transport, the District Municipality;</li> <li>The Karoo Hoogland Local Municipality;</li> <li>The Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS);</li> <li>The South African National Roads Agency Limited (SANRAL);</li> </ul>	All existing comments received have been included 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

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA);</li> <li>• The Endangered Wildlife Trust (EWT);</li> <li>• Birdlife SA;</li> <li>• The Department of Mineral Resources;</li> <li>• The Department of Rural Development and Land Reform;</li> <li>• The Department of Environmental Affairs: Directorate Biodiversity and Conservation; and</li> <li>• The South African Astronomy Observation (SAAO).</li> </ul>		
	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.	WSP   Parsons Brinckerhoff takes note of these contact details. These details have been added to the stakeholder database.	Appendix 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.	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

	<p>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, 14, 18 and 23. The application form must be amended to reflect the correct activities.</p>	<p>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</p>	<p>Section 3.2 Tables 3.1, 3.2 and 3.3</p>
	<p>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.</p>	<p>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</p>	<p>Section 3.2 Tables 3.1, 3.2 and 3.3</p>
	<p>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.</p>	<p>This has been addressed in the EIR</p>	<p>Section 7.2 Table 7.1</p>
	<p>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.</p>	<p>This has been addressed in the EIR</p>	<p>Section 7.4 Figure 7.5</p>
	<p>The EIAr must provide the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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.</li> <li>• Clear description of all associated infrastructure. This description must include, but is not limited to the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Power lines;</li> <li>○ Internal roads infrastructure; and;</li> <li>○ All supporting onsite infrastructure such as laydown area, guard house and control room etc.</li> <li>○ All necessary details regarding all possible locations and sizes of the proposed satellite substation and the main substation.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p>This has been addressed in the EIR</p>	<p>Chapter 7 Chapter 11</p>
	<p>The EIAr must also include a comments and response report in accordance with Appendix 2 h (iii) of the EIA Regulations, 2014.</p>	<p>The comment and response report is included.</p>	<p>Appendix H</p>



	The EIA 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 EIA 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. <u>In addition, a graphical representation of the proposed development within the respective geographical areas must be provided.</u>	The authority consultation process is discussed in Section 4.2 and Section 5.3. All written comments from the relevant provisional commenting authority are included in the comment and response report. A graphical representation of the location of the project is included in the EIR	Appendix H Figure 3.1
	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.	The dangerous goods referred to above will include cement and diesel that will be required on site in quantities of more than 30m <sup>3</sup> . Impacts associated with this activity are assessed in the EIR.	Section 9.3 Section 9.7
	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.	A letter to prove that the previous Environmental authorisation has lapsed has been included in the EIR.	Appendix Y
	Further to the above, the holders of all valid EA's adjacent to the site must be notified of the proposed development and comments must be obtained from these developers.	The neighbouring developers have been notified through the public participation process. No comments have been received as yet.	Appendix H Appendix 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. <b>Please note that a separate hydrological impact assessment must be conducted to assess the impacts of the proposed</b>	A separate Surface Water Specialist study has been compiled.	Appendix Q

	<p>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"> <li>• Identification and sensitivity rating of all surface water courses for the impact phase of the proposed development;</li> <li>• Identification, assessment of all potential impacts to the water courses and suggestion of mitigation measures; and,</li> <li>• 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.</li> </ul>		
	<p>The terms of reference for the ecological assessment must also investigate the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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.</li> <li>• Must indicate the location of both private and government nature protection areas in the area.</li> <li>• Must indicate and describe the competing land uses in the area.</li> </ul>	<p>This is included in the Biodiversity Specialist Study.</p>	<p>Appendix L</p>
	<p>The terms of reference for the <u>visual assessment</u> must also investigate the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Assess and rate the cumulative impact of multiple WEFs in the landscape.</li> <li>• The South African Astronomy Observatory must be thoroughly engaged and their comments included as part of the EIAr.</li> </ul>	<p>This is included in the Visual Specialist Study.  <b>Visual Specialist Response:</b>                  The cumulative visual assessment is included in Section 5.3 of the VIA.                  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>	<p>Appendix T</p>
	<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>	<p>This is included in the Transport Specialist Study.</p>	<p>Appendix O</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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;</li> <li>• Identify the position and suitability of the preferred access road alternative; Evaluate the roadway capacity of the road network;</li> <li>• Confirm the associated clearances required for the necessary equipment to be transported from the point of delivery to the various sites;</li> <li>• Confirm freight and transport requirements during construction, operation and maintenance;</li> <li>• Propose origins and destinations of equipment; and</li> <li>• Determine (Abnormal) Permit requirements if any.</li> </ul>		
	<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>	<p>Appendix M Appendix N</p>
	<p>The bat specialist assessment must take into consideration the latest guidelines for the delineation of buffers by the South African Bat Assessment Advisory Panel.</p>	<p>This is included in the bats Specialist Study.</p>	<p>Appendix N</p>
	<p>The approach of using a desktop assessment for the socio-economic impact assessment is not supported. A comprehensive socio-economic impact assessment with the following terms of reference must be undertaken:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Clearly describe the potential social issues associated with the proposed facility;</li> <li>• Assess the socio-economic profile of the region and the social characteristics of the receiving environment;</li> <li>• Comparison of similar large-scale projects and applying the lessons learnt to the proposed project;</li> <li>• 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;</li> <li>• Meet with relevant stakeholders and document their socio-economic concerns; and,</li> </ul>	<p>A site visit was undertaken in January 2017. This is included in the Socio-Economic Specialist Study</p>	<p>Appendix V</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provide implementable guidelines for limiting or mitigating negative impacts and optimising benefits of the proposed development.</li> </ul>		
	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, 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>	Appendix L
	All turbines within the high ecological areas, the high avifauna! areas as well as the high bat areas must be removed or relocated.	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	Section 11.2 Appendix M Appendix N

	process and its influence over the turbine layout.	
<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"> <li>• Acceptability of the ToR;</li> <li>• Is the methodology clearly explained and acceptable;</li> <li>• Evaluate the validity of the findings (review data evidence);</li> <li>• Discuss the mitigation measures and recommendations;</li> <li>• Evaluate the appropriateness of the reference literature;</li> <li>• Is the article well-written and easy to understand; and</li> <li>• Identify any short comings.</li> </ul>	<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"> <li>→ Land capability and Wetlands</li> <li>→ Noise Specialist Study</li> <li>→ Social Study</li> </ul> <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 negotiated once preferred bidder status has been achieved.</p>	-
<p>The EIAr must provide a detailed description of the need and desirability, not only providing motivation on</p> <p>the need for clean energy in South Africa of the proposed activity. The need and desirability must also 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. The need and desirability must take into account cumulative impacts of the proposed development in the area.</p>	<p>A detailed Need and Justification has been included in the EIR.</p>	<p>Section 6</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"> <li>• 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.</li> </ul>	<p>A detailed cumulative assessment is included in the EIR.</p>	<p>Chapter 10</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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.</li> <li>The cumulative impacts significance rating must also inform the need and desirability of the proposed development.</li> <li>A cumulative impact environmental statement on whether the proposed development must proceed.</li> </ul>		
	<p>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:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Wind turbine positions and its associated infrastructure;</li> <li>Permanent laydown area footprint;</li> <li>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);</li> <li>Wetlands, drainage lines, rivers, stream and water crossing of roads and cables indicating the type of bridging structures that will be used;</li> <li>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;</li> <li>Substation(s) and/or transformer(s) sites including their entire footprint;</li> <li>Connection routes (including pylon positions) to the distribution/transmission network;</li> <li>All existing infrastructure on the site, especially roads;</li> <li>Buffer areas;</li> <li>Buildings, including accommodation; and</li> <li>All "no-go" areas.</li> </ul>	<p>Please refer to the Site Development Proposal Map included at the beginning of the EIR.</p>	<p>Appendix X</p>
	<p>An environmental sensitivity map indicating environmental sensitive areas and features identified during the EIA process.</p>	<p>This requirement has been included in the EIR.</p>	<p>Section 11.2 Appendix X</p>

	<p>A map combining the final layout map superimposed (overlain) on the environmental sensitivity map.</p>	<p>This requirement has been included in the EIR.</p>	<p>Section 11.2 Appendix X</p>
	<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><b>Postal Address:</b></p> <p>Department of Environmental Affairs Private Bag X447 Pretoria 0001</p> <p><b>Physical address:</b></p> <p>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>WSP   Parsons Brinckerhoff have taken note of this requirement.</p>	
	<p>The Environmental Management Programme (EMPr) to be submitted as part of the EIAR must include the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All recommendations and mitigation measures recorded in the EIAR and the specialist studies conducted.</li> </ul>	<p>The following requirements are included in the Draft EMPr.</p>	<p>Appendix W</p>

- 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 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.
- 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



	<p>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.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A fire management plan to be implemented during the construction and operation of the facility.</li> <li>• 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.</li> <li>• 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.</li> <li>• 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.</li> <li>• 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.</li> </ul>		
	<p>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.</p>	<p>WSP   Parsons Brinckerhoff has taken note of this requirement.</p>	<p>-</p>
	<p>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).</p>	<p>WSP   Parsons Brinckerhoff has taken note of this requirement.</p>	<p>-</p>
	<p>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.</p>	<p>Comments from SAHRA are included in the comment and response report.</p>	<p>Appendix H</p>

	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.	
<b>A. EIA INFORMATION REQUIRED FOR WIND ENERGY FACILITIES</b>			
	<p><b>1. General site information</b></p> <p>The following general site information is required:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Descriptions of all affected farm portions</li> <li>• 21 digit Surveyor General codes of all affected farm portions</li> <li>• Copies of deeds of all affected farm portions</li> <li>• Photos of areas that give a visual perspective of all parts of the site</li> <li>• Photographs from sensitive visual receptors (tourism routes, tourism facilities, etc.)</li> <li>• Facility design specifications including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Type of technology</li> <li>○ Structure height</li> <li>○ Surface area to be covered (including associated infrastructure such as roads)</li> <li>○ Structure orientation</li> <li>○ Laydown area dimensions (construction period and thereafter)</li> <li>○ Generation capacity</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Generation capacity of the facility as a whole at delivery points</li> </ul>	As requested this information has been included at the beginning of the EIR	

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.

**2. Sample of technical details for the proposed facility:**

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	
Area occupied by	
Width and length of	
Proximity to grid	
Type and height of	

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

**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)

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

- 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
    - 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)

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ between 12%and 14% slope (highly sensitive to WIND TURBINE and infrastructure)</li> <li>○ steeper than 18 % slope (unsuitable for WIND TURBINE and infrastructure)</li> <li>● A site development proposal map(s)/layer(s) that indicate:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Foundation footprint</li> <li>○ Permanent laydown area footprint</li> <li>○ Construction period laydown footprint</li> <li>○ 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)</li> <li>○ River, stream and water crossing of roads and cables indicating the type of bridging structures that will be used</li> <li>○ Substation(s) and/or transformer(s) sites including their entire footprint.</li> <li>○ Cable routes and trench dimensions (where they are not along internal roads)</li> <li>○ 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)</li> <li>○ Cut and fill areas at WIND TURBINE sites along roads and at substation/transformer sites indicating the expected volume of each cut and fill</li> <li>○ Borrow pits</li> <li>○ Spoil heaps (temporary for topsoil and subsoil and permanently for excess material)</li> <li>○ Buildings including accommodation</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>With the above information authorities will be able to assess the strategic and site impacts of the application.</p>		
	<p><b>4. Regional map and GIS information</b></p> <p>The regional map and GIS information should include at least the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● All maps/information layers must also be provided in ESRI Shapefile format</li> </ul>	<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"> <li>• The map/layer must cover an area of 20km around the site</li> <li>• Indicate the following:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ roads including their types (tarred or gravel) and category (national, provincial, local or private)</li> <li>○ Railway lines and stations</li> <li>○ Industrial areas</li> <li>○ Harbours and airports</li> <li>○ Electricity transmission and distribution lines and substations</li> <li>○ Pipelines</li> <li>○ Waters sources to be utilised during the construction and operational phases</li> <li>○ A visibility assessment of the areas from where the facility will be visible</li> <li>○ Critical Biodiversity Areas and Ecological Support Areas</li> <li>○ Critically Endangered and Endangered vegetation areas</li> <li>○ Agricultural fields</li> <li>○ Irrigated areas</li> <li>○ 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.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>		
	<p><b>5. Important stakeholders</b></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>These stakeholders have been included in the Stakeholder Database</p>	<p>Appendix P</p>

Ms Thoko Buthelezi

Agriland Liaison office

E-mail: ThokoB@daff.gov.za

Tel 012-319 7634

All hardcopy applications I documentation should be forwarded to the following address:

**Physical address:**

Delpen Building

Cnr Annie Botha and Union Street

Office 270

Attention: Delegate of the Minister Act 70 of 1970

**Postal Address:**

Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries

Private Bag X120

Pretoria

0001

Attention: Delegate of the Minister Act 70 of 1970

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

#### **B. AGRICULTURE STUDY REQUIREMENTS**

- |  |  |                   |
|--|--|-------------------|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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"> <li>• Identification of the soil forms present on site</li> <li>• The size of the area where a particular soil form is found</li> <li>• GPS readings of soil survey points</li> <li>• The depth of the soil at each survey point</li> <li>• Soil colour</li> <li>• Limiting factors</li> <li>• Clay content</li> <li>• Slope of the site</li> <li>• A detailed map indicating the locality of the soil forms within the specified area,</li> <li>• Size of the site</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Exact locality of the site</li> <li>• Current activities on the site, developments, buildings</li> <li>• Surrounding developments /land uses and activities in a radius of 500 m of the site</li> <li>• Access routes and the condition thereof</li> <li>• Current status of the land (including erosion, vegetation and a degradation assessment)</li> <li>• Possible land use options for the site</li> </ul> | <p>These requirements are included in the Soils and Land Capability Specialist Study</p> | <p>Appendix K</p> |
|--|--|-------------------|



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Water availability, source and quality (if available)</li> <li>Detailed descriptions of why agriculture should or should not be the land use of choice</li> <li>Impact of the change of land use on the surrounding area</li> <li>A shape file containing the soil forms and relevant attribute data as depicted on the map.</li> </ul>		
	<p><b>C. ASTRONOMY GEOGRAPHIC ADVANTAGE ACT, 2007 (ACT NO. 21 OF 2007)</b></p>		
	<p>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> <p>You are requested to indicate the applicability of the Astronomy Geographic Advantage Act, Act No. 21 of 2007 on the application in the BAR/EIR. You must obtain comments from the Southern African Large Telescope (SALT) if the proposed development is situated within a declared astronomy advantage area.</p>	<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 stated that the Maralla West WEF will have no impact on the SKA.</p>	Appendix H
<p><b>Western Cape Department of Transport and Public Works</b></p>			
<p>Mr Malcolm Waters</p> <p>Chief Director: Road Network Management</p> <p>06 October 2016</p> <p>Letter dated: 5 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>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"> <li>A building restriction line of 95m is applicable along trunk, main and divisional roads and is measured from the centreline of the road reserve.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Ashlea Strong from WSP   Parsons Brinckerhoff:</b></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 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>Appendix H</p> <p>Appendix P</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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.</li> <li>• No advertising of any nature is allowed on the turbine structures</li> <li>• Turbines should be located a distance equal to or greater than their toppling distance plus 5m from the road reserve boundary</li> <li>• 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.</li> <li>• A 5m building line is applicable</li> <li>• 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.</li> </ul>	We look forward to your continued participation in our processes.	
<b>Commission on Restitution of Land Rights – Regional Land Claims Commissioner: Northern Cape</b>			
<p>Pabalelo Mokale 11 October 2016 Formal Letter</p>	<p><b>Letter from WSP Environmental:</b></p> <p>RE: STATUS OF CLAIMS FOR THE RESTITUTION OF LAND RIGHTS LODGED AGAINST PROPERTIES IDENTIFIED FOR THE PROPOSED MARALLA WEST WIND ENERGY FACILITY, SUTHERLAND, NORTHERN 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&amp;EIR processes for each of the three wind energy projects. This request is specific to the Proposed Maralla West Wind Energy Facility in the Northern 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"> <li>• Farm Drie Roode Heuvels 180, Remainder;</li> <li>• Farm Annex Drie Roode Heuvels 181, Remainder;</li> <li>• Farm Wolven Hoek 182, Portion 1; and</li> </ul>	<p><b>Response from RLCC:</b></p> <p>Land Claims Enquiry</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Farm Drie Roode Heuvels 180, Remainder;</li> <li>2. Farm Annex Drie Roode Heuvels 181, Remainder;</li> <li>3. Farm Wolven Hoek 182, Portion 1; and</li> <li>4. Farm Wolven Hoek 182, Portion 2.</li> </ol> <p>We refer to your letter dated 11 October 2016.</p> <p>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</p>	Appendix H

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Farm Wolven Hoek 182, Portion 2.</li> </ul> <p>Please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned should you require any further information.</p>	<p>between 1 July 2014 and 27 July 2016 in terms of the Restitution of Land Rights Amendment Act, 2014.</p> <p>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:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 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</li> <li>- 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.</li> </ul> <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>	
<p>Pabalelo Mokale 11 October 2016 Formal Letter</p>	<p><b>Letter from WSP Environmental:</b></p>	<p><b>Response from RLCC:</b> Land Claims Enquiry</p>	<p>Appendix H</p>

PROPERTIES IDENTIFIED FOR THE PROPOSED TRANSMISSION INTEGRATION FOR THE MARALLA WIND ENERGY FACILITIES, SUTHERLAND, NORTHERN AND WESTERN CAPE.

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.

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.

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

- 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;
- 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;

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;
13. Portion 1 of De Plaat Farm No. 205;
14. Remainder of Kentucky Farm No. 206;
15. Portion 1 of Volvenkop Farm No. 207;

- 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.

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

16. Portion 2 of Volvenkop Farm No. 207;
17. Portion 3 of Volvenkop Farm No. 207;
18. Remainder of Rheebokke Fontein Farm No. 209;
19. Portion 1 of Rheebokke Fontein Farm No. 209;
20. Portion 3 of Rheebokke 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 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

		<p>historical property descriptions which may not match the current property description; and</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 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.</li> </ul> <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>	
<b>Laingsburg Local Municipality</b>			
Laingsburg Local Municipality Meeting 29 September 2016	<p><b>Mr B Kleinbooi:</b></p> <p>There seems to have been approval as sub-contractors have been appointed. Have you got local labour?</p>	<p><b>Ashlea Strong from WSP   Parsons Brinckerhoff:</b></p> <p>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. There is still a long way to go before contractors and sub-contractors are required.</p>	Appendix H
	<p><b>Mr B Kleinbooi:</b></p> <p>We have been lied to in the past on these type of projects. Only white people where appointed.</p>	Noted.	Appendix H

	<p><b>Mr M Gouws:</b> How many jobs will be created?</p>	<p><b>Ashlea Strong from WSP   Parsons Brinckerhoff:</b> As this stage of the process we cannot provide specific numbers.</p> <p><b>Tulani Koom from BioTherm Energy:</b> 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.</p>	Appendix H
	<p><b>Mr B Kleinbooi:</b> 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</p>	<p><b>Mr J Venter:</b> The projects are so far in the future this information is not yet available.</p>	Appendix H
	<p><b>Mr P Williams:</b> Will the electricity that is generated from the wind energy facility be affordable? NERSA are increasing tariffs again.</p>	<p><b>Michael Barnes from BioTherm Energy:</b> 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</p>	Appendix H
	<p><b>Mr B Kleinbooi:</b> 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><b>Ashlea Strong from WSP   Parsons Brinckerhoff:</b> 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>	Appendix H

		<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><b>Mr B Kleinbooi:</b> Will the community benefit?</p> <p><b>Mr M Gouws:</b> What is the Socio-economic benefit?</p>	<p><b>Tulani Koom from BioTherm Energy:</b></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.% 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, 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> <p>→ Putting learners through school</p>	<p>Appendix H</p>



		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>→ New equipment for clinics</li> <li>→ BioTherm currently runs the following initiatives at existing facilities:</li> <li>→ Equipment for hospitals</li> <li>→ Appointing teachers</li> <li>→ Helped 22 learners go through university</li> <li>→ Skills development (Hospitality, conservation etc.).</li> </ul> <p>BioTherm is extremely committed to community upliftment</p>	
<b>Mr B Kleinbooi:</b>	Mr Todd built a WEF and nobody from the community benefitted		Appendix H
<b>Mr J Venter:</b>	Where is pollution covered?	<p><b>Ashlea Strong from WSP   Parsons Brinckerhoff:</b></p> <p>Pollution is covered within all the specialist studies to some degree</p>	Appendix H
<b>Mr P Williams:</b>	What about impact on the vegetation?	<p><b>Ashlea Strong from WSP   Parsons Brinckerhoff:</b></p> <p>The impact on the vegetation forms part of the Biodiversity Study.</p>	Appendix H
<b>Mr J Venter:</b>	What about noise and animals Impacts?	<p><b>Ashlea Strong from WSP   Parsons Brinckerhoff:</b></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 <b>Section 4</b>. Impacts on animals is dealt with the in the Biodiversity study.</p>	Appendix H

		<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>	
<p><b>Mr B Kleinbooi:</b></p> <p>What are the decibels associated with the wind farm?</p>		<p><b>Ashlea Strong from WSP   Parsons Brinckerhoff:</b></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 <b>Section 4</b>.</p> <p><b>Michael Barnes from BioTherm Energy:</b></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><b>Mr B Kleinbooi:</b></p> <p>Is there high criminal activity associated with wind farms?</p>		<p><b>Michael Barnes from BioTherm Energy:</b></p> <p>In our experience, no. The only vulnerable equipment is the met masts' (Meteorological mast) solar panel and battery.</p> <p><b>Ashlea Strong from WSP   Parsons Brinckerhoff:</b></p> <p>There will need to be access control to ensure that unauthorised personnel do not enter the site.</p>	Appendix H
<p><b>Mr B Kleinbooi:</b></p> <p>What about a WEF being a tourist attraction?</p> <p><b>Mr J Venter:</b></p>		<p><b>Michael Barnes from BioTherm Energy:</b></p> <p>Yes, this is a possibility. In the USA people go on tours of WEF.</p>	Appendix H

	They can also be an educational attraction.		
	<p><b>Mr B Kleinbooi:</b></p> <p>How much of the technology is imported?</p>	<p><b>Tulani Koom from BioTherm Energy:</b></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><b>Mr B Kleinbooi:</b></p> <p>What about community trusts associated with these projects?</p>	<p><b>Tulani Koom from BioTherm Energy:</b></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><b>Mr P Williams:</b></p> <p>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><b>Michael Barnes from BioTherm Energy:</b></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 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</p>	Appendix H

		<p>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><b>Ashlea Strong from WSP   Parsons Brinckerhoff:</b></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"> <li>→ Sterilising of the area;</li> <li>→ Tourism;</li> <li>→ Social Impacts; and</li> <li>→ Biodiversity.</li> </ul> <p>We have received no other major comments or issues raised at this stage.</p>	
	<p><b>Mr B Kleinbooi:</b></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 (enterprise development) we need to train the community now so they can get their documents in order.</p>	<p><b>Tulani Koom from BioTherm Energy:</b></p> <p>This is not something BioTherm can control or decided on. We will need to let 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>	Appendix H
	<p><b>Gwynne Harding:</b></p>	<p><b>Ashlea Strong from WSP   Parsons Brinckerhoff:</b></p>	Appendix H

	<p>What endangered species have been identified in the area? Specifically interested in the Owls.</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>	
<b>Civil Aviation Authority</b>			
<p>Lizelle Stroh Obstacle Inspector 08 November 2016 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 <a href="http://www.caa.co.za">http://www.caa.co.za</a>. 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"> <li>• 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.</li> <li>• Also indicate the highest structure of the project &amp; the Overhead electric power transmission line.</li> <li>• Note that there may be other wind farms and PV farms in the area. Unique names are preferable.</li> <li>• Please always use the proposed PV farm name in the Subject box when corresponding via email with this office and indicate the name &amp; address which should appear on the CAA approval/decline letter.</li> <li>• There is an assessment fee of R770 per application.</li> <li>• For billing purposes: company name VAT nr. and postal details.</li> <li>• Kindly ensure that all the above data is forwarded. Incomplete data causes unnecessary delays.</li> </ul>	<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> <p>We look forward to your ongoing participation in these projects.</p>	<p>Appendix H</p> <p>Appendix P</p>

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 &amp; Sanitation (DWS) hereby acknowledges receipt of the Draft Environmental Scoping Report for the proposed Maralla West 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"> <li>Any spillage of any hazardous materials including diesel that may occur during construction and operation must be reported immediately to this Department</li> <li>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.</li> <li>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</li> <li>Please indicate where the water that will be used for construction purposes will be sourced from.</li> </ul> <p>Please feel free to contact this department, should there be any enquiries.</p>	<p>These comments have been addressed in the EIR, draft EMPr and the Surface Water Specialist Study.</p>	<p>Section 9.3 Section 9.7 Appendix W Appendix Q</p>

# 29 STAKEHOLDERS

STAKEHOLDERS DETAILS	COMMENT	RESPONSE	REPORT REFERENCE
<b>Falcon Oil and Gas</b>			
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 km<sup>2</sup>), 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><b>Ashlea Strong from WSP   Parsons Brinckerhoff:</b></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>		
<b>Transnet Freight Rail</b>			

<p>Riaan Karriem 22 September 2016 Email</p>	<p>Hi Mrs. Lourens Please find attached for your depot's attention. Thanking you in advance</p>	<p><b>Ashlea Strong from WSP   Parsons Brinckerhoff:</b> No response required. Ms Lourens was added to the Stakeholder Database.</p>	<p>Appendix P Appendix H</p>
<b>Infrastructure Assessment Management</b>			
<p>Stephanie Kot 22 September 2016 Email</p>	<p>With reference to the attached notification, I would hereby like to register as an Interested &amp; Affected Party for the EIA for the proposed Maralla West, Maralla East and Esizayo Renewable Energy Wind Projects. Please add me to your I&amp;AP databases for these three projects.</p>	<p><b>Ashlea Strong from WSP   Parsons Brinckerhoff:</b> Thank you for your response. WSP   Parsons Brinckerhoff have added Ms Kot to the stakeholder database.</p>	<p>Appendix P Appendix H</p>
<b>Breede-Gouritz Catchment Management Agency</b>			
<p>Makhosi Mthimkhulu 22 September 2016 Email</p>	<p>Please forward us the exact GPS coordinates of the project that falls within the Western Cape Province.</p>	<p><b>Ashlea Strong from WSP   Parsons Brinckerhoff:</b> 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.</p>	<p>Appendix P Appendix H</p>



<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><b>Ashlea Strong from WSP   Parsons Brinckerhoff:</b></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 P Appendix H</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"> <li>• DW763 NWA Section 21c</li> <li>• DW768 NWA Section 21i</li> <li>• DW758 NWA Company Information</li> <li>• DW781 Supplementary Form</li> </ul>	<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>Appendix P Appendix H</p>
<p>Phakamani Buthelezi (Chief Executive Officer) 18 November 2016 Formal Letter</p>	<p><b>Comments on Proposed Maralla East Wind Energy Facility in the Northern and Western Cape Province</b></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"> <li>• 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</li> </ul>	<p>Appendix P Appendix H Appendix Q</p>

- 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"> <li>• Noted. Mitigative measures are presented within this report. Further site-specific mitigative measures must be included in the abovementioned full functional assessment.</li> <li>• 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.</li> <li>• Noted.</li> <li>• Noted.</li> </ul>	
<b>Stephan Pienaar</b>			
Stephan Pienaar 26 September 2016 Email	I hereby wish to register as stakeholder and Interested and Affected Party on the above projects.	<p><b>Ashlea Strong from WSP   Parsons Brinckerhoff:</b></p> <p>Thank you for your email.</p> <p>I can confirm that I have added you to the project database for the above-mentioned projects.</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>	Appendix P Appendix H
<b>Warren Petterson</b>			
Warren Petterson 26 September 2016 Email	<p>With reference to your proposed windfarms (reference attached) I would like to register as an I &amp; AP.</p> <p>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</p>	<p><b>Ashlea Strong from WSP   Parsons Brinckerhoff:</b></p> <p>Thank you for your email and comments.</p>	Appendix P Appendix H Section 10 Appendix T

	<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/neighboring 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><b>Visual Specialist Response:</b></p> <p>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>	<p>Appendix U Appendix L Appendix V</p>
<p>Warren Petterson 11 October 2016 Email</p>	<p>Do you have a link for to access the documents please?</p>	<p><b>Ashlea Strong from WSP   Parsons Brinckerhoff:</b></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 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 fins 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  
Appendix T  
Appendix U  
Appendix L  
Appendix V

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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.</li> </ul> <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"> <li>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.</li> </ul>	
<b>Steve Swanepoel</b>			
<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><b>Ashlea Strong from WSP   Parsons Brinckerhoff:</b></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 Appendix T Appendix U Appendix L Appendix V</p>

		<b>Visual Specialist Response:</b>	
		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.	
<b>Invader Plant Specialists</b>			
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 mils 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><b>Ashlea Strong from WSP   Parsons Brinckerhoff:</b></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
Dr Graham Harding	It is a pleasure. Please remember us when you start to look at EMP and Invasive Alien Plant plans and monitoring.	No response required.	-

08 November 2016			
Email			
<b>Square Kilometre Array (SKA)</b>			
Email to Dr Adrian Tiplady 04 October 2016	<p><b>Email sent by Michael Barnes of BioTherm Energy:</b></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><b>Response from SKA (Selaelo Matlhane):</b></p> <p>Thank you</p> <p>SKA do an assessment and submit comments.</p> <p><b>Response from SKA (Dr Adrian Tiplady):</b></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>	Appendix P Appendix H
Email to Dr Adrian Tiplady 12 October 2016	<p><b>Email sent by Michael Barnes of BioTherm Energy:</b></p> <p>The DEA has requested a formal response.</p> <p>Again you can place all three facilities on one letter.</p>	No Response received as yet.	Appendix P Appendix H
<b>South African Astronomical Observatory</b>			



<p>Email to Ramotholo Sefako</p> <p>19 October 2016</p>	<p><b>Email sent by Bronwyn Fisher of WSP   Parsons Brinckerhoff:</b></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><a href="http://www.wsp-pb.com/en/WSP-Africa/What-we-do/Services/All-Services-A-Z/Technical-Reports/">http://www.wsp-pb.com/en/WSP-Africa/What-we-do/Services/All-Services-A-Z/Technical-Reports/</a></p> <p>Please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any questions or require any additional information.</p>	<p><b>Response from Mr Ramotholo Sefako:</b></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>
<p><b>G7 Renewable Energies (Pty) Ltd</b></p>			
<p>Karen de Bruyn</p> <p>06 October 2016</p> <p>Email</p>	<p>Kindly register me as an I&amp;AP for the following projects:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Draft Environmental Scoping Report For The Proposed Maralla East Wind Energy Facility Near Sutherland, Northern And Western Cape – Biotherm Energy (Pty) Ltd</li> <li>• Draft Environmental Scoping Report For The Proposed Maralla West Wind Energy Facility Near Sutherland, Northern Cape – Biotherm Energy (Pty) Ltd</li> <li>• Draft Environmental Scoping Report For The Proposed Esizayo Wind Energy Facility Near Laingsburg, Western Cape – Biotherm Energy (Pty) Ltd</li> </ul>	<p><b>Ashlea Strong from WSP   Parsons Brinckerhoff:</b></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>Email</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>

		Maralla East and Maralla West Projects as submitted with the Final Scoping Reports.	
		Looking forward to your continued participation in our processes.	
<b>Andries Le Roux</b>			
Andries le Roux 11 October 2016 Email	Kan ek die scoping reports iewers aflaai?	<b>Ashlea Strong from WSP   Parsons Brinckerhoff:</b>  Thank you for your email.  You can Click here to access the relevant Scoping Reports on our website.	Appendix P  Appendix H
<b>Birdlife Africa</b>			
Samantha Ralston-Paton 14 October 2016 Email	<b>Email from WSP Environmental:</b>  Thank you for taking my call earlier.  As discussed, the Scoping Reports can be found on our website:  <a href="http://www.wsp-pb.com/en/WSP-Africa/What-we-do/Services/All-Services-A-Z/Technical-Reports/">http://www.wsp-pb.com/en/WSP-Africa/What-we-do/Services/All-Services-A-Z/Technical-Reports/</a>  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	<b>Response from Birdlife:</b>  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.  <b>Response from WSP:</b>  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

<b>Windlab Development South Africa (Pty) Ltd</b>			
Ben Brimble 14 October 2016 Email	Please register me as an I&AP.	<b>Ashlea Strong from WSP   Parsons Brinckerhoff:</b>  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
<b>Sutherland Community</b>			
30 September 2016 Sutherland Meeting Public	<b>William Kruger:</b>  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	<b>Michael Barnes from BioTherm Energy:</b>  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
	<b>Mr E van Zyl:</b>  I farm directly next to De Kom on the farm Kentucky and I rent land on the farm Oranjfontein	<b>Ashlea Strong from WSP   Parsons Brinckerhoff:</b>  The farm Kentucky is adjacent to the Maralla East and West WEFs and will be traversed by the powerlines.  <b>Michael Barnes from BioTherm Energy:</b>  Oranjfontein is the farm for the preferred bidder for the Soetwater WEF.	Appendix H
	<b>William Kruger:</b>  In which town will most of the people coming into the area be located and which town will local employment come from?	<b>Michael Barnes from BioTherm Energy:</b>  Sorting out where workers will stay will be the contractor's responsibility and will only be finalised at a later stage.	Appendix H

		<b>Tulani Koom from BioTherm Energy:</b> The Department of Energy (DoE) requires that local employment must come from the municipal district. This allows for upliftment on a broader scale.	
	<b>Mr E van Zyl:</b> Did you notify landowners of the proposed project?	<b>Ashlea Strong from WSP   Parsons Brinckerhoff:</b> 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
<b>Dirk Olivier</b>			
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
<b>Wind-Energy Enercon South Africa (Pty) Ltd</b>			
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
<b>Western Cape Black Eagle Project</b>			
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 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:  Tel number: Cell Number: Email: Postal Address:  I can then add you to the database.</p>	<p>Appendix H</p>
<p>Lucia Rodrigues 29 November 2016 Email</p>	<p>Thanks for your prompt response.  Tel number: 021 788 5580  Cell number: 083 325 8881  Email: signet@webafrica.org.za  Postal address: P O Box 356 Muizenberg 7950  I have a copy of the Final Environmental Scoping Report, but have not been able to access the appendices.  The ones I am interested in are;  1. The Avifaunal specialist study Appendix I  2. Appendix T  3. Appendix Y  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.  As requested please find attached the relevant appendices.  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.  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 Appendix H Appendix M</p>
<p>Lucia Rodrigues 04 December 2016 Email</p>	<p>I would also like to register as an I&amp;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.  As discussed – I have already added you to the consolidated I&amp;AP database for the wind facilities.</p>	<p>Appendix P Appendix H Appendix M</p>

		<p>As promised – herewith the Avifauna studies for the Maralla East and West Facilities for your information and review.</p>													
<p><b>Renee Rust</b></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 &amp; 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 &amp; 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>
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														

		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	
		<b>Farm Name &amp; Number</b>	<b>Province</b>
		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

# 30 LANDOWNERS

LANDOWNER DETAILS	COMMENT	RESPONSE	REPORT REFERENCE
<b>Mr and Mrs G Hanekom</b>			
Mr and Mrs Hanekom 28 September 2016 Landowner Meeting Minutes	<b>Mrs D Hanekom:</b> The community is difficult to approach as there is a lot of negativity due to things happening that nobody gets input into.	<b>Ashlea Strong from WSP   Parsons Brinckerhoff:</b> 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
	<b>Mrs D Hanekom:</b> Have you had any response to public notices or adverts yet?	<b>Ashlea Strong from WSP   Parsons Brinckerhoff:</b> 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. <b>Michael Barnes from BioTherm Energy:</b> 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. <b>Ashlea Strong from WSP   Parsons Brinckerhoff:</b> 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. <b>Michael Barnes from BioTherm Energy:</b> 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



LANDOWNER DETAILS	COMMENT	RESPONSE	REPORT REFERENCE
		Maralla East has a project area of approximately 4700ha, this means that a maximum of 4-5% of the land will be disturbed.	
	<p><b>Mr G Hanekom:</b> How do you mitigate the visual impact?</p>	<p><b>Ashlea Strong from WSP   Parsons Brinckerhoff:</b> You can't really. You can add a buffer to slightly reduce the impact.</p>	<p>Appendix H Appendix W</p>
	<p><b>Mrs D Hanekom:</b> 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><b>Mr G Hanekom:</b> The socio-economic development has both positive and negative aspects and depends on how the money is spent.</p>	<p><b>Tulani Koom from BioTherm Energy:</b> 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&amp;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"> <li>→ Education- schools upliftment programmes, bursaries for tertiary education and training teachers</li> <li>→ New equipment for clinics</li> </ul> <p><b>Ashlea Strong from WSP   Parsons Brinckerhoff:</b> The influx of workers could mean conflict between locals and migrants.</p>	<p>Appendix H</p>