



environmental affairs

Department:
Environmental Affairs
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Private Bag X 447 · PRETORIA · 0001 · Environment House · 473 Steve Biko Road, Arcadia · PRETORIA

DEA Reference: 14/12/16/3/3/3/1/2113

Enquiries: Ms Zesipho Makhosayafana

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Mr Federico Zanotta Rizzo
McTaggarts PV3 (Pty) Ltd
3 Kiepersol Close
Kendon House, Platteklouf
CAPE TOWN
7500

Tel: (012) 937 0228

E-mail: Federico.zanotta@abengoa.com

PER E-MAIL / MAIL

Dear Mr Rizzo

APPLICATION FOR ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION IN TERMS OF THE NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT ACT, ACT NO. 107 OF 1998, AS AMENDED: GN R982/983/984, AS AMENDED: FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE 75MW MCTAGGARTS PV3 SOLAR ENERGY FACILITY AND ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE ON PORTION 3 OF THE FARM MCTAGGARTS CAMP 453 AND PORTION 12 OF THE FARM KLIP PUNT 452 NEAR UPINGTON, WITHIN THE KAI !GARIB AND DAWID KRUIPER LOCAL MUNICIPALITIES OF THE ZF MGCAWU DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY, NORTHERN CAPE PROVINCE

With reference to the above application, please be advised that the Department has decided to grant authorisation. The Environmental Authorisation (EA) and reasons for the decision are attached herewith.

In terms of Regulation 4(2) of the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations, 2014, as amended (the EIA Regulations), you are instructed to notify all registered interested and affected parties, in writing and within 14 (fourteen) days of the date of the EA, of the Department's as well as the provisions regarding the submission of appeals that are contained in the Regulations.

In terms of the Promotion of Administrative Justice Act, Act No. 3 of 2000, you are entitled to the right to fair, lawful and reasonable administrative action; and to written reasons for administrative action that affects you negatively. Further your attention is drawn to the provisions of the Protection of Personal Information Act, Act No. 4 of 2013 which stipulate that the Department should conduct itself in a responsible manner when collecting, processing, storing and sharing an individual or another entity's personal information by holding the Department accountable should the Department abuse or compromise your personal information in any way.

Your attention is drawn to Chapter 2 of National Environmental Management Act, Act No. 107 of 1998 National Appeal Regulations published under Government Notice R993 in Government Gazette No. 38303 dated 08 December 2014 (National Appeal Regulations, 2014), which prescribes the appeal procedure to be followed.

Kindly include a copy of this document (National Appeal Regulations, 2014) with the letter of notification to interested and affected parties in this matter.

Should any person wish to lodge an appeal against this decision, he/she must submit the appeal to the appeal administrator, and a copy of the appeal to the applicant, any registered interested and affected party, and any organ of state with interest in the matter within 20 days from the date that the notification of the decision was sent to the registered interested and affected parties by the applicant; or the date that the notification of the decision was sent to the applicant by the Department, whichever is applicable.

Appeals must be submitted in writing in the prescribed form to:

The Director: Appeals and Legal Review of this Department at the below mentioned addresses.

By email: appeals@environment.gov.za;

By hand: Environment House
473 Steve Biko
Arcadia
Pretoria
0083; or

By post: Private Bag X447
Pretoria
0001

Please note that in terms of Section 43(7) of the National Environmental Management Act, Act No. 107 of 1998, as amended, the lodging of an appeal will suspend the environmental authorisation or any provision or condition attached thereto. In the instance where an appeal is lodged, you may not commence with the activity until such time that the appeal is finalised.

To obtain the prescribed appeal form and for guidance on the submission of appeals, please visit the Department's website at https://www.environment.gov.za/documents/forms#legal_authorisations or request a copy of the documents at appeals@environment.gov.za.

Yours faithfully


Mr Sabelo Malaza
Chief Director: Integrated Environmental Authorisations
Department of Environmental Affairs
Date: *26/02/2020*

CC:	Jo-Anne Thomas	Savannah Environmental (Pty) Ltd	Tel: 011 656 3237	Email: joanne@savannahsa.com
	Bryan Fisher	Department of Environment and Nature Conservation	Tel: 053 807 7431	Email: Bfisher@ncpg.gov.za
	Godfrey Mackay	Kai !Garib Local Municipality	Tel: 054 461 6400	Email: mackayg@kaigarib.gov.za

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environmental affairs

Department:
Environmental Affairs
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Environmental Authorisation

In terms of Regulation 25 of the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations, 2014, as amended

The construction of of the 75MW McTaggarts PV3 Solar Energy Facility and associated infrastructure on Portion 3 of the Farm McTaggarts Camp 453 and Portion 12 of the Farm Klip Punt 452 within the Kai !Garib and Dawid Kruiper Local Municipalities, Northern Cape Province

ZF Mgcawu District Municipality

Authorisation register number:	<i>14/12/16/3/3/1/2113</i>
Last amended:	<i>First issue</i>
Holder of authorisation:	<i>McTaggarts PV3 (Pty) Ltd</i>
Location of activity:	<i>Northern Cape Province: Ward 8 and 11, Portion 3 of the farm McTaggarts Camp 453 and Portion 12 of the farm Klip Punt 452 in Kai !Garib and Dawid Kruiper Local Municipalities</i>

This Environmental Authorisation does not negate the holder of the authorisation's responsibility to comply with any other statutory requirements that may be applicable to the undertaking of the activity.

Decision

The Department is satisfied, on the basis of information available to it and subject to compliance with the conditions of this Environmental Authorisation, that the applicant should be authorised to undertake the activities specified below.

Non-compliance with a condition of this Environmental Authorisation may result in criminal prosecution or other actions provided for in the National Environmental Management Act, Act No. 107 of 1998, as amended and the EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended.

Details regarding the basis on which the Department reached this decision are set out in Annexure 1.

Activities authorised

By virtue of the powers conferred on it by the National Environmental Management Act, Act No. 107 of 1998, as amended and the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations, 2014, as amended, the Department hereby authorises –

MCTAGGARTS PV3 (PTY) LTD

(Hereafter referred to as the **holder of the authorisation**)

With the following contact details –

Mr Federico Zanotta Rizzo
McTaggart PV3 (Pty) Ltd
3 Kiepersol Close Kendon House, Platteklouf
CAPE TOWN
7500

Tel: (021) 937 0228

Cell: (074) 793 9994

Email: Federico.zanotta@abengoa.com

to undertake the following activities (hereafter referred to as "the activity") indicated in Listing Notice 1 and Listing Notice 2, as amended (GN R983 and R984, as amended):

Listed activities	Activity/Project description
<p><u>GN R.983, Item 11 (i):</u> <i>"The development of facilities or infrastructure for the transmission and distribution of electricity— (i) outside urban areas or industrial complexes with a capacity of more than 33 but less than 275 kilovolts"</i></p>	<p>McTaggarts PV3 will require the construction and operation of a new 22kV or 33kV/132kV on-site substation to facilitate the connection of the facility to the national grid. The development area assessed for the siting of McTaggarts PV3 is located outside of an urban area.</p>
<p><u>GN R.983; Item 12 (ii)(a)(c):</u> "The development of— (ii) infrastructure or structures with a physical footprint of 100 square metres or more; where such development occurs – (a) within a watercourse; (c) if no development setback exists, within 32 metres of a watercourse, measured from the edge of a watercourse"</p>	<p>The development of McTaggarts PV3 will require the establishment of infrastructure with a physical footprint exceeding 100m² within a watercourse or within 32m of ephemeral watercourses identified within the development area. The development footprint of the facility will be 200ha in extent.</p>
<p><u>GN R.983; Item 14:</u> <i>"The development and related operation of facilities or infrastructure, for the storage, or for the storage and handling, of a dangerous good, where such storage occurs in containers with a combined capacity of 80 cubic metres or more but not exceeding 500 cubic metres"</i></p>	<p>The development and operation of McTaggarts PV3 will 80 cubic metres for the storage of dangerous goods.</p>
<p><u>GN R.983; Item 19:</u> <i>"The infilling or depositing of any material of more than 10 cubic metres into, or the dredging, excavation, removal or moving of soil, sand, shells, shell grit, pebbles</i></p>	<p>A part of the solar PV panel area of McTaggarts PV3 is located within ephemeral watercourses. Therefore,</p>

Listed activities	Activity/Project description
<p>or rock of more than 10 cubic metres from a watercourse”</p>	<p>during the construction phase, 10 cubic metres of rock will be removed from the watercourses for the development of McTaggarts PV3 and associated infrastructure.</p>
<p><u>GN R.983; Item 28(ii):</u> <i>“Residential, mixed, retail, commercial, industrial, or institutional developments where such land was used for agriculture, game farming, equestrian purposes or afforestation on or after 01 April 1998 and where such development (ii) will occur outside an urban area, where the total land to be developed is bigger than 1 hectare”</i></p>	<p>McTaggarts PV3 (considered to be an industrial development) will be constructed and operated on land previously used for agricultural purposes, including mainly grazing. The development footprint considered for the establishment of McTaggarts PV3 is 200ha in extent and is located outside an urban area.</p>
<p><u>GN R.982; Item 1:</u> <i>“The development of facilities or infrastructure for the generation of electricity from a renewable resource where the electricity output is 20 megawatts or more”</i></p>	<p>McTaggarts PV3 is a solar PV facility and will make use of solar energy as a renewable energy resource. The project will have a contracted capacity of up to 75MW.</p>
<p><u>GN R.982; Item 15:</u> <i>“The clearance of an area of 20 hectares or more of indigenous vegetation”</i></p>	<p>The project requires the clearance of an area up to 200ha (equivalent to the development footprint) of vegetation. The project is proposed on a property where the predominant land use is grazing and comprises indigenous vegetation. The project would therefore result in the clearance of an area of indigenous vegetation greater than 20ha in extent.</p>

As described in the Basic Assessment Report (BAR) dated January 2020 at:

- Portion 3 of the farm McTaggarts Camp 453
- Portion 12 of the Farm Klip Punt 452.

21 SG Digit Code:

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C	0	2	8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	5	2	0	0	0	1	2

Coordinates of the site

Development Area Coordinates	Latitude	Longitude
01	28°30'30.19"S	21° 2'34.99"E
02	28°30'23.35"S	21° 2'44.76"E
03	28°30'14.65"S	21° 2'44.76"E
04	28°29'59.02"S	21° 3'7.13"E
05	28°29'54.54"S	21° 3'7.08"E
06	28°29'46.67"S	21° 3'18.25"E
07	28°29'36.66"S	21° 3'8.67"E
08	28°29'27.23"S	21° 3'22.15"E
09	28°29'24.49"S	21° 3'22.16"E
10	28°29'17.27"S	21° 3'17.96"E
11	28°29'2.20"S	21° 3'6.87"E
12	28°29'12.18"S	21° 2'52.04"E
13	28°29'14.98"S	21° 2'52.05"E
14	28°29'27.36"S	21° 2'33.89"E
15	28°29'26.35"S	21° 2'30.83"E
16	28°29'41.19"S	21° 2'9.51"E
17	28°29'46.04"S	21° 2'9.51"E
18	28°29'46.04"S	21° 2'10.71"E
19	28°29'53.90"S	21° 2'10.71"E
20	28°29'53.92"S	21° 2'13.49"E

21	28°30'0.63"S	21° 2'13.53"E
22	28°30'0.54"S	21° 2'14.41"E
23	28°29'52.67"S	21° 2'27.67"E
24	28°29'52.92"S	21° 2'27.53"E
25	28°30'24.56"S	21° 2'27.54"E
26	28°30'24.56"S	21° 2'30.74"E
27	28°30'28.45"S	21° 2'30.75"E
28	28°30'28.44"S	21° 2'35.03"E
Centre Point Coordinates	28°29'45.42"S	21° 2'48.25"E

the location indicated in the locality plan, attached as Annexure 2 of this authorisation.

- for the proposed development of the 75MW McTaggarts PV3 Solar Energy Facility and associated infrastructure within the Kai !Garib and Dawid Kruiper Local Municipalities of the ZF Mgcawu District Municipality, Northern Cape Province, hereafter referred to as "the property".

The associated infrastructure required for the McTaggarts PV3 includes the following:

- Fixed-tilt or tracking solar PV panels with a maximum height of 3.5m;
- Centralised inverter stations or string inverters;
- A temporary laydown area;
- Cabling between the panels, to be laid underground where practical;
- A 22kV or 33kV/132kV on-site substation of up to 1ha in extent to facilitate the connection between the solar PV facility and the electricity grid;
- An access road to the development area with a maximum width of 6m;
- Internal access roads within the PV panel array area with a maximum width of 5m; and
- Operation and Maintenance buildings including a gate house and security building, control centre, offices, warehouses, a workshop and visitors centre.

Conditions of this Environmental Authorisation

Scope of authorisation

1. The construction of the McTaggarts PV3 Solar Energy Facility and associated infrastructure with a generation capacity of 75MW on Portion 3 of the farm McTaggarts Camp 453 and Portion 12 of the farm Klip Punt 452 near Upington in Northern Cape Province is approved as per the geographic coordinates cited in the table above.
2. Authorisation of the activity is subject to the conditions contained in this Environmental Authorisation, which form part of the Environmental Authorisation and are binding on the holder of the authorisation.
3. The holder of the authorisation is responsible for ensuring compliance with the conditions contained in this Environmental Authorisation. This includes any person acting on the holder's behalf, including but not limited to, an agent, servant, contractor, sub-contractor, employee, consultant or person rendering a service to the holder of the authorisation.
4. The activities authorised may only be carried out at the property as described above.
5. Any changes to, or deviations from, the project description set out in this Environmental Authorisation must be approved, in writing, by the Department before such changes or deviations may be effected. In assessing whether to grant such approval or not, the Department may request such information as it deems necessary to evaluate the significance and impacts of such changes or deviations and it may be necessary for the holder of the authorisation to apply for further Environmental Authorisation in terms of the regulations.
6. The holder of an Environmental Authorisation must apply for an amendment of the Environmental Authorisation with the Competent Authority for any alienation, transfer or change of ownership rights in the property on which the activity is to take place.
7. This activity must commence within a period of five (05) years from the date of issue of this Environmental Authorisation. If commencement of the activity does not occur within that period, the authorisation lapses and a new application for Environmental Authorisation must be made in order for the activity to be undertaken.
8. Commencement with one activity listed in terms of this Environmental Authorisation constitutes commencement of all authorised activities.

Notification of authorisation and right to appeal

9. The holder of the authorisation must notify every registered interested and affected party, in writing and within 14 (fourteen) calendar days of the date of this Environmental Authorisation, of the decision to authorise the activity.
10. The notification referred to must –
 - 10.1. specify the date on which the authorisation was issued;
 - 10.2. inform the interested and affected party of the appeal procedure provided for in the National Appeal Regulations, 2014;
 - 10.3. advise the interested and affected party that a copy of the authorisation will be furnished on request; and
 - 10.4. give the reasons of the Competent Authority for the decision.

Commencement of the activity

11. The authorised activity shall not commence until the period for the submission of appeals has lapsed as per the National Appeal Regulations, 2014, and no appeal has been lodged against the decision. In terms of Section 43(7), an appeal under Section 43 of the National Environmental Management Act, Act No. 107 of 1998, as amended will suspend the Environmental Authorisation or any provision or condition attached thereto. In the instance where an appeal is lodged you may not commence with the activity until such time that the appeal has been finalised.

Management of the activity

12. A copy of the final site layout map must be made available for comments by registered Interested and Affected Parties and the holder of this environmental authorisation must consider such comments. Once amended, the final development layout map must be submitted to the Department for written approval prior to commencement of the activity.
13. The Environmental Management Programme (EMPr) submitted as part of the EIAr is not approved and must be amended to include measures as dictated by the final site lay-out map, and the provisions of this environmental authorisation. The EMPr must be made available for comments to registered Interested and Affected Parties and the holder of this environmental authorisation must consider such comments. Once amended, the final EMPr must be submitted to the Department for

written approval prior to commencement of the activity. Once approved, the EMPr must be implemented and adhered to. It must be included in all contract documentation for all phases of the development when approved.

14. The EMPr amendment must include the following:
 - 14.1. All recommendations and mitigation measures recorded in the final BAR.
 - 14.2. All mitigation measures as listed in the specialist reports attached to the final BAR.
 - 14.3. The final site layout map.
 - 14.4. Findings of the pre-construction walk-through of the final development footprint undertaken in order to locate and identify species of conservation concern that can be translocated.
 - 14.5. A detailed site rehabilitation plan must be developed and all disturbed and cleared areas be rehabilitated with indigenous perennial shrubs and grasses from the local area.

Frequency and process of updating the EMPr

15. The EMPr must be updated where the findings of the environmental audit reports, contemplated in Condition 22 below, indicate insufficient mitigation of environmental impacts associated with the undertaking of the activity, or insufficient levels of compliance with the Environmental Authorisation or EMPr.
16. The updated EMPr must contain recommendations to rectify the shortcomings identified in the environmental audit report.
17. The updated EMPr must be submitted to the Department for approval together with the environmental audit report, as per Regulation 34 of GN R982 of 04 December 2014, as amended. The updated EMPr must have been subjected to a public participation process, which process has been agreed to by the Department, prior to submission of the updated EMPr to the Department for approval.
18. In assessing whether to grant approval of an EMPr which has been updated as a result of an audit, the Department will consider the processes prescribed in Regulation 35 of GN R982 of 04 December 2014, as amended. Prior to approving an amended EMPr, the Department may request such amendments to the EMPr as it deems appropriate to ensure that the EMPr sufficiently provides for avoidance, management and mitigation of environmental impacts associated with the undertaking of the activity.
19. The holder of the authorisation may apply for an amendment of an EMPr, if such amendment is required before an audit is required. In assessing whether to grant such approval or not, the Department will consider the processes and requirements prescribed in Regulation 37 of GN R982 of 04 December 2014, as amended.

Monitoring

20. The holder of the authorisation must appoint an experienced independent Environmental Control Officer (ECO) for the construction phase of the development that will have the responsibility to ensure that the mitigation/rehabilitation measures and recommendations referred to in this environmental authorisation are implemented and to ensure compliance with the provisions of the approved EMPr.
 - 20.1. The ECO must be appointed before commencement of any authorised activities.
 - 20.2. Once appointed, the name and contact details of the ECO must be submitted to the *Director: Compliance Monitoring* of the Department.
 - 20.3. The ECO must keep record of all activities on site, problems identified, transgressions noted and a task schedule of tasks undertaken by the ECO.
 - 20.4. The ECO must remain employed until all rehabilitation measures, as required for implementation due to construction damage, are completed and the site is ready for operation.

Recording and reporting to the Department

21. All documentation e.g. audit/monitoring/compliance reports and notifications, required to be submitted to the Department in terms of this Environmental Authorisation, must be submitted to the *Director: Compliance Monitoring* of the Department at Directorcompliance@environment.gov.za.
22. The holder of the Environmental Authorisation must, for the period during which the Environmental Authorisation and EMPr remain valid, ensure that project compliance with the conditions of the Environmental Authorisation and the EMPr are audited, and that the audit reports are submitted to the *Director: Compliance Monitoring* of the Department at Directorcompliance@environment.gov.za.
23. The frequency of auditing and of submission of the environmental audit reports must be as per the frequency indicated in the EMPr, taking into account the processes for such auditing as prescribed in Regulation 34 of GN R982 of 04 December 2014, as amended.
24. The holder of the authorisation must, in addition, submit an environmental audit reports to the Department within 30 days of completion of the construction phase (i.e. within 30 days of site handover) and a final environmental audit report within 30 days of completion of rehabilitation activities.
25. The environmental audit reports must be compiled in accordance with Appendix 7 of the EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended, and must indicate the date of the audit, the name of the auditor and

the outcome of the audit in terms of compliance with the Environmental Authorisation conditions as well as the requirements of the approved EMPr.

26. Records relating to monitoring and auditing must be kept on site and made available for inspection to any relevant and Competent Authority in respect of this development.

Notification to authorities

27. A written notification of commencement must be given to the Department no later than fourteen (14) days prior to the commencement of the activity. Commencement for the purposes of this condition includes site preparation. The notice must include a date on which it is anticipated that the activity will commence, as well as a reference number.

Operation of the activity

28. A written notification of operation must be given to the Department no later than fourteen (14) days prior to the commencement of the activity operational phase.

Site closure and decommissioning

29. Should the activity ever cease or become redundant, the holder of the authorisation must undertake the required actions as prescribed by legislation at the time and comply with all relevant legal requirements administered by any relevant and Competent Authority at that time.

Specific conditions

Conditions for Non-operational aspects

30. An aquatic specialist must conduct a preconstruction detailed walk-down of the development footprint and advise on the final location of the onsite substation, internal access roads and the final placement of certain PV footings outside of the delineated systems.
31. A pre-construction walk-through of the final development footprint must be undertaken in order to locate and identify species of conservation concern that can be translocated.
32. Any protected plant species must not be removed or damaged prior to obtaining permit from relevant national or provincial authorities.
33. An alien invasive species eradication plan included as part of the EMPr must be implemented, in order to reduce the establishment and spread of alien plant species within the development footprint.

34. Before the clearing of the site, the appropriate permits must be obtained from the Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (DAFF) for the removal of plants listed in the National Forest Act and from the relevant provincial department for the destruction of species protected in terms of the specific provincial legislation. Copies of the permits must be kept by the ECO.
35. The necessary water use authorisation must be obtained from the Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS) for impacts to a watercourse prior to construction.
36. A comprehensive rehabilitation plan focussing on sensitive aquatic features within and around watercourse areas must be developed to ensure a net benefit to the aquatic environment. The development of the rehabilitation plan must be informed by walk down survey and ultimately endorsed by the aquatic specialist. The endorsed plan must then be inform the preparation of final EMPr.
37. No exotic plants may be used for rehabilitation purposes, only indigenous plants of the area must be utilised.
38. If any evidence of archaeological sites or remains (e.g. remnants of stone-made structures, indigenous ceramics, bones, stone artefacts, ostrich eggshell fragments, charcoal and ash concentrations), fossils or other categories of heritage resources are found during the proposed development, all work and activities onsite must be stopped and SAHRA APM Unit (Natasha Higgitt/Phillip Hine 021 462 5402) must be alerted.
39. If unmarked human burials are uncovered, all work and activities onsite must be stopped and the SAHRA Burial Grounds and Graves (BGG) Unit (Mimi Seetelo 012 320 8490), must be alerted immediately as per section 36(6) of the NHRA. A professional archaeologist must be contracted to inspect the finds. A Phase 2 rescue excavation operation may be required subject to permits issued by SAHRA.
40. An integrated waste management approach must be implemented that is based on waste minimisation and must incorporate reduction, recycling and re-use options where appropriate. Where solid waste is disposed of, such disposal shall only occur at a landfill licensed in terms of section 20(b) of the National Environment Management Waste Act, 2008 (Act 59 of 2008).

General

41. A copy of this Environmental Authorisation, the audit and compliance monitoring reports, and the approved EMPr, must be made available for inspection and copying-
 - 41.1. at the site of the authorised activity;

- 41.2. to anyone on request; and
- 41.3. where the holder of the Environmental Authorisation has a website, on such publicly accessible website.
42. National government, provincial government, local authorities or committees appointed in terms of the conditions of this authorisation or any other public authority shall not be held responsible for any damages or losses suffered by the holder of the authorisation or his/her successor in title in any instance where construction or operation subsequent to construction be temporarily or permanently stopped for reasons of non-compliance by the holder of the authorisation with the conditions of authorisation as set out in this document or any other subsequent document emanating from these conditions of authorisation.

Date of Environmental Authorisation: 26/02/2020



Mr Sabelo Malaza

Chief Director: Integrated Environmental Authorisations
Department of Environmental Affairs

Annexure 1: Reasons for Decision

1. Information considered in making the decision

In reaching its decision, the Department took, *inter alia*, the following into consideration -

- a) The information contained in the BAR dated January 2020;
- b) The comments received from the Department of Water and Sanitation, South African Heritage Resource Agency and the interested and affected parties as included in the BAR dated January 2020;
- c) Mitigation measures as proposed in the BAR dated January 2020 and the EMPr;
- d) The information contained in the specialist studies contained within Appendix D-K of the BAR; and
- e) The objectives and requirements of relevant legislation, policies and guidelines, including Section 2 of the National Environmental Management Act, Act No.107 of 1998, as amended.

2. Key factors considered in making the decision

All information presented to the Department was taken into account in the Department's consideration of the application. A summary of the issues which, in the Department's view, were of the most significance is set out below.

- a) The findings of all the specialist studies conducted and their recommended mitigation measures.
- b) The need for the proposed development would contribute positively towards Goal 7 of the Sustainable Development Goals through the generating up to 75MW of affordable and clean energy and contributing towards South Africa's total generation capacity, specifically through the utilisation of renewable energy resources.
- c) The BAR dated January 2020 identified all legislation and guidelines that have been considered in the preparation of BAR dated January 2020.
- d) The methodology used in assessing the potential impacts identified in the BAR dated January 2020 and the specialist studies have been adequately indicated.
- e) A sufficient public participation process was undertaken and the applicant has satisfied the minimum requirements as prescribed in the EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended, for public involvement.

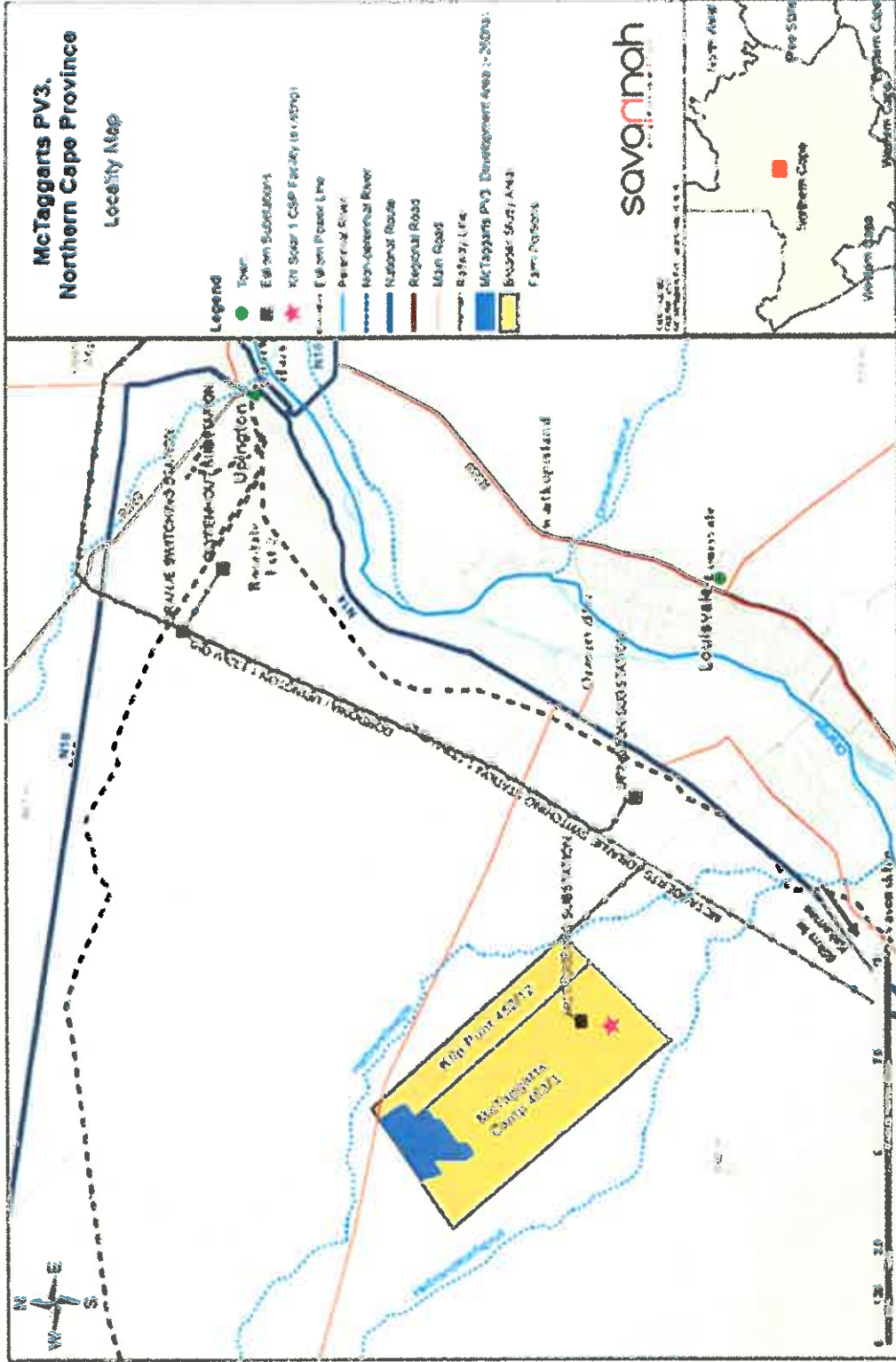
3. Findings

After consideration of the information and factors listed above, the Department made the following findings -

- a) The identification and assessment of impacts are detailed in the BAR dated January 2020 and sufficient assessment of the key identified issues and impacts have been completed.
- b) The procedure followed for impact assessment is adequate for the decision-making process.
- c) The proposed mitigation of impacts identified and assessed adequately curtails the identified impacts.
- d) The information contained in the BAR dated January 2020 is accurate and credible.
- e) EMPr measures for the pre-construction, construction and rehabilitation phases of the development were proposed and included in the BAR and will be implemented to manage the identified environmental impacts during the construction phase.

In view of the above, the Department is satisfied that, subject to compliance with the conditions contained in the Environmental Authorisation, the authorised activities will not conflict with the general objectives of integrated environmental management laid down in Chapter 5 of the National Environmental Management Act, Act No. 107 of 1998, as amended, and that any potentially detrimental environmental impacts resulting from the authorised activities can be mitigated to acceptable levels. The Environmental Authorisation is accordingly granted.

Annexure 2: Locality Plan



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