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COMMENT AND RESPONSE REPORT

LETSOAI CSP 1

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COMMENT AND RESPONSE REPORT

LETSOAI CSP 1

BioTherm Energy (Pty) Ltd

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1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

BioTherm Energy (Pty.) Ltd. (BioTherm) is the proponent and applicant for the Environmental Authorisation (EA) for Letsoai CSP 1. BioTherm is a leading renewable energy project development and financing company that owns, develops, constructs and operates solar and wind energy projects in South Africa and Sub-Saharan Africa.

BioTherm has proposed a solar energy development on Farm Hartebeest Vlei 86, located approximately 13km southeast of Aggeneys located within the Khâi-Ma Local Municipality under the jurisdiction of the Namakwa District Municipality, in the Northern Cape Province of South Africa. The solar energy development will consist of two 150MW Concentrating Solar Power (CSP) projects referred to as Letsoai CSP 1 and 2; and five 75MW Solar Photovoltaic (PV) projects referred to as Enamandla PV 1 – 5. The projects are summarised in **Table 1-1**.

Table 1-1: Projects within the Solar Energy Development

PROJECT NUMBER	TECHNOLOGY	LOCATION	PROJECTS
1	CSP	Northern Cape	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Letsoai CSP 1 (150MW) and associated infrastructure → Letsoai CSP 2 (150MW) and associated infrastructure
2	PV	Northern Cape	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Enamandla PV 1 (75MW) and associated infrastructure → Enamandla PV 2 (75MW) and associated infrastructure → Enamandla PV 3 (75MW) and associated infrastructure → Enamandla PV 4 (75MW) and associated infrastructure → Enamandla PV 5 (75MW) and associated infrastructure
3	Power Integration	Northern Cape	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → 1 x 400kV Powerline and associated substation

It is important to note that this Scoping and Environmental Impact Reporting (S&EIR) process is for Letsoai CSP 1 (Proposed Project) only; the balance of the Enamandla PV and Letsoai CSP 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 SCOPING PHASE PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

STAKEHOLDER IDENTIFICATION

Stakeholders were identified and continue to be identified through several mechanisms. These include:

- Utilising existing databases from other projects in the area;
- Networking with local business owners, non-governmental agencies, community based organisations, and local council representatives;
- Field work in and around the project area;
- Advertising in the press;
- Placement of community notices;
- Completed comment sheets; and
- Attendance registers at meetings.

All Stakeholders identified to date have been registered on the project stakeholder database. The EAP endeavoured to ensure that individuals/organisations from referrals and networking were notified of the Proposed Project. Stakeholders were identified at the horizontal (geographical) and vertical extent (organisations level).

Table 1-2 provides a breakdown of stakeholders currently registered on the database while **Figure 1-1** illustrates the number of stakeholders per representative sector.

Table 1-2: Breakdown of Stakeholders Currently Registered on the Database

REPRESENTATIVE SECTOR	FURTHER EXPLANATION	NO. OF STAKEHOLDERS
Government departments	<p>All tiers of government, namely, national, provincial, local government and parastatal organisations including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Department of Mineral Resources → Eskom Holdings Limited → Northern Cape Department of Roads and Public Works → Northern Cape Department of Rural Development and Land Reform → Randwater → Transnet → Khâi-Ma Local Municipality → Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries → South African Heritage Resource Agency → National Department of Environmental Affairs → Department of Environmental Affairs: Biodiversity and Conservation → South African Civil Aviation Authority → Department of Water and Sanitation → Northern Cape Department of Water and Sanitation → Northern Cape Department of Environment and Nature Conservation → Northern Cape Department of Finance, Economic Development and Tourism → Northern Cape Department of Economic Development and Tourism → South African National Roads Agency → South African Square Kilometre Array → Northern Cape Economic Development Agency → Namakwa District Municipality → South African Astronomical Observatory 	50
Business and consultants	<p>Local and neighbouring businesses in the area.</p> <p>Representatives of consulting organisations that provide services in the area</p>	6
Non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and	Agricultural unions, churches, and environmental NGOs	9

REPRESENTATIVE SECTOR	FURTHER EXPLANATION	NO. OF STAKEHOLDERS
community organisations based		
General public	Local communities, farmers, and other such individuals who may have an interest in the project	7

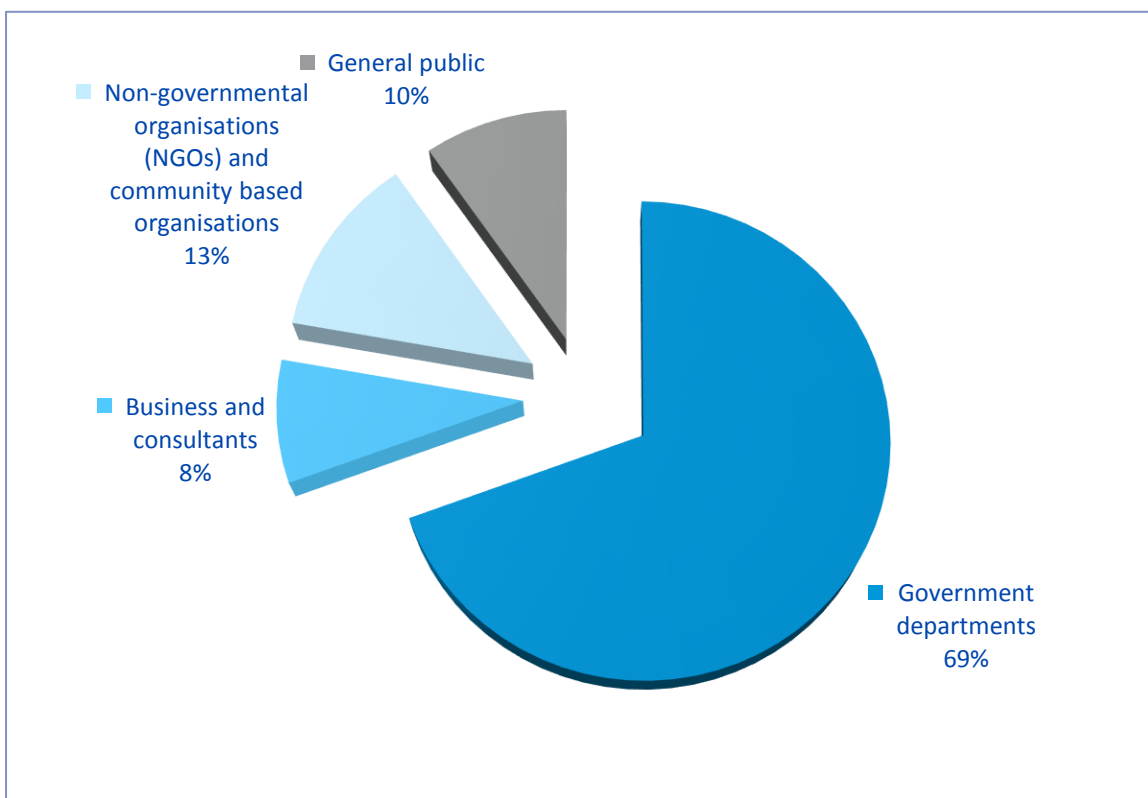


Figure 1-1: Pie chart showing the Breakdown of the Stakeholders currently Registered on the Database per representative sector

STAKEHOLDER NOTIFICATION

NEWSPAPER ADVERTISEMENTS

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 A**). The EIA notification advertisement was placed in “Die Gemsbok” newspaper on 7 September 2016.

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 the following locations in and around the project area (**Table 1-4**). The copy of the site notice is included in **Appendix A**.

Table 1-3: Site Notice Locations








LOCATION	PHOTOGRAPH
Site Boundary 29° 17' 45.45" S 18° 59' 07.59" E	
Aggeneis Substation 29° 17' 59.16" S 18° 48' 21.99" E	

Table 1-4: General Project Notice Locations

LOCATION	PHOTOGRAPH
Aggeneys OK	
Aggeneys Public Library	
Black Mountain Recreation Club	
Khâi-Ma Local Municipality	

LOCATION	PHOTOGRAPH
Poffadder Public Library	

PUBLIC REVIEW OF THE DRAFT SCOPING REPORT

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

- Aggeneys Public Library;
- Black Mountain Recreation Club; and
- 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.

A focus group meeting was held with the Khâi-Ma Local Municipality in Poffadder on 27 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 and site notices. No meeting minutes are attached to the FSR due to the fact that there was no attendance at the meeting.

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

DATE	TIME	VENUE
26 September 2016	18:00 – 20:00	Black Mountain Recreation Club

1.4 EIA PHASE PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

STAKEHOLDER AND AUTHORITY CONSULTATION

There will 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 environmental impact report (EIR) will be placed on public review for a period of 30 days from **27 February 2017** to **27 March 2017**, at the following venues:

- Aggeneys Public Library;
- Pofadder Public Library; 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 1-5 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 provided 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
16 March 2017	18:00 – 20:00	Pofadder Community Hall

1.5 NOTIFICATIONS

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

1.6 COMMENTS RECEIVED

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

2 AUTHORITIES

AUTHORITY DETAILS	COMMENT	RESPONSE	REPORT REFERENCE
Commission on Restitution of Land Rights – Regional Land Claims Commissioner: Northern Cape			
<p>Pabalelo Mokale 11 October 2016 Formal Letter</p>	<p>Letter from WSP Environmental:</p> <p>RE: STATUS OF CLAIMS FOR THE RESTITUTION OF LAND RIGHTS LODGED AGAINST PROPERTIES IDENTIFIED FOR THE PROPOSED LETSOAI CSP 1 PROJECT, NORTHERN CAPE.</p> <p>BioTherm Energy (Pty) Ltd (BioTherm) has proposed a solar energy development on Farm Hartebeest Vlei 86, located approximately 13km southeast of Aggeneys located within the Khâi-Ma Local Municipality under the jurisdiction of the Namakwa District Municipality, in the Northern Cape Province of South Africa. The solar energy development will consist of two 150MW Concentrating Solar Power (CSP) projects referred to as Letsoai CSP 1 and 2; and five 75MW Solar Photovoltaic (PV) projects referred to as Enamandla PV 1 – 5.</p> <p>WSP Parsons Brinckerhoff, Environment and Energy, Africa (WSP Parsons Brinckerhoff) has been appointed in the role of Independent Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP) to undertake the S&EIR processes for each of the eight projects collectively forming part of the solar energy development. This</p>	<p>Response from RLCC:</p> <p>Land Claims Enquiry</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Farm Hartebeest Vlei 86 2. Portion 1 of farm Klein Pella 40 3. Portino 1 of Koeps Leegte 58 4. Portin 2 of farm Aroams 57 5. Remainder extent of farm Aroams 57 6. Portion 1 of farm Aroams 57 7. Remaining extent Farm Aggeneys 56 8. Portion 1 of Aggeneys 56 9. Portion 1 of farm Blomhoek 61 10. Remaining extent of farm Blomhoek 61 11. Remaining extent of farm Hartebees Vlei <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</p>	<p>Appendix H</p>

AUTHORITY DETAILS	COMMENT	RESPONSE	REPORT REFERENCE
	<p>request is specific to the Proposed Letsoai CSP 1 Project and associated infrastructure.</p> <p>Please can you advise whether land claims have been lodged on the properties listed below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Farm Hartebeest Vlei 86; • Pella Mission 39; • Ptn 1 of Farm Klein Pella 40; • Ptn 1 of Koups Leegte 58; • Ptn 2 of Farm Aroams 57; • Rem Ext of Farm Aroams 57; • Ptn 1 of Farm Aroams 57; • Rem Ext of Farm Aggeneys 56; • Ptn 1 of Farm Aggeneys 56; • Ptn 1 of Farm Blomhoek 61; • Rem Ext of Farm Blomhoek 61; and • Rem Ext of Farm Hartebeest Vlei 86. <p>Please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned should you require any further information.</p>	<p>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.</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"> - Some Claimants referred to properties they claim dispossession of rights in land against using historical property descriptions which may not match the current property description; and - Some Claimants provided the geographic descriptions of the land they claim without mentioning the particular actual property description they claim dispossession of rights in land against. <p>The Commission therefore does not accept any liability whatsoever if through the process of further investigation of claims it is found that there is in fact a land claim in respect of the above property.</p> <p>If you are aware of any change in the description of the above property after 19 June 1913 kindly supply us with such description so as to enable us to do a further search.</p>	
Department of Environmental Affairs			
<p>Ms Nonhlahla Mkhwanazi 13 October 2016</p>	<p>Nonhlanhla Mkhwanazi from DEA:</p> <p>COMMENTS ON THE DRAFT SCOPING REPORT FOR THE PROPOSED CONSTRUCTION OF THE 150 MW LETSOAI CONCENTRATED SOLAR POWER (CSP) 1 FACILITY AND ITS ASSOCIATED</p>	<p>Responses from Ashlea Strong frm WSP:</p>	<p>Appendix H Section 4.2</p>

AUTHORITY DETAILS	COMMENT	RESPONSE	REPORT REFERENCE
Formal Letter – Comments on DESR – CSP 1	INFRASTRUCTURE ON THE FARM HARTEBEEST VLEI86 WITHIN THE KHAI-MA LOCAL MUNICIPALITY, NORTHERN CAPE PROVINCE The draft Scoping Report (SR) dated September 2016 and received by this Department on 16 September 2016 refer. 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.	WSP Parsons Brinkerhoff can confirm that all relevant listed activities have been included in the updated application form .	Section 3.2
	If the activities applied for in the application form differ from those mentioned in the final SR, an amended application form must be submitted. Please note that the Department's application form template has been amended and can be downloaded from the following link https://www.environment.gov.za/documents/forms .	The activities listed in the final scoping report were the same as those applied for in the application form. WSP Parsons Brinkerhoff takes note of the requirement to amend the application form in the event that activities are added or removed at any time through the S&EIR process. An amended application form has been submitted with the Draft EIR due to the addition of the WML activities.	Section 3.2
	Please ensure that all issues raised and comments received during the circulation of the draft SR from registered I&APs and organs of state which have jurisdiction (including this Department's Biodiversity Section) in respect of the proposed activity are adequately addressed in the final SR.	All issues raised and comments received during the scoping phase are included in the Comment and Response Report.	Appendix H
	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.	Proof of correspondence with stakeholders during the scoping phase is included in the Comment and Response Report	Appendix H

AUTHORITY DETAILS	COMMENT	RESPONSE	REPORT REFERENCE
	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.	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 from the inception of the project. The database was updated during the scoping phase to include the South African Astronomical Observatory.	Appendix H
	A comments and response trail report (C&R) must be submitted with the final SR. The C&R report must incorporate all historical comments for this development. The C&R report must be a separate document from the main report and the format must be in the table format as indicated in Annexure 1 of this comments letter.	The Comment and Response Report has been updated to include all correspondence received to date and is included in Appendix H .	Appendix H
	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.	The investigation undertaken to identify and motivate why no reasonable or feasible alternatives exist has been outlined in Section 7 of this report. In addition, advantages and disadvantages have been included for all alternatives where appropriate.	Section 7
	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.	WSP Parsons Brinckerhoff has taken note of this requirement. No contradictions have been noted.	N/A
	Should there be similar applications in the area, all the specialist assessments must include a cumulative environmental impact assessment for all identified and	A cumulative impact assessment has been included in Section 11 of this report.	Section 11

AUTHORITY DETAILS	COMMENT	RESPONSE	REPORT REFERENCE
	<p>assessed impacts. The cumulative impact assessment must indicate the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Identified cumulative impacts must be clearly defined, and where possible the size of the identified impact must be quantified and indicated, i.e. hectares of cumulatively transformed land. - Detailed process flow and proof must be provided, to indicate how the specialist's recommendations, mitigation measures and conclusions from the various similar developments in the area were taken into consideration in the assessment of cumulative impacts and when the conclusion and mitigation measures were drafted for this project. - The cumulative impacts significance rating must also inform the need and desirability of the proposed development. - A cumulative impact environmental statement on whether the proposed development must proceed. 		
	<p>It is imperative that a reliable water source is secured for the success of this project. The Department requests that a non-binding water confirmation letter from the Department of Water and Sanitation form part of the stakeholders engagement report.</p>	<p>A letter was received from the DWS on 25 October 2016 and is included in Appendix I. In addition, a letter from Sedibeng Water has been included in Appendix J</p>	<p>Appendix I Appendix J</p>
	<p>The water specialist study must evaluate water source alternatives for the facility and must assess the cumulative impacts of all similar type solar facilities on the property on water resources in the area. The Department also requests that alternatives in terms of water sources required for the development be assessed in detail.</p>	<p>The water availability assessment has been included in Appendix K. In addition the cumulative impacts have been identified and assessed in Section 11 of this report.</p>	<p>Section 11 Appendix K</p>

AUTHORITY DETAILS	COMMENT	RESPONSE	REPORT REFERENCE
	A cumulative assessment must be undertaken for the sourcing of water as there are numerous other facilities in the region.	The cumulative impacts have been identified and assessed in Section 11 of this report.	Section 11
	<p>The terms of reference of the Avifauna! Assessment to be conducted must include, inter alia the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Determine the impacts that the proposed activity (including the powerline) may have on avifauna; - Must cover at a minimum the summer and winter seasons; - The assessment must include mitigation measures to discourage the avifauna from entering the solar field as well and limit nesting and breeding grounds within the solar field. - The avifauna! specialist study must be expanded to include vantage point surveys as well as flight paths to consider how birds will move through the property. The study must also propose adequate mitigation measures to reduce the facilities impacts on avifauna frequenting the area. - Assess the cumulative impact on avifauna within the site and within the local area. 	The additional terms of reference was forwarded to the Avifauna specialist and has been incorporated in the Avifauna Specialist Study included in Appendix L .	Appendix L
	<p>An Agricultural Specialist Study must be conducted. The terms of reference for the study must include, inter alia the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Assessment of the loss of agricultural land; - The current state of agricultural activities on land; - The impact of the loss of agricultural land within the property as well as the cumulative impact of the 	The additional terms of reference was forwarded to the agricultural specialist and has been incorporated in the Land Capability Specialist Study included in Appendix M .	Appendix M

AUTHORITY DETAILS	COMMENT	RESPONSE	REPORT REFERENCE
	loss of agricultural land on the site and within the area.		
	Scoping specialist studies, if applicable, must be submitted to the Department with the final SR.	The Scoping Specialist studies were included in the final scoping report.	N/A
	The specialist studies conducted must be specific to each of the sites applied for. The specialist must provide recommendations and mitigation measures specific to each site and the EAP must provide mitigation measures; an assessment and recommendations for each site as well as the cumulative impacts for each of the facilities.	The specialist studies appended to this report are all specific to the Letsoai CSP 1 Site.	Appendix L, Appendix M, Appendix Q, Appendix R, Appendix S, Appendix T
	The final SR must include comments from Birdlife South Africa.	Comments from Birdlife South Africa have been included in the Comment and Response Report.	Appendix H Appendix L
	This Department requires a cumulative impact assessment to be undertaken in the final SR to determine potential fatal flaws.	A detailed cumulative assessment is included in Section 11 of this report.	Section 11
	This Department requests the EAP to include the specialist consultants who will conduct the specialist assessments.	Specialist consultants have been appointed to conduct the specialist assessments. The Specialist Declarations have also been included in Appendix C .	Section 5.1 Appendix C
	<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> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A CV clearly showing expertise of the peer reviewer; - Acceptability of the terms of reference; 	<p>Peer reviewers have been identified and appointed for all relevant in-house specialist studies. The following peer reviews are currently underway and will be appended to the Final EIR:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Land capability and Wetlands → Social Study <p>The Traffic Specialist Study Peer Review has been completed and is included in Appendix N.</p> <p>The CV for each independent specialist have been included within Appendix O</p>	Section 5.1 Appendix N Appendix O

AUTHORITY DETAILS	COMMENT	RESPONSE	REPORT REFERENCE
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Is the methodology clearly explained and acceptable; - Evaluate the validity of the findings (review data evidence); - Discuss the suitability of the mitigation measures and recommendations; - Identify any short comings and mitigation measures to address the short comings; - Evaluate the appropriateness of the reference literature; - Indicate whether a site-inspection was carried out as part of the peer review; and - Indicate whether the article is well-written and easy to understand. 		
	<p>This Department requests the EAP to familiarise themselves with the requirements of Appendix 2 of GNR 982 of the EIA Regulations, 2014 and ensure that the final SR submitted to this Department for consideration meets the requirements in terms of identifying, assessing and providing mitigation measures of the impacts on the alternative and preferred sites.</p>	<p>The final scoping report was compiled in compliance with Appendix 2 of the GNR 982. Similarly, the draft EIR has taken cognisance of Appendix 3 of the GNR 982.</p>	<p>Section 1.4</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 1 (2) (e) and 3 (1) (h) (i) of GN R.982 of 2014. Alternatively, you should submit written proof of an investigation and motivation if no reasonable or feasible alternatives exist in terms of Appendix 1.</p>	<p>The investigation undertaken to identify and motivate why no reasonable or feasible alternatives exist has been outlined in Section 7 of this report. In addition, advantages and disadvantages have been included for all alternatives where appropriate.</p>	<p>Section 7</p>

AUTHORITY DETAILS	COMMENT	RESPONSE	REPORT REFERENCE
	<p>In accordance with Appendix 1 (3) {1} (a) of the EIA Regulations 2014, the details of-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the EAP who prepared the report; and - the expertise of the EAP to carry out Scoping and Environmental Impact assessment procedures; must be submitted. 	<p>This has been included in Section 1.2 of this report. In addition, the CV of the Project Manager and Project Director for the project have been included in Appendix A.</p>	<p>Section 1.2 Appendix A</p>
	<p>You are further reminded that the final SR to be submitted to this Department must comply with all the requirements in terms of the scope of assessment and content of Scoping reports in accordance with Appendix 2 and Regulation 21(1) of the EIA Regulations, 2014.</p>	<p>WSP Parsons Brinkerhoff has taken note of this requirement.</p>	<p>N/A</p>
	<p>Further note that in terms of Regulation 45 of the EIA Regulations 2014, this application will lapse if the applicant fails to meet any of the timeframes prescribed in terms of these Regulations, unless an extension has been granted in terms of Regulation 3(7).</p>	<p>WSP Parsons Brinkerhoff has taken note of this requirement.</p>	<p>N/A</p>
	<p>You are hereby reminded of Section 24F of the National Environmental Management Act, Act No 107 of 1998, as amended, that no activity may commence prior to an environmental authorisation being granted by the Department.</p>	<p>WSP Parsons Brinkerhoff has taken note of this requirement.</p>	<p>N/A</p>
<p>Mahlatse Shubane 12 December 2016 Formal Letter – Comments on FESR – Letsoai CSP 1</p>	<p>ACCEPTANCE OF THE SCOPING REPORT FOR THE PROPOSED CONSTRUCTION OF THE 150 MW LETSOAI CONCENTRATED SOLAR POWER (CSP) 1 PROJECT AND ITS ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE ON FARM HARTEBEEST VLEI 86 WITHIN THE KHAI MA LOCAL MUNICIPALITY, NORTHERN CAPE PROVINCE</p> <p>The Scoping Report (SR) and Plan of Study for Environmental Impact Assessment (PoSEIA) dated October</p>	<p>Noted</p>	<p>N/A</p>

AUTHORITY DETAILS	COMMENT	RESPONSE	REPORT REFERENCE
	<p>2016 and received by this Department on 28 October 2016 refer.</p> <p>This Department has evaluated the submitted SR and the PoSEIA dated February 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 EIA process in accordance with the tasks contemplated in the PoSEIA and the requirements of the EIA Regulations, 2014.</p>		
	<p>All comments and recommendations made by all stakeholders and Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) in the draft SR and submitted as part of the final SR must be taken into consideration when preparing an Environmental Impact Assessment report (EIAr) in respect of the proposed development. Please ensure that all mitigation measures and recommendations in the specialist studies are addressed and included in the final EIAr and Environmental Management Programme (EMPr)</p>	<p>Please refer to the comment and response report and the EMPr for further details.</p>	<p>Appendix H Appendix W</p>
	<p>Please ensure that comments from all relevant stakeholders are submitted to the Department with the final EIAr. This includes but is not limited to the Northern Cape Department of Environment and Nature Conservation, the Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (DAFF), the provincial Department of Agriculture, the South African Civil Aviation Authority (SACAA), SENTECH, the Department of Transport, the Local Municipality, the District Municipality, the Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS), the South African National Roads Agency Limited (SANRAL), the South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA), the Endangered Wildlife Trust (EWT), Birdlife SA, the</p>	<p>All existing comments received have been included in the comment and response report.</p> <p>All the relevant stakeholders have been informed of the draft EIR public review period. Any additional comments received during the public review period will be included in the comment and response report and included in the final EIR.</p>	<p>Appendix H</p>

AUTHORITY DETAILS	COMMENT	RESPONSE	REPORT REFERENCE
	Department of Mineral Resources, the Department of Rural Development and Land Reform, the Department of Environmental Affairs: Directorate Biodiversity and Conservation, and the Square Kilometre Array (SKA).		
	Please be advised that the contact person for renewable projects at the SKA office is Dr Adrian Tiplady and he can be contacted on Tel: (011) 442 2434 or E-mail: atiplady@ska.ac.za.	WSP Parsons Brinckerhoff takes note of these contact details. These details have been added to the stakeholder database (Appendix P).	Appendix P
	Please ensure that the EIAr and EMPr comply with Appendix 3 and Appendix 4 of Regulation 2014, before submission to the Department. 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, particularly Birdlife South Africa's comments dated 21 October 2016.	The EIAr and EMPr comply with Appendix 3 (Table 1.3) and Appendix 4 (Appendix V) of Regulation 2014 respectively. All existing comments received have been included and responded to in the comment and response report (Appendix H). The comments from Birdlife Africa have been addressed in the Avifuna Specialist Study (Appendix L)	Table 1.3 Appendix V Appendix H Appendix L
	Proof of correspondence with the various stakeholders must be included in the EIAr. Should you be unable to obtain comments, proof should be submitted to the Department of the attempts that were made to obtain comments.	Proof of correspondence with stakeholders is included in the comment and response report (Appendix H)	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 27 February 2016 to 27 March 2017.	Section 5.3
	In addition, the following additional information is required for the EIAr:		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The draft EIAr must provide an assessment of the impacts and mitigation measures for each of the listed activities applied for. 	Please refer to Chapter 9 and 10 of this report.	Section 9 and 10
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 amended application form submitted to the DEA with this Draft EIR.	Section 3.2

AUTHORITY DETAILS	COMMENT	RESPONSE	REPORT REFERENCE
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Please ensure that all issues raised and comments received during the circulation of the EIAr from registered I&APs and organs of state which have jurisdiction (including this Department's Biodiversity Section) in respect of the proposed activity are adequately addressed and included in the FinalEIAr. Proof of correspondence with the various stakeholders must be included in the Final EIAr. 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>All existing comments received have been included and responded to in the comment and response report (Appendix H).</p> <p>All the relevant stakeholders have been informed of the draft EIR public review period. Any additional comments received during the public review period will be included in the comment and response report and included in the final EIR.</p>	Appendix H
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A comments and response trail report (C&R) must be submitted with the final EIAr. The C&R report must incorporate all comments for this development. The C&R report must be a separate document from the main report and the format must be in the table format as indicated in Annexure 1 of this comments letter. 	The comment and Response report is included in the Draft EIR in Appendix H and was submitted as a separate report to the DEA.	Appendix H
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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. 	No contradictions have been noted.	N/A
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The EAP must provide detailed motivation and reasons on the applicability of Item 12, 19, 24 and 56 of GN R. 983 and 4, 5, 12 and 14 of GN R. 985. In addition, the impacts, and any specialist study to assess the impacts for this activity must be provided in the draft EIAr. 	<p>Activities 12 and 19 of GNR 983 are applicable as Alternative 2 for the Pipeline will be required to cross a watercourse.</p> <p>Activities 24 and 56 of GNR 983 are applicable as internal access roads will be required for access to Letsoai CSP 1. These roads will be no wider than 8m. In addition, the main access road that connects Letsoai CSP 1 to the main road will require widening.</p>	Section 3.2

AUTHORITY DETAILS	COMMENT	RESPONSE	REPORT REFERENCE
		Activities 4, 5, 12 and 14 of GNR 985 are applicable as the entire proposed development falls within the Kamiesberg Bushmanland Augabies NPAES focus area and the pipeline route alternatives intersect with Critical Biodiversity Areas. The impacts are assessed in Section 9 and 10 of this report.	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> GN R.983 Item 19: With regards to infilling and excavation of watercourses for the construction of the CSP Energy facility, this Department requires the applicant to provide an indication of the preferred and alternate locations from which the material used for infilling will be sourced and where excavated material will be stored and/or disposed of. In addition, the impacts associated with this activity must be adequately assessed in the EIAr. 	Activity 19 of GNR 983 is applicable as Alternative 2 for the Pipeline will be required to cross a watercourse. The excavated material will be stored adjacent to the trench and reused to fill the trench once construction is complete. Impacts area assessed in Section 10 of this report.	Section 3.2 Section 10
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The relevant provincial authority must be engaged with regards to development in geographic areas triggering activities in GNR 985. In addition, a graphical representation of the proposed development within the respective geographical areas must be provided. 	Refer to Figure 8.17 with regards to the provision of the graphical representation requested.	Figure 8.17
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 CSP facilities below. 	Please refer to Table 7.1 . In addition, this information has been included at the beginning of this report, as requested.	Table 7.1
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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. 	Please refer to Figures 2.3 and 2.4 .	Figure 2.3 Figure 2.4
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The EIAr must provide the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clear indication of the envisioned area for the proposed CSP facility; i.e. placing of 	Please refer to Figure 2.3 and Appendix W .	Figure 2.3 Appendix W

AUTHORITY DETAILS	COMMENT	RESPONSE	REPORT REFERENCE
	<p>power tower and all associated infrastructure should be mapped at an appropriate scale.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Clear description of all associated infrastructure. This description must include, but is not limited to the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Power lines; ▪ Internal roads infrastructure; and; ▪ All supporting onsite infrastructure such as laydown area, guard house and control room etc. 	<p>In addition, please refer to Section 7 of this report for a detailed description of the infrastructure.</p>	<p>Section 7</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is noted that comments were requested from the South African SKA Project Office and no comments were received. This Department requires comments from the South African SKA Project Office to be included in the EIAr. 	<p>Comments from the South African SKA have been received and have been included in the Comment and Response Report (Appendix H)</p>	<p>Appendix H Appendix P</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This Department requires comments from the Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries to be included in the EIAr. 	<p>The DAFF have been provided with all the relevant information. However no comments have been received as yet.</p>	<p>Appendix H</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This Department requires comments from the Department of Water and Sanitation, from the Impact Management and Resource Management Directorates to be included in the EIAr. 	<p>Comments from the DWS have been received and have been included in the Comment and Response Report (Appendix H) and are provided in Appendix I.</p>	<p>Appendix H Appendix I</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Section 19 and Section 21 of the National Water Act No. 36 of 1998 may be triggered as GN R. 983 Activities 12 and 19 were applied for. A hydrological assessment must be conducted and must also assess the impacts on the surface hydrology of the proposed development area and must be included in the EIAr. 	<p>The hydrology study is included in the Land Capability and Wetland Study (Appendix M)</p> <p>Response from the Specialist:</p> <p>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</p>	<p>Appendix M</p>

AUTHORITY DETAILS	COMMENT	RESPONSE	REPORT REFERENCE
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The terms of reference for the study must include, inter alia the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Identification and sensitivity rating of all surface water courses for the impact phase of the proposed development; ○ Identification, assessment of all potential impacts to the water courses and suggestion of mitigation measures; and, ○ Recommendations on the preferred placement of the facility and all associated infrastructure and preference must be provided to the avoidance of the watercourses on the property. 	<p>a Preferred Bidder, the required WULA in terms of NWA may commence. This application (WULA) will require detailed functional assessments (i.e. PES, EIS and EcoServices) of freshwater habitats potentially affected. Therefore, a recommendation within this land capability and freshwater identification report (Section 8) is a more in-depth and thorough freshwater functional assessment be conducted should BioTherm be recognised as a Preferred Bidder. Appropriate buffers for the identified systems must then form part of the in-depth assessment report. At this stage design details should be available allowing the freshwater specialist to assess specific areas within the site and determine proximity of the structures to freshwater systems. Another recommendation is that the freshwater specialist be present onsite during the construction phase of the project, and conduct an in-depth site walkover prior to any site work to assess the area for any wetlands and watercourses which may be affected by the actions conducted during the construction phase (e.g. road construction).</p>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is imperative that a reliable water source is secured for the success of this project. The Department requests proof of availability of water for the facility from the relevant authority. 	<p>A letter from Sedibeng Water has been included in Appendix J</p>	<p>Appendix J</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The EIA must adequately assess and provide a comparative analysis for alternative water sources for the proposed development. 	<p>Please refer to the Water Availability Assessment (Appendix K)</p>	<p>Appendix K</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A cumulative assessment must be undertaken for the sourcing of water as there are numerous other facilities in the region. 	<p>The cumulative impacts have been identified and assessed in Section 11 of this report.</p>	<p>Section 11</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Should a water abstraction point in the Orange River and a pipeline to pipe the water to the facility be required, the impact of these must be assessed 	<p>Impacts relating to the water supply pipeline are assessed in Chapter 10 if this report.</p>	<p>Section 10</p>

AUTHORITY DETAILS	COMMENT	RESPONSE	REPORT REFERENCE
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An Avifauna! Assessment must be conducted as part of the EIAr. The terms of reference for the study must include, inter alia the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Determine the impacts that the proposed activity (including the power line) may have on avifauna; ○ Must cover at a minimum the summer and winter seasons; ○ The assessment must include mitigation measures to discourage the avifauna from entering the solar field as well and limit nesting and breeding grounds within the solar field. ○ The avifauna! specialist study must be expanded to include vantage point surveys as well as flight paths to consider how birds will move through the property. The study must also propose adequate mitigation measures to reduce the facilities impacts on avifauna frequenting the area. ○ Assess the cumulative impact on avifauna within the site and within the local area. 	Please refer to the Avifauna Specialist Study (Appendix L).	Appendix L
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The terms of reference for the soils, land use and land capability assessment must also include, inter alia the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Assessment of the loss of agricultural land; ○ The current state of agricultural activities on land; ○ The impact of the loss of agricultural land within the property as well as the cumulative impact of the loss of 	Please refer to the Land Capability and Wetland Study (Appendix M).	Appendix M

AUTHORITY DETAILS	COMMENT	RESPONSE	REPORT REFERENCE
	<p>agricultural land on the site and within the area.</p>		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A significant amount of materials and equipment will be delivered to the site during the construction phase of the development. The EIA must include a traffic assessment study. The study must determine the specific traffic needs during the different phases of implementation. 	<p>Please refer to the Transport Specialist Study (Appendix X)</p>	<p>Appendix X</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is noted that the proposed development will include a cement batching plant. As such, you are requested to assess the environmental impacts of this associated infrastructure and provide mitigation measures as well. 	<p>The impacts are assessed in Section 9 of this report. Mitigation measures are included in the EMP (Appendix V)</p>	<p>Appendix V</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An Air Quality Assessment and Noise Impact Assessment must be conducted as part of the EIA. 	<p>Please refer to the Air Quality and Noise Assessments included in Appendix Y and Appendix Z respectively.</p>	<p>Appendix Y Appendix Z</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The specialist studies conducted must be specific to a CSP Tower facility and must assess cumulative impacts of other Renewable Energy projects in the area. 	<p>All the specialist studies are specific to the Letsoai CSP 1 Site. A detailed cumulative assessment is included in Section 11.</p>	<p>Section 11</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A CV clearly showing expertise of the peer reviewer; Acceptability of the terms of reference; Is the methodology clearly explained and acceptable; Evaluate the validity of the findings (review data evidence); 	<p>Peer reviewers have been identified and appointed for all relevant in-house specialist studies. The following peer reviews are currently underway and will be appended to the Final EIR:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Land capability and Wetlands → Social Study <p>The Traffic Specialist Study Peer Review has been completed and is included in Appendix N</p> <p>The CV for each independent specialist have been included within Appendix O.</p>	<p>Section 5.1 Appendix N Appendix O</p>

AUTHORITY DETAILS	COMMENT	RESPONSE	REPORT REFERENCE
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Discuss the suitability of the mitigation measures and recommendations; ○ Identify any short comings and mitigation measures to address the short comings; Evaluate the appropriateness of the reference literature; ○ Indicate whether a site-inspection was carried out as part of the peer review; and ○ Indicate whether the article is well-written and easy to understand. 		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Due to the number of similar applications in the area, all the specialist assessments must include a cumulative environmental impact assessment for all identified and assessed impacts. The cumulative impact assessment must indicate the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Identified cumulative impacts must be clearly defined, and where possible the size of the identified impact must be quantified and indicated, i.e. hectares of cumulatively transformed land. ○ Detailed process flow and proof must be provided, to indicate how the specialist's recommendations, mitigation measures and conclusions from the various similar developments in the area were taken into consideration in the assessment of cumulative impacts and when the conclusion and mitigation measures were drafted for this project. ○ The cumulative impacts significance rating must also inform the need and desirability of the proposed development. ○ A cumulative impact environmental statement on whether the proposed development must proceed.. 	<p>A detailed cumulative assessment is included in Section 11 of this report</p>	<p>Section 11</p>

AUTHORITY DETAILS	COMMENT	RESPONSE	REPORT REFERENCE
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The specialist studies conducted must be specific to a CSP facility and must assess cumulative impacts of other Renewable Energy projects in the area 	All the specialist studies are specific to the Letsoai CSP 1 Site. A detailed cumulative assessment is included in Section 11.	Section 11
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The EIAR must also include a comments and response report in accordance with Appendix 2 h (iii) of the EIA Regulations, 2014. 	Please refer to the comment and response report (Appendix H)	Appendix H
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The EIAR must include the detail inclusive of the PPP in accordance with Regulation 41 of the EIA Regulations. 	The PPP methodology is described in Section 5.3 of this report.	Section 5.3
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 De-commissioning 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.	Section 7.3
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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. 	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.	N/A
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The EIAR must provide a detailed description of the need and desirability, not only providing motivation on the need for clean energy in South Africa of the proposed activity. The need and desirability must also 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. 	Please refer to Chapter 6 of this report	Section 6
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Please ensure that the draft and final EIAR also includes the undertaking under oath or affirmation by the EAP that is required in terms of Appendix 3 of GN R. 982. 	Please refer to Appendix B .	Appendix B

AUTHORITY DETAILS	COMMENT	RESPONSE	REPORT REFERENCE
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A copy of the final site layout map and alternatives. All available biodiversity information must be used in the finalisation of the layout map. Existing infrastructure must be used as far as possible e.g. roads. The layout map must indicate the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Tower position and its associated infrastructure; ○ Positions of the power island, steam turbine and generator, molten salt storage tanks, water storage reservoir and tanks, lined evaporation ponds and water supply pipeline; ○ Permanent laydown area footprint; ○ Internal roads indicating width (construction period width and operation period width) and with numbered sections between the other site elements which they serve (to make commenting on sections possible); ○ Wetlands, drainage lines, rivers, stream and water crossing of roads and cables indicating the type of bridging structures that will be used; ○ The location of sensitive environmental features on site e.g. CBAs, heritage sites, wetlands, drainage lines etc. that will be affected by the facility and its associated infrastructure; ○ Substation(s) and/or transformer(s) sites including their entire footprint; ○ Connection routes (including pylon positions) to the distribution/transmission network; 	<p>Please refer to the Site Development Proposal Map included at the beginning of this report. This map is also included in Appendix W.</p>	<p>Appendix W</p>

AUTHORITY DETAILS	COMMENT	RESPONSE	REPORT REFERENCE
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ All existing infrastructure on the site, especially roads; ○ Buffer areas; ○ Buildings, including accommodation; and ○ All "no-go" areas. 		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An environmental sensitivity map indicating environmental sensitive areas and features identified during the EIA process. 	Please refer to Section 12.2 for the sensitivity map. This map is also included in Appendix W .	Appendix W
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A map combining the final layout map superimposed (overlain) on the environmental sensitivity map. 	Please refer to Section 12.2 for the sensitivity map overlain by the layout. This map is also included in Appendix W .	Appendix W
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 .avl 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: Postal Address: Department of Environmental Affairs Private Bag X447 Pretoria 0001 	WSP Parsons Brinckerhoff have taken note of this requirement.	N/A

AUTHORITY DETAILS	COMMENT	RESPONSE	REPORT REFERENCE
	<p>Physical address: Environment House 473 Steve Biko Road Pretoria</p> <p>For Attention: Muhammad Essop Integrated Environmental Authorisations Strategic Infrastructure Developments Telephone Number: (012) 399 9406 Email Address: MEssop@environment.gov.za</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"> • All recommendations and mitigation measures recorded in the EIAr and the specialist studies conducted. • The final site layout map. • Measures as dictated by the final site layout map and micro-siting. • An environmental sensitivity map indicating environmental sensitive areas and features identified during the EIA process. • A map combining the final layout map superimposed (overlain) on the environmental sensitivity map. • An alien invasive management plan to be implemented during construction and operation of the facility. The plan must include mitigation measures to reduce the invasion of alien species and ensure that the continuous monitoring and removal of alien species is undertaken. • A plant rescue and protection plan which allows for the maximum transplant of conservation important species from areas to be transformed. This plan 	Please refer to the EMPr included in Appendix V .	Appendix V

AUTHORITY DETAILS	COMMENT	RESPONSE	REPORT REFERENCE
	<p>must be compiled by a vegetation specialist familiar with the site and be implemented prior to commencement of the construction phase.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 storm water management plan to be implemented during the construction and operation of the facility. The plan must ensure compliance with applicable regulations and prevent off-site migration of contaminated storm water or increased soil erosion. The plan must include the construction of appropriate design measures that allow surface and subsurface movement of water along drainage lines so as not to impede natural surface and subsurface flows. Drainage measures must promote the dissipation of storm water run-off. • A fire management plan to be implemented during the construction and operation of the facility. 		

AUTHORITY DETAILS	COMMENT	RESPONSE	REPORT REFERENCE
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An avifauna monitoring and management plan to be implemented during the construction and operation of the facility. This plan must be drafted by a suitably qualified avifauna specialist. • An erosion management plan for monitoring and rehabilitating erosion events associated with the facility. • Appropriate erosion mitigation must form part of this plan to prevent and reduce the risk of any potential erosion. • An effective monitoring system to detect any leakage or spillage of all hazardous substances during their transportation, handling, use and storage. This must include precautionary measures to limit the possibility of oil and other toxic liquids from entering the soil or storm water systems. • 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. 		
	<p>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.</p>	<p>WSP Parsons Brinckerhoff has taken note of this requirement. Please refer to the EMPr included in Appendix V.</p>	<p>Appendix V</p>
	<p>The EAP must provide the final detailed Site Layout Plan as well as the final EMPr for approval with the final EIAr as this Department needs to make a decision on the EA, EMPr and Layout Plan.</p>	<p>Please refer to Section 12.2 for the sensitivity map overlain by the layout. This map is also included in Appendix W. the EMPr included in Appendix V.</p> <p>In terms of the central tower and the heliostat layout no deviations from the layout are expected.</p> <p>However, the layout of the associated infrastructure together with the EMPr will only be finalised on confirmation that the project is awarded preferred bidder status.</p>	<p>Section 12.2 Appendix W Appendix V</p>

AUTHORITY DETAILS	COMMENT	RESPONSE	REPORT REFERENCE
	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.	WSP Parsons Brinckerhoff has taken note of this requirement.	N/A
	You are hereby reminded that should the EIAr fail to comply with the requirements of this acceptance letter, the project will be refused in accordance with Regulation 24(1)(b) of the EIA Regulations, 2014.	WSP Parsons Brinckerhoff has taken note of this requirement.	N/A
	The applicant is hereby reminded to comply with the requirements of Regulation 45 with regard to the time period allowed for complying with the requirements of the Regulations, and Regulations 43 and 44 with regard to the allowance of a comment period for interested and affected parties on all reports submitted to the competent authority for decision-making. The reports referred to are listed in Regulation 43(1).	WSP Parsons Brinckerhoff has taken note of this requirement.	N/A
	Furthermore, it must be reiterated that, should an application for Environmental Authorisation be subject to the provisions of Chapter II, Section 38 of the National Heritage Resources Act, Act 25 of 1999, then this Department will not be able to make nor issue a decision in terms of your application for Environmental Authorisation pending a letter from the pertinent heritage authority categorically stating that the application fulfils the requirements of the relevant heritage resources authority as described in Chapter II, Section 38(8) of the National Heritage Resources Act, Act 25 of 1999. Comments from SAHRA and/or the provincial department of heritage must be provided in the EIAr.	Comments from SAHRA are included in the comment and response report included in Appendix H .	Appendix H
	You are requested to submit two (2) electronic copies (CD/DVD) and two (2) hard copies of the EIAr to the	WSP Parsons Brinckerhoff has taken note of this requirement.	N/A

AUTHORITY DETAILS	COMMENT	RESPONSE	REPORT REFERENCE
	Department as per Regulation 23(1) of the EIA Regulations, 2014.		
	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 this requirement.	N/A
	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 these requirements.	N/A
	<p><u>Comment Response Report</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Please record C&R trail report in this format • Please update the contact details of the provincial environmental authority 	WSP Parsons Brinckerhoff has taken note of this requirement.	Appendix H
A. EIA INFORMATION REQUIRED FOR CONCENTRATED SOLAR POWER (CSP) ENERGY FACILITIES			
	<p>1. General site information</p> <p>The following general site information is required:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Descriptions of all affected farm portions • 21 digit Surveyor General codes of all affected farm portions • Copies of deeds of all affected farm portions • Photos of areas that give a visual perspective of all parts of the site • Photographs from sensitive visual receptors (tourism routes, tourism facilities, etc.) • Concentrated Solar plant design specifications including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Type of technology ○ Structure height 	As requested this information has been included at the beginning of this report.	N/A

AUTHORITY DETAILS	COMMENT	RESPONSE	REPORT REFERENCE																			
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Surface area to be covered (including associated infrastructure such as roads) ○ Structure orientation ○ Laydown area dimensions (construction period and thereafter) ○ Generation capacity ● Generation capacity of the facility as a whole at delivery points <p>This information must be indicated on the first page of any Scoping or EIA document. It is also advised that it be double checked as there are too many mistakes in the applications that have been received that take too much time from authorities to correct.</p>																					
	<p>2. <u>Sample of technical details for the processed facility</u></p> <table border="1" data-bbox="524 874 947 1441"> <thead> <tr> <th>Component</th> <th>Description /</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Height of Tower</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Height of CSP</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Area of CSP</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Number of inverters</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Area occupied by inverter /</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Ca_Qacity of on-site substation</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Area occupied by both permanent and</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Area occupied by buildings</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Length of internal roads</td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Component	Description /	Height of Tower		Height of CSP		Area of CSP		Number of inverters		Area occupied by inverter /		Ca_Qacity of on-site substation		Area occupied by both permanent and		Area occupied by buildings		Length of internal roads		<p>As requested this information has been included at the beginning of this report.</p>
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AUTHORITY DETAILS	COMMENT		RESPONSE	REPORT REFERENCE
	Width of internal roads			
	Proximity to grid connection			
	Height of fencing			
	Type of fencing			
	<p>3. Site maps and GIS information Site maps and GIS information should include at least the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All maps/information layers must also be provided in ESRI Shapefile format • All affected farm portions must be indicated • The exact site of the application must be indicated (the areas that will be occupied by the application) • A status quo map/layer must be provided that includes the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Current use of land on the site including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 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 		<p>These maps have been included at the beginning of this report and in Appendix W.</p>	<p>Appendix W</p>

AUTHORITY DETAILS	COMMENT	RESPONSE	REPORT REFERENCE
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 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): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 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: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Less than 8% slope (preferred areas for facility and infrastructure) ○ between 8% and 12% slope (potentially sensitive to facility and infrastructure) ○ between 12% and 14% slope (highly sensitive to facility and infrastructure) ○ steeper than 18% slope (unsuitable for facility and infrastructure) 		

AUTHORITY DETAILS	COMMENT	RESPONSE	REPORT REFERENCE
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A site development proposal map(s)/layer(s) that indicate: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Foundation footprint ○ Permanent laydown area footprint ○ Construction period laydown footprint ○ Internal roads indicating width (construction period width and operation period width) and with numbered sections between the other site elements which they serve (to make commenting on sections possible) ○ River, stream and water crossing of roads and cables indicating the type of bridging structures that will be used ○ Substation(s) and/or transformer(s) sites including their entire footprint. ○ Cable routes and trench dimensions (where they are not along internal roads) ○ Connection routes to the distribution/transmission network (the connection must form part of the EIA even if the construction and maintenance thereof will be done by another entity such as ESKOM) ○ Cut and fill areas of power tower and heliostats sites along roads and at substation/transformer sites indicating the expected volume of each cut and fill ○ Borrow pits ○ Spoil heaps (temporary for topsoil and subsoil and permanently for excess material) Buildings including accommodation 		

AUTHORITY DETAILS	COMMENT	RESPONSE	REPORT REFERENCE
	With the above information authorities will be able to assess the strategic and site impacts of the application.		
	<p>4. Regional map and GIS information</p> <p>The regional map and GIS information should include at least the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All maps/information layers must also be provided in ESRI Shapefile format • The map/layer must cover an area of 20km around the site • Indicate the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ roads including their types (tarred or gravel) and category (national, provincial, local or private) ○ Railway lines and stations ○ Industrial areas ○ Harbours and airports ○ Electricity transmission and distribution lines and substations ○ Pipelines ○ Waters sources to be utilised during the construction and operational phases ○ A visibility assessment of the areas from where the facility will be visible ○ Critical Biodiversity Areas and Ecological Support Areas ○ Critically Endangered and Endangered vegetation areas ○ Agricultural fields ○ Irrigated areas ○ An indication of new road or changes and upgrades that must be done to existing roads in order to get equipment onto the 	This map has been included at the beginning of this report and in Appendix W .	Appendix W

AUTHORITY DETAILS	COMMENT	RESPONSE	REPORT REFERENCE
	site including cut and fill areas and crossings of rivers and streams		
	<p>5. Important stakeholders Amongst other important stakeholders, comments from the National Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries must be obtained and submitted to the Department. Any application, documentation, notification etc. should be forwarded to the following officials:</p> <p>Ms Mashudu Marubini Delegate of the Minister (Act 70 of 1970) E-mail: MashuduMa@daff.gov.za Tel 012-319 7619</p> <p>Ms Thoko Buthelezi Agriland Liaison office E-mail: ThokoB@daff.gov.za Tel 012-319 7634</p> <p>All hardcopy applications I documentation should be forwarded to the following address:</p> <p>Physical address: Delpen Building Cnr Annie Botha and Union Street Office 270 Attention: Delegate of the Minister Act 70 of 1970</p> <p>Postal Address:</p>	<p>These stakeholders have been included in the Stakeholder Database (Appendix P).</p>	<p>Appendix P</p>

AUTHORITY DETAILS	COMMENT	RESPONSE	REPORT REFERENCE
	<p>Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries Private Bag X120 Pretoria 0001 Attention: Delegate of the Minister Act 70 of 1970</p> <p>In addition, comments must be requested from Eskom regarding grid connectivity and capacity. Request for comment must be submitted to:</p> <p>Mr John Geeringh Eskom Transmission Megawatt Park D1Y38 PO Box 1091 JOHANNESBURG 2000</p> <p>Tel: 011 516 7233 Fax: 086 661 4064 John.geeringh@eskom.co.za</p>		
	B. AGRICULTURE STUDY REQUIREMENTS		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Detailed soil assessment of the site in question, incorporating a radius of 50 m surrounding the site, on a scale of 1:10 000 or finer. The soil assessment should include the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Identification of the soil forms present on site ○ The size of the area where a particular soil form is found ○ GPS readings of soil survey points ○ The depth of the soil at each survey point 	Please refer to the Soil and Land Capability and Wetland Specialist Study included in Appendix M .	Appendix M

AUTHORITY DETAILS	COMMENT	RESPONSE	REPORT REFERENCE
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Soil colour ○ Limiting factors ○ Clay content ○ Slope of the site ○ A detailed map indicating the locality of the soil forms within the specified area, ○ Size of the site • Exact locality of the site • Current activities on the site, developments, buildings • Surrounding developments land uses and activities in a radius of 500 m of the site • Access routes and the condition thereof • Current status of the land (including erosion, vegetation and a degradation assessment) • Possible land use options for the site • Water availability, source and quality (if available) • Detailed descriptions of why agriculture should or should not be the land use of choice • Impact of the change of land use on the surrounding area • A shape file containing the soil forms and relevant attribute data as depicted on the map. 		
C. ASTRONOMY GEOGRAPHIC ADVANTAGE ACT, 2007 (ACT NO. 21 OF 2007)			
	<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</p>	<p>Comments received from SKA note that the nearest SKA station to the Letsoai CSP 1 Site is 142 km away. Based on the distance to the nearest SKA station, the facility is seen to pose a low risk of detrimental impact on the SKA.</p>	<p>Appendix H</p>

AUTHORITY DETAILS	COMMENT	RESPONSE	REPORT REFERENCE
	<p>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>		
Khai-Ma Local Municipality			
<p>Khai-Ma Municipality.</p> <p>Local Focus Group Meeting</p> <p>27 September 2016</p> <p><u>Attendees:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alfredo Green • Jillian Nortje • Pasqueline van Heerden • Obakeng Isaacs 	<p>Mr Alfredo Green – Khai-Ma Local Municipality:</p> <p>I do not agree with the significance of the Increase in communicable diseases and reduced public health being low. He mentioned that they have had significant problems to this effect in the area and that the significance should be higher.</p> <p>In past experience from development projects in the area the spread of HIV and TB increase drastically. The portion of the population affected went from an estimated 2% to 7.5% and is now considered a hotspot within the District Municipality.</p>	<p>Ashlea Strong of WSP:</p> <p>This is good information to know and requested a copy of the statistics to send through to the Social Specialists.</p> <p>Mayor of Khai-Ma Local Municipality:</p> <p>The Mayor suggested that the public meeting is held in Poffader. In addition, a meeting can be held with the Ward Councillor from Pella.</p> <p>Mr Alfredo Green – Khai-Ma Local Municipality:</p> <p>The farmers' associations should also be included</p>	<p>Appendix H</p> <p>Appendix H</p> <p>Appendix H</p>
	<p>Mayor of Khai-Ma Local Municipality:</p>	<p>Ashlea Strong of WSP:</p>	<p>Appendix H</p>

AUTHORITY DETAILS	COMMENT	RESPONSE	REPORT REFERENCE
	Is Hartebees vlei a private farm?.	Yes it is a private farm.	
	<p>Mayor of Khai-Ma Local Municipality:</p> <p>Why are these types of projects always on privately owned land?</p>	<p>Tonderai Munthumbira from BioTherm:</p> <p>The REIPPP Program stipulates land requirements in the RFP issued by the Department of Energy (DoE). Municipalities have to go through a tender process to sign a lease agreement with private companies due to the Municipal Finance Management Act (MFMA) requirements which complicates the land acquisition process. Projects that are on private land can be secured without going through such complexities</p>	Appendix H
	<p>Municipal Manager of Khai-Ma Local Municipality:</p> <p>There is no gain for the community in these projects. There have been a number of projects and at the EIA phase we get engaged with and then we hear nothing more.</p>	<p>Tulani Koom of BioTherm:</p> <p>Under the REIPPP, there needs to be socio-economic and enterprise development benefits for local community upliftment. The initiatives can vary from project to project and is dependent on the value of the project. Larger scale projects have more money and therefore greater initiatives. BioTherm have previously provided bursaries for local university students, contributed to local clinics, implemented skills development and educational initiatives within the local community and recently assisted the municipality with one priority project</p>	Appendix H
	<p>Municipal Manager of Khai-Ma Local Municipality:</p> <p>Experience has shown that the municipality becomes poorer and with these types of developments as there is no legacy project by developer in the area. There needs to be an agreement between the developer and the municipality.</p>	<p>Tulani Koom: The DoE requires that a certain percentage of the revenue generated goes towards socio-economic and enterprise development over the 20-year operational lifespan of the facility to benefit local communities.</p>	Appendix H
	<p>Municipal Manager of Khai-Ma Local Municipality:</p>	<p>Tulani Koom: The DoE have clearly defined the means in which revenue is to be spent on the community on Socio-Economic development and Enterprise development.</p>	Appendix H

AUTHORITY DETAILS	COMMENT	RESPONSE	REPORT REFERENCE
	The municipality is in debt with Eskom. How will this project assist the municipality? We require strategies on how BioTherm will help Pofadder.	BioTherm does not do a needs analysis on the potential initiatives at this stage of the project. This is only done if the project receives preferred bidder status and before construction commences (still approximately 3 to 4 years away). BioTherm is currently investing money into these communities through various initiatives as a result of their solar facilities currently operating within the area. BioTherm utilises the municipality's IDP to guide the priority areas and projects	
	<p>Irene Bezuidenhout of BioTherm:</p> <p>It is important to remember that not all the proposed solar developments will be awarded at once, this is a long term development project.</p>	No response required.	Appendix H
	<p>Alfredo Green of Khai-Ma Local Municipality:</p> <p>There were no wetlands found but Pella has underground water. This needs to be checked by specialists. The church is currently being damaged as a result of the water. How can we use this water? Maybe BioTherm can get water from the municipality?</p>	<p>Tonderai Munthumbira of BioTherm:</p> <p>BioTherm will take this information into consideration</p>	Appendix H
	<p>Mayor of Khai-Ma Local Municipality:</p> <p>Mayor: We welcome the development but we want the community to grow and not be left behind. Thank you and I look forward to working with BioTherm.</p>	No response required	Appendix H
South African Heritage Resources Agency			
<p>Natasha Higgitt</p> <p>20 October 2016</p>	<p>Only the Interim Comment is provided below:</p> <p>SAHRA Archaeology, Palaeontology and Meteorites (APM) Unit accepts and promotes the recommendations of the AIA and PIA. No further</p>	<p>Ashlea Strong from WSP:</p> <p>The interim comments have been forwarded to the relevant heritage and palaeontological specialists for their consideration during the EIA Phase.</p>	<p>Appendix H</p> <p>Appendix R</p>

AUTHORITY DETAILS	COMMENT	RESPONSE	REPORT REFERENCE
<p>Formal Letter – Interim Comments for Letsoai CSP 1</p>	<p>Palaeontological Specialist studies are required for the proposed development.</p> <p>The pending HIA must take the following aspects (but not limited to) into consideration when assessing impacts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Archaeological and Historical heritage resources; • Burial grounds and graves; • Visual Impact of the proposed development on heritage resources; and • Any comments provided by the public regarding heritage resources. <p>The EIA with all appendices must be submitted along with the heritage reports in order for further comments to be issued.</p>		
Civil Aviation Authority (CAA)			
<p>Lizell 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 http://www.caa.co.za. Click on information for industry 'Obstacles' on the LHS. Forms, Part 139-27 and submit on the form itself.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kindly provide a .kml (Google Earth) file reflecting the footprint of the proposed development site including the proposed overhead electric power line route that will evacuate the generated power to the national grid. 	<p>Thank you for your email. We have captured your comments in the project Comment and Response Report. In addition, we have forwarded your comments to the Client for their attention.</p> <p>We look forward to your continued participation in our processes.</p>	<p>Appendix H</p>

AUTHORITY DETAILS	COMMENT	RESPONSE	REPORT REFERENCE
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Also indicate the highest structure of the project & the Overhead electric power transmission line. • Note that there may be other wind farms and PV farms in the area. Unique names are preferable. • Please always use the proposed PV farm name in the Subject box when corresponding via email with this office and indicate the name & address which should appear on the CAA approval/decline letter. • There is an assessment fee of R770 per application. • For billing purposes: company name VAT nr. and postal details. • Kindly ensure that all the above data is forwarded. Incomplete data causes unnecessary delays. 		
Department of Water and Sanitation			
<p>C Schwartz</p> <p>Northern Cape Region (Lower Orange Water Management Area)</p> <p>25 October 2016</p> <p>Formal Letter</p>	<p>The Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS) hereby acknowledges receipt of the Draft Environmental Scoping Report for the proposed Letsoai CSP 1 Project on farm Hartebees Vlei no 86, 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"> • Indicated on page 48 of the above-mentioned report, water will be sourced from Sedibeng Water. Please note that an agreement between the applicant and Sedibeng Water should be submitted to the Department. • Any spillage of any hazardous materials including diesel that may occur during construction and 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Sedibeng Water agreement is included in Appendix J • Spillage of hazardous material is assessed in Section 9 and 10 of the EIR and mitigation measures recommended in the Environmental Management Programme • Mitigation measures relevant to waste are included in the Environmental Management Plan 	<p>Appendix H</p> <p>Appendix I</p> <p>Appendix J</p> <p>Appendix V</p>

AUTHORITY DETAILS	COMMENT	RESPONSE	REPORT REFERENCE
	<p>operation must be reported immediately to this Department.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> All sewage and grey water, as well as any waste generated during the construction phase of the facilities will be collected, contained and disposed of at the permitted and/or licenced facilities of the Local Authority and this must please be confirmed in writing by the local authority. <p>Please feel free to contact this Department, should there be any queries.</p>		
Department of Environmental Affairs: Biodiversity and Conservation			
<p>T Mashamba DEA: Biodiversity and Conservation Formal Letter 08 December 2016</p>	<p>COMMENTS ON THE SCOPING REPORTS OF THE PROPOSED ENAMANDLA PV 1-5 PROJECTS, LESTOAI CSP 1-2 PROJECTS AND THE TRANSMISSION INTEGRATION FOR THE LETSOAIAND ENAMANDLA SOLAR PROJECTS</p> <p>The Directorate: Biodiversity Conservation within the Branch: Biodiversity and Conservation in the National Department of Environmental Affairs received request for comments on the above-mentioned projects. After careful scrutiny and evaluation of the Final Scoping Reports, the following recommendations are made:</p>	<p>Noted</p>	<p>Appendix H</p>
	<p>Detailed Ecological, Hydrological/ Wetland and Avifauna! specialist reports must be compiled. The ecological specialist must in detail assess how the ecosystems and species could be affected by the development and how best the development can be located and managed to avoid negative impacts or result in benefits to biodiversity. It is important that the specialist considers the impacts of the proposed development on biodiversity pattern, biodiversity process and ecosystem services.</p>	<p>Please refer to the relevant specialist studies included in the EIR</p>	<p>Appendix H Appendix L Appendix Q Appendix M</p>

AUTHORITY DETAILS	COMMENT	RESPONSE	REPORT REFERENCE
	<p>The findings of the hydrological report must also be integrated into the Ecological Specialist Report. The Ecological Specialist report must confirm the presence of all hydrological features within the proposed development site and those that may be affected. Furthermore, recommendations on the management of identified potential impacts on these systems must be clearly highlighted within the report.</p>	<p>Please refer to the Biodiversity and Land Capability and Wetland Specialist Studies</p>	<p>Appendix H Appendix Q Appendix M</p>
	<p>etailed Avifauna! Specialist Assessments must be done for all projects. This must identify all the Important Bird Areas, avifauna species of conservation concern (nationally and globally protected species) and their habitats. Appropriate and implementable measures to protect such areas and conserve such species must be identified.</p>	<p>Please refer to the Avifauna Specialist Study</p>	<p>Appendix H Appendix L</p>
	<p>Fauna and faunal impact prediction and significance must be based on the nature, extent, duration, and the probability of the impacts. Predictions must be scientific and valid to allow for informed decision making.</p>	<p>Please refer to the Biodiversity Specialist Study</p>	<p>Appendix H Appendix Q</p>
	<p>Environmental sensitivity maps indicating ecological sensitive areas and features must be compiled. These maps must show the CriticalBiodiversity Areas, Ecological Support Area and Important Bird Areas. From a biodiversity perspective, the layouts of these projects must be in such a way to avoid impact on these areas</p>	<p>Please refer to the relevant specialist studies as well as Appendix W of the EIR</p>	<p>Appendix H Appendix L Appendix Q Appendix W</p>
	<p>A map combining the final layout of each PV must be superimposed on the ecological sensitivity maps. The finallayout map must show the following :</p>	<p>Please refer to the relevant specialist studies as well as Appendix W of the EIR</p>	<p>Appendix H Appendix W</p>

AUTHORITY DETAILS	COMMENT	RESPONSE	REPORT REFERENCE
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → The PV positions and associated infrastructure. These must be located outside the ecological sensitive areas. → Biodiversity features- wetlands, drainage line, watercourses. Appropriate buffers and 'no- go' areas identified and confirmed by specialists during assessments must also be clearly shown on these maps 		
	<p>It is not only essential to assess the impacts on the affected site, but also to consider the impacts beyond the site (in a regional and catchments context). Direct, indirect and cumulative impacts must be clearly articulated within the report</p>	<p>A detailed cumulative assessment is included in Section 11 of the EIR as well as within all the Specialist Studies</p>	<p>Section 11 Appendix L Appendix Q Appendix M</p>
	<p>A rehabilitation strategy must be developed. This must address how the impacted areas will be rehabilitated and managed after development.</p>	<p>Please refer to the Environmental Management Programme</p>	<p>Appendix H Appendix V</p>
	<p>The project descriptions of alternatives must be of sufficient detail to allow for the assessment of relative impact on the receiving environment and support any conclusion on why an alternative may be selected or rejected. This will allow for an informed decision to be made</p>	<p>Please refer to Section 7 of the EIR</p>	<p>Section 7</p>
	<p>AU concerns raised by Birdlife South Africa including but not limited to the impact of CSPs on species of conservation importance and migratory birds, evaporation ponds and heliostats must be addressed and further comments must be sought from Birdlife</p>	<p>Please refer to the Avifauna Specialist Study</p>	<p>Appendix H Appendix L</p>
	<p>Conclusion</p>	<p>Noted</p>	<p>Appendix H</p>

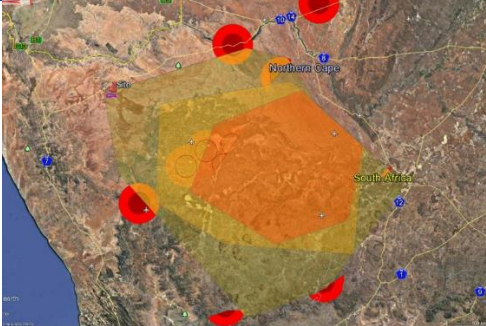
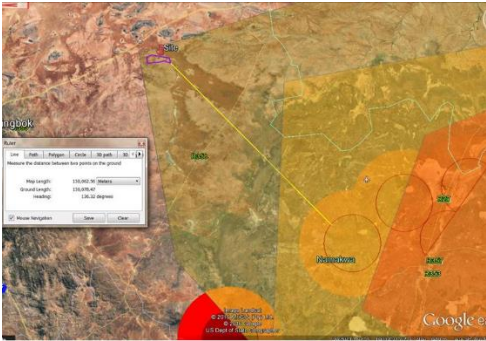
AUTHORITY DETAILS	COMMENT	RESPONSE	REPORT REFERENCE
	<p>The Directorate notes that the proposed developments will result in habitat loss and degradation, habitat fragmentation, loss of species and impact on the natural environmental processes. Conclusive comments and recommendations will be made after evaluating the specialist studies to be submitted in the Environmental Impact Assessment Report. The comments and/ or concerns identified by Interested and Affected Parties (Provincial Environment Department and the Conservation Agencies) during the review period of the FSR must be addressed during the Environmental Impact Assessment Report phase and incorporated into the Draft Environmental Impact Assessment Report (DEIAR) since they are mandated to conserve and protect biodiversity within the area.</p> <p>To fully understand the characteristics, ecological dynamics of the receiving environments and management alternatives proposed by the specialist, a site visit with the Ecological Specialist, provincial commenting authority and DEA case officers must be done once the DEIAR has been made available. This will allow officials to gather information that will inform decision making on the final PV layouts, access routes, construction camp and power line routes for the proposed projects.</p> <p>The Directorate Biodiversity Conservation reserves the right to revise the above comments should additional information on these application is made available at a later stage</p>		

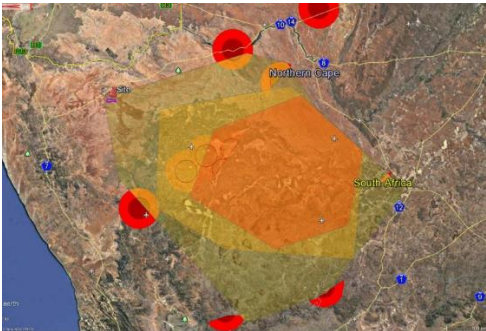
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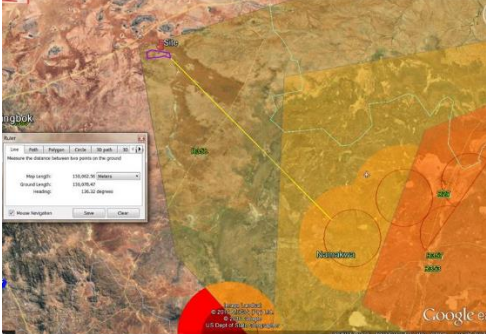
STAKEHOLDERS DETAILS	COMMENT	RESPONSE	REPORT REFERENCE
Transnet			
Riaan Karriem (Transnet Freight Rail) 22 September 2016 Email	Hi Mrs. Lourens Please find attached for your depot's attention. thanking you in advance	Ashlea Strong from WSP: Thank you for forwarding our notification onto the relevant person. We have added Mrs Lourens on to our database. We look forward to your continued participation in our processes	Appendix H
Jaco Hanekom (Transnet Property) 28 September 2016 Email	Your WSP Reference: 47579 refers. Thank you for the notification. Can you please provide more information/ plans (Map) indicating the proposed development of the Letsoai and Enamandla Renewable Energy Projects for this office's record.	Ashlea Strong from WSP: Thank you for your email. Attached please find a number of maps indicating the development area, locality and layout of the proposed Letsoai and Enamandla Renewable Energy Projects. For more detailed information on each of the individual projects please visit our website for the Draft Environmental Scoping Reports (Click here). In addition, I can confirm that I have added you to our project database so that you can be kept abreast of the relevant project notifications as the project progresses. We look forward to your continued participation.	Appendix H

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<p>Marina Lourens (Transnet Freight Rail) 08 November 2016 Email</p>	<p>Is it possible to send us more info regarding this maps etc. (in pdf) please.</p>	<p>Thank you for your email – Please find attached some of the most relevant maps regarding the solar projects.</p> <p>If you require any more detailed information we would recommend that you click here to access the WSP website. The Final Scoping Reports will be available on the website until 28 November 2016.</p> <p>We look forward to your ongoing participation in our projects.</p>	<p>Appendix H</p>
<p>Square Kilometre Array (SKA)</p>			
<p>Email to Dr Adrian Tiplady 06 October 2016</p>	<p>Email from Michael Barnes at BioTherm Energy:</p> <p>We have submitted several EIA applications and scoping reports to the DEA for the proposed development of 2 x 150MW CSP Towers and 5 x 75MW Solar PV Projects. As part of the Public Consultation the DEA requires the SKA to provide comment on the Solar energy projects and to identify any risk they may pose on the SKA. Please see attached kmz's showing the locations of the Solar energy projects.</p> <p>Letsoai will consists of 2 x 150MW CSP Towers. The maximum height of the power tower will be 250m. The two CSPs are located on Farm Hartebeest Vlei 86, located approximately 16km southeast of Aggeneys located within the Northern Cape.</p> <p>Adjacent to the Letsoai CSPs will be the 5 x 75MW Solar PV facilities referred to as the Enamandla PV 1 – 5. These too are located on Farm Hartebeest Vlei 86, located approximately 16km southeast of Aggeneys.</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>As with the Wind Facilities an email response will be sufficient at this stage, unless the DEA ask for a formal response.</p>	<p>No response received as yet.</p>	<p>Appendix H</p>

STAKEHOLDERS DETAILS	COMMENT	RESPONSE	REPORT REFERENCE
Email to Dr Adrian Tiplady 12 October 2016	<p>Email from Michael Barnes at BioTherm Energy:</p> <p>When can we expect feedback on the solar farm? We need to provide feedback for the scoping report.</p> <p>Unfortunately the DEA wants an official letter from the SKA, you can just provide one letter covering both the PV and CSP facilities.</p>	No response received as yet.	Appendix H
Email to Selaelo Matlhane 14 October 2016	<p>Email from Michael Barnes at BioTherm Energy:</p> <p>Please can we have confirmation on the Letsoai and Enamandla sites and the risk they may pose on the SKA.</p> <p>The proposed Solar development areas are located 16km from our Aggeneys facility of which the SKA noted was 150km from the nearest SKA infrastructure. We, however, would like confirmation from the SKA.</p> <p>Again thank you for your time and feedback on our other facility.</p>	No response received as yet.	Appendix H
Email to Adrian Tiplady and Selaelo Matlhane 19 October 2016	<p>Email from Michael Barnes at BioTherm Energy:</p> <p>I hope you are well.</p> <p>Please can we have a high level impact assessment on the Letsoai (2 x 150MW CSP) and Enamandla (5 x 75MW Solar PV Projects) sites. The commenting period on the scoping report is finished, however, we would still appreciate your comment as this is required by the DEA.</p> <p>See the Figures below. You will note the proposed development area is on the outer edges of the KCAAA1.</p> <p>The development area is 130km from the known no go area, as shown in figure 2.</p>	<p>Email Response from Selaelo Matlhane:</p> <p>Will do.</p>	Appendix H

STAKEHOLDERS DETAILS	COMMENT	RESPONSE	REPORT REFERENCE
	 <p>Figure 1: KCAA</p>  <p>Figure 2: Site Location</p>		
	<p>Email to Selaelo Matlhane 31 October 2016</p>	<p>Email from Irene Bezuidenhout at BioTherm Energy:</p> <p>Good morning Selaelo,</p> <p>My colleague Michael is currently on leave. I would like to follow-up on the below comment that he requested on our proposed Letsoai and Enamandla Solar projects. By when can you have the comment to us?</p>	<p>No response received as yet.</p>

STAKEHOLDERS DETAILS	COMMENT	RESPONSE	REPORT REFERENCE
<p>Email to Selaelo Matlhane and Adrian Tiplady 7 November 2016</p>	<p>Email from Michael Barnes at BioTherm Energy: Dear Selaelo and Adrian I hope you are well. Have you had a chance to conduct a high level impact assessment on the sites below?</p>	<p>No response received as yet.</p>	<p>Appendix H</p>
<p>Email to Selaelo Matlhane and Adrian Tiplady 24 November 2016</p>	<p>Email from Michael Barnes at BioTherm Energy: I hope you are well. Please can we have a high level impact assessment on the Letsoai (2 x 150MW CSP) and Enamandla (5 x 75MW Solar PV Projects) sites. The commenting period on the scoping report is finished, however, we would still appreciate your comment as this is required by the DEA. See the Figures below. You will note the proposed development area is on the outer edges of the KCAAA1 and requires a high-level assessment. The development area is 130km from the known no go area, as shown in figure 2.</p>  <p>Figure 1: KCAAA</p>	<p>No response received as yet.</p>	<p>Appendix H</p>

STAKEHOLDERS DETAILS	COMMENT	RESPONSE	REPORT REFERENCE
	 <p>Figure 2: Site Location</p>		
<p>Adrian Tiplady 01 December 2016 Email</p>	<p>Apologies for the delay - there was a bit of confusion on this side as it was thought we had already responded to this. I am double checking our records right now.</p>	<p>No response required.</p>	<p>Appendix H</p>
<p>Adrian Tiplady 01 December 2016 Formal Letter</p>	<p>RE: DEVELOPMENT OF LETSOAI 1 AND 2 CSP SOLAR ENERGY FACILITIES LOCATED SOUTH EAST OF AGGENEYS IN THE NORTHERN CAPE PROVINCE</p> <p>This letter is in response to your email to provide an assessment on the potential development of two concentrated solar power electricity generation facilities located south east of Aggeneys in the Northern Cape Province and the risk they may pose on the Square Kilometre Array Project.</p> <p>A high level risk assessment has been conducted at the South African SKA Project Office to determine the potential impact of such facilities on the Square Kilometre Array. This letter serves to confirm the outcomes of the risk assessment, and proposals for any future investigations associated with these facilities.</p>	<p>WSP Parsons Brinckerhoff acknowledge receipt of the response from the SKA and take note of its contents.</p>	<p>Appendix H</p>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → The location of the CSP facilities was identified from the draft environmental scoping report compiled by WSP Environmental (Pty) Ltd, → The nearest SKA station has been identified as SKA 2373, at approximately 142 km from the proposed installation; → Based on distance to the nearest SKA station, and the information currently available on the detailed design of CSP installations, this facilities poses a low risk of detrimental impact on the SKA; → Any transmitters that are to be established, or have been established, at the site for the purposes of voice and data communication will be required to comply with the relevant AGA regulations concerning the restriction of use of the radio frequency spectrum that applies in the area concerned. If any transmitting infrastructure were to be established, it may result in a medium to high risk of detrimental impact on the SKA; → As a result of the low risk associated with the CSP facilities, no mitigation measures would be required at this stage. However, the South African SKA Project Office would like to be kept informed of progress with this project, and reserves the right to further risk assessments at a later stage. <p>This technical advice is provided by the South African SKA Project Office on the basis of the protection requirements of the SKA in South Africa, and does not constitute legal approval of the renewable energy projects in terms of the Astronomy Geographic Advantage Act, the Management Authority, and its regulations or declarations.</p>		
South African National Roads Agency			
Rene de Kock	Thank you for your email.	Ashlea Strong from WSP:	Appendix H

STAKEHOLDERS DETAILS	COMMENT	RESPONSE	REPORT REFERENCE
13 October 2016 Email	I could not find any correspondence on our database with regard to the above development. Will you please provide me with a locality map, indicating the development in relation to the National road.	<p>Thank you for your email.</p> <p>Attached please find a pdf showing the overall development area (which includes the 2 concentrated solar power (CSP) projects and the 5 photovoltaic (PV) projects) together with a .kmz file which will better provide the project location in relation to the N14.</p> <p>I have added you to our stakeholder database so that you will receive all future correspondence with regards to the environmental impact assessment processes that are underway.</p>	
Rene de Kock 14 October 2016 Email	Can I ask you to please provide me with the background information document. I need to find out where access will be obtained from.	<p>Ashlea Strong from WSP:</p> <p>The best will be to access our Draft Scoping Reports from our Website. The access roads are discussed in Chapter 5 (Project Description).</p> <p>At this stage two potential alternatives exist:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Alternative 1 - An existing road connects the N14 to the project area. This road may require widening to ensure that it is suitable for use. At this stage it is proposed that the road will remain unsurfaced. Alternative 2 – Access to the facility could also potentially be obtained via a new 9.5 km road with a direct access off the N14, however due to the fact that the N14 is a National Route an access application will be required to be submitted to the South African National Roads Agency Limited (SANRAL) and/or the Northern Cape Province and would cause additional environmental impact <p>I hope this information will be of assistance</p>	Appendix H
Rene de Kock	Thank you for your email.	Ashlea Strong from WSP:	Appendix H

STAKEHOLDERS DETAILS	COMMENT	RESPONSE	REPORT REFERENCE
17 October 2016 Email	I will come back to you with our comments sometime this week. I need the project managers input as well. Please register SANRAL as an I&AP.	Thank you so much – I look forward to receiving your comments. I can confirm that you have been registered on the project database and will receive all future correspondence with regards to the solar projects.	
Rene de Kock 18 October 2016 Email	Please provide me with the nearest km distance to the existing entrance with the N14 or the name of the road where access will be obtained from. The km distance can be obtained from the blue marker boards, situated every 200m along the national road (N14).	Ashlea Strong from WSP: Thank you for your email. As discussed, during our telephonic conversation, the access pictured in the figures below is the correct access and therefore the km distance would indeed be 110.2E.	Appendix H
Rene de Kock 20 October 2016 Email	Please confirm if this is the existing access which is mentioned in your document (page 55, ACCESS ROAD ALTERNATIVES, Main Access Road - Alternative 1). I need to send SANRAL's Route Manager to the site to investigate the access (status of access) and to report back to me before I can give you our comments. I need the km distance where the road intersects with the N14.	We look forward to receiving your comments on the alternatives presented in our report as well as the relevant access requirements.	Appendix H
Rene de Kock 3 November 2016 Formal Letter	N14/1: Proposed Development of the Letsoai and Enamandla Renewable Energy Projects on Farm hartebeest Vlei 86 near Aggeneys Thank you for your letter dated 11 October 2016.11.14 The South African National Roads Agency SOC Limited (SANRAL) has the following comments: 1) If abnormal loads have to be transported by road to the site, a permit needs to be obtained from the Provincial Government Northern Cape (PGNC) 2) A building restriction of 60m, measured from the road reserve fence of the national road N14, is applicable to structures. The solar panels must be located such that it	Thank you for your comments. We have captured your comments in the Comment and Response Report. In addition, your letter has been forwarded to the Traffic Specialist and the Client for their attention. We look forward to your continued participation in these projects.	Appendix H

STAKEHOLDERS DETAILS	COMMENT	RESPONSE	REPORT REFERENCE
	<p>will not cause visual distraction of vehicle drivers on the national road.</p> <p>3) SANRAL must be consulted before the transport of abnormal loads on national roads. Please forward Transport Traffic Plan to Garth Julius from this office at juliusg@nra.co.za</p> <p>4) Both Letsoai and Enamandla Solar Farms will make use of the existing access on the N14/1 at km 110.2 SANRAL is not in favour of new access on N14.</p> <p>5) Approval must be obtained from the authority responsible for the proposed Lus 10 Road which intersects the N14 at km 110.2.</p> <p>6) If services need to be constructed over or under the national road or within 60m measured from the road reserve fence, the service owner must apply for a written permission from SANRAL, before any work may be carried out.</p>		
Birdlife Africa			
<p>Samantha Ralston-Paton 14 October 2016 Email</p>	<p>Email from WSP Environmental:</p> <p>Thank you for taking my call earlier.</p> <p>As discussed, the Scoping Reports can be found on our website: http://www.wsp-pb.com/en/WSP-Africa/What-we-do/Services/All-Services-A-Z/Technical-Reports/</p> <p>Would you be able to provide us with comments by next Friday?</p> <p>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:</p>	<p>Response from Birdlife:</p> <p>Please could you send me the avifaunal specialist studies for these projects.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Response from WSP:</p> <p>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).</p>	Appendix H

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	<p>Tel: 011 361 1392</p> <p>Cell: 082 786 7819</p> <p>Email: Ashlea.Strong@wspgroup.co.za</p>	<p>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).</p> <p>Thank you so much for your assistance and participation in these processes.</p>	
<p>Samantha Ralston-Paton</p> <p>21 October 2016</p> <p>Formal Letter</p>	<p>Re: Draft Scoping Reports for the proposed development of the Letsoai and Enamandla Renewable Energy Projects, Aggeneys, Northern Cape Province</p> <p>Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the above projects. We would also like to thank WSP and Biotherm for taking up the recommendations in our draft Best Practice Guidelines for Birds and Solar Energy. We have attached the latest version of our guidelines. These guidelines are still draft as, on request of industry, we are awaiting a workshop with industry and the Department of Environmental Affairs before finalising. However, they do represent BirdLife South Africa's recommended approach, and have been reviewed by international experts.</p> <p>While we are pleased with the approach to the impact assessment, we must note our concern with the proximity of the proposed development to the Haramoep and Black Mountain Mine (SA035) Important Bird Area (IBA). This IBA is one of only a few sites protecting the globally threatened Red Lark <i>Calendulauda burra</i>, which inhabits the red sand dunes and sandy plains with a mixed grassy dwarf shrub cover and the near-threatened Sclater's Lark <i>Spizocorys sclateri</i>, on the barren stony plains. It also holds 16 of the 23 Namib-Karoo biome-restricted assemblage species as well as a host of other arid-zone birds. We are concerned that the IBA alone is unlikely to conserve the species it is intended to protect and the impacts of the activities on the borders of the IBA could spill over into the IBA. The proximity to the Koa River Valley, core habitat for the globally threatened Red Lark is a concern and we note that the</p>	<p>WSP Parsons Brinckerhoff acknowledge receipt of the response from Birdlife Africa and take note of its contents.</p> <p>The comments were sent through to the Avifauna Specialist for consideration in the Avifauna Specialist Study.</p> <p>Response from the Avifauna Specialist:</p> <p>The CSP 1 site is approximately 1 300 ha in extent, which is approximately 0.083% of the total land surface within a 65km radius around the proposed development. Red Larks were not encountered in high densities at the site during the pre-construction monitoring, indicating that the habitat may not be optimal for the species. It is speculated that the almost total lack of any shrubs at the development area might be an inhibiting factor, as the species likes to perch on a shrub when calling (pers. obs). Sclater's lark were not recorded at all during the pre-construction monitoring. The relatively small size of the footprint, coupled with the low densities of priority species, particularly Red Lark and Sclater's Lark, leads to the conclusion that the cumulative impact of the CSP 1 facility on priority avifauna should, with appropriate mitigation, in all likelihood be low.</p> <p>Careful consideration shall be given to the design and management of heliostats at a more detailed design stage which shall also be dependent on the manufacturer. It will be feasible to not have the heliostats being vertically positioned (i.e. 90° perpendicular to the ground) as heliostats are tilted at angle to reflect sunlight towards the top of the central receiver tower. Typically, it has been</p>	<p>Appendix H</p> <p>Appendix L</p>

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	<p>species has been recorded on site. Some species (e.g. Red Lark and Sclater's Lark) are vulnerable to habitat alteration and possible collisions with the heliostats, while others (e.g. bustards) are vulnerable to colliding with associated infrastructure (i.e. powerlines). While we will apply our minds the outcomes of the EIA, we must highlight that the location of the proposed facility with regards to the IBA is, based on the information at hand, undesirable. We therefore urge that a precautionary approach be adopted; it is also critical that cumulative negative impacts are carefully assessed.</p> <p>While we understand that each aspect of the solar park must be bid separately, we also urge that the entire development is planned together, so as to minimize the negative impacts and maximize the potential environmental benefits. For example, we propose that careful consideration be given to the location of evaporation ponds in context of the entire development. These ponds will almost certainly attract wildlife, including birds and should therefore be placed where the risk will be minimized (e.g. well away from the heliostats and the power tower). Given the potential risk of collisions and solar flux injuries we also recommend that the evaporation ponds are designed to minimize their attractiveness to birds. For example, water diffusers could be used to maximize evaporation, or ponds could be covered with nets. Ponds should also be designed so that they do not pose a risk of drowning for wildlife.</p> <p>We also suggest that careful consideration should be given to the design and management of heliostats. For example, it can be assumed that the risk of collisions for low flying birds will be greatest when heliostats are positioned vertical to the ground, and when the heliostats mirrors are located close to the ground. Would it be technically feasible to minimise or avoid having heliostats in this position and is it possible to maximise the distance of the mirrors from the ground?</p>	<p>observed that the sizes of these heliostat structures ranges from small to large; with a reflector area ranging from 20 to 150m² and a pedestal height of up to 2.5m per heliostat.</p> <p>BrightSource Energy and the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) have performed preliminary tests on the effect of sunlight or heat, respectively, on bird feathers. The BrightSource study indicated no observable effects on feathers exposed to 50 kW/m² of solar flux for 30 seconds. Higher flux levels caused visible effects within 20 to 30 seconds. The USFWS work, reported in Kagan <i>et al.</i> (2014), exposed feathers to hot air for 30-second durations. Visible effects were noted starting at temperatures of 400°C. Recall that air temperature in a zone of high flux is virtually unchanged from ambient conditions. Rather, these combined results suggest that the feathers themselves absorb sufficient energy during the 30-second test to reach a temperature sufficient to cause damage. Although these results are preliminary, they suggest that zones with flux greater than 50 kW/m² represent the region of concern for flux effects on birds. The actual effect on a given bird depends on a number of variables, including flight path, species, ambient conditions, and light intensity; further study is necessary to understand and refine this hazard threshold. Walston <i>et al.</i> (2015) analysed three scenarios at a typical commercial CSP tower, using 50 kW/m² as the threshold for potential harmful effects on birds. They recommend that various aiming strategies should be employed to reduce the airspace where 50 kW/m² or more solar flux is generated during standby mode. In summary, they recommend that any alternative standby aiming methodology should be designed to reduce the peak flux as well as the volume of airspace with flux exceeding the desired minimum threshold level, while at the same time minimizing negative impacts on plant operations. Initial indications from one such trial, implemented at Ivanpah and</p>	

STAKEHOLDERS DETAILS	COMMENT	RESPONSE	REPORT REFERENCE
	<p>We also request that more detail be given with regards to the area and intensity of solar flux under different scenarios, and how the risk of solar flux injuries could / will be minimised.</p> <p>There is a large level of uncertainty with regards to the impact of solar energy (both CSP and PV) on birds. We urge that this must be considered in the EIA. Without pre-empting the outcome of the EIA, we also suggest that if the project(s) go ahead, it is important that the impacts are monitored (as has been proposed by the specialist) and if necessary an adaptive management approach should be implemented. If renewable energy is to be developed sustainably in South Africa, it is critical that we learn from existing projects. We therefore request that any monitoring reports and lessons learned are shared with BirdLife South Africa.</p>	<p>Crescent Dunes Solar Energy Project in Nevada, used an aim point strategy that limited flux to less than 5 kW/m2. In the weeks following this practice zero avian fatalities due to high flux were reported. This was achieved by recalibrating the standby algorithm so that fewer mirrors would be focused on any specific focal point during standby, thereby reducing the solar flux (Kraemer 2015).</p>	
South African Astronomical Observatory			
<p>Email to Dr Ramotholo Sefako 19 October 2016</p>	<p>Email from Bronwyn Fisher of WSP Environmental:</p> <p>WSP Environmental (Pty) Ltd has been appointed as Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP) to undertake the relevant Scoping and Environmental Impact Reporting (S&EIR) Processes the proposed Letsoai CSP and Enamandla PV Solar Developments near Aggeneys. Attached please find the original notification letter.</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: http://www.wsp-pb.com/en/WSP-Africa/What-we-do/Services/All-Services-A-Z/Technical-Reports/</p> <p>Please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any questions or require any additional information.</p>	<p>No response has been received as yet.</p>	<p>Appendix H</p>
Eskom holdings SOC Limited			

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<p>John Geeringh Senior Consultant Environmental Management Land Development 15 November 2016 Email</p>	<p>Please find attached Eskom requirements for works at or near Eskom infrastructure. Can you please send me KMZ files of all the proposed developments and power line connections. I do not have this in my database and thus I am only responding now on the FSR release.</p>	<p>I trust this email finds you well.</p> <p>Thank you for the information regarding Eskoms requirements – I have forwarded them onto the client for their information.</p> <p>Attached please find the kmz's for the solar developments (including the powerline). Please note that I have attached 2 .kmz's for the powerlines – the original and the revised alternatives.</p> <p>I trust that you will find this useful.</p>	<p>Appendix H</p>																				
<p>John Geeringh Senior Consultant Environmental Management Land Development 15 November 2016 Email</p>	<p>Can you please also just send me a list of the RE projects names as per the DEA reference numbers below.</p>	<p>As requested please find the list of projects with their corresponding DEA reference Numbers:</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Project Name</th> <th>DEA Reference Number</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td colspan="2">SOLAR</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Letsoai CSP 1</td> <td>14/12/16/3/3/2/965</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Letsoai CSP 2</td> <td>14/12/16/3/3/2/964</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Enamandla PV 1</td> <td>14/12/16/3/3/2/968</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Enamandla PV 2</td> <td>14/12/16/3/3/2/969</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Enamandla PV 3</td> <td>14/12/16/3/3/2/970</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Enamandla PV 4</td> <td>14/12/16/3/3/2/971</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Enamandla PV 5</td> <td>14/12/16/3/3/2/972</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Solar Transmission Integration</td> <td>14/12/16/3/3/2/966</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Project Name	DEA Reference Number	SOLAR		Letsoai CSP 1	14/12/16/3/3/2/965	Letsoai CSP 2	14/12/16/3/3/2/964	Enamandla PV 1	14/12/16/3/3/2/968	Enamandla PV 2	14/12/16/3/3/2/969	Enamandla PV 3	14/12/16/3/3/2/970	Enamandla PV 4	14/12/16/3/3/2/971	Enamandla PV 5	14/12/16/3/3/2/972	Solar Transmission Integration	14/12/16/3/3/2/966	<p>Appendix H</p>
Project Name	DEA Reference Number																						
SOLAR																							
Letsoai CSP 1	14/12/16/3/3/2/965																						
Letsoai CSP 2	14/12/16/3/3/2/964																						
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Enamandla PV 5	14/12/16/3/3/2/972																						
Solar Transmission Integration	14/12/16/3/3/2/966																						

Appendix A

ADVERTISEMENTS

Appendix B

NOTIFICATIONS SENT TO STAKEHOLDERS

Appendix C

ORIGINAL COMMENTS RECEIVED - AUTHORITIES

Appendix D

ORIGINAL COMMENTS RECEIVED - STAKEHOLDERS