

**ESKOM 2<sup>ND</sup> GAMMA-KAPPA 765KV TRANSMISSION LINE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT  
 COMMENTS AND RESPONSES REPORT**

No.	Issue	Raised by	Response
<b>Objections Against 2nd Gamma-Kappa 765kV Transmission Line</b>			
<b>Focus Group Meeting Objections</b>			
<b>Victoria West Farmers Association Focus Group Meeting</b>			
1.	Jan de Klerk: Thank you for the briefing meeting and for copies of all the EIA documents. Our team will review the DEIR and provide you with comments if we have any.	Jan de Klerk, Chairperson, Victoria West Farmers Association, comment at focus group meeting, 19 May 2014.	Shawn Johnston: Comment noted. Thank you we look forward to your responses on the documentation.
2.	Jan de Klerk: I will speak to our members who farm in the area around the Eskom Gamma substation and hear how they feel over having a fourth transmission line across their farms.	Jan de Klerk, Chairperson, Victoria West Farmers Association, comment at focus group meeting, 19 May 2014.	Shawn Johnston: Comment noted.
3.	Jan de Klerk: As farmers we are worried about the cumulative effects of the transmission lines on our farming practice. We have to live with the effects of transmission lines across our land.	Jan de Klerk, Chairperson, Victoria West Farmers Association, comment at focus group meeting, 19 May 2014.	Shawn Johnston: Comment noted.
4.	Jan de Klerk: We will revert back to your team as soon as we have reviewed the documents.	Jan de Klerk, Chairperson, Victoria West Farmers Association, comment at focus group meeting, 19 May 2014.	Shawn Johnston: Comment noted.
<b>Ubuntu Municipality – Victoria West Focus Group Meeting</b>			
5.	M.F. Fillis: Thank you for the presentation on the proposed Eskom 2nd 765kV transmission line. We are aware of the project and have received all of the DEIR documents.	M.F. Fillis, Municipal Manager, Ubuntu Municipality, comment at focus group meeting, 19 May 2014.	Shawn Johnston: Comment noted. Thank you we look forward to your responses.
6.	M.F. Fillis: We will review the documents and will provide you with feedback and a response.	M.F. Fillis, Municipal Manager, Ubuntu Municipality, comment at focus group meeting, 19 May	Shawn Johnston: Comment noted.

		2014.	
7.	M.F. Fillis: The Ubuntu Municipality has not concerns at this stage over the high voltage transmission lines through its municipal area.	M.F Fillis, Municipal Manager, Ubuntu Municipality, comment at focus group meeting, 19 May 2014.	Shawn Johnston: Comment noted.
8.	M.F. Fillis: Thank you for briefing our team at the Ubuntu Municipality.	M.F Fillis, Municipal Manager, Ubuntu Municipality, comment at focus group meeting, 19 May 2014.	Shawn Johnston: Comment noted.
<b>Beaufort West Municipality Focus Group Meeting</b>			
9.	Roelf van Staden: Thank you for the opportunity to clarify the 2nd 765kV EIA. We know about the project and have received all of the DEIR documents.	Roelf van Staden, Beaufort West Municipality, comment at focus group meeting, 19 May 2014.	Shawn Johnston: Comment noted. Thank you we look forward to your responses on the documentation.
10.	Roelf van Staden: The 2nd 765kV project does not affect our municipality. So we are supportive of Eskom and its future planning for the country.	Roelf van Staden, Beaufort West Municipality, comment at focus group meeting, 19 May 2014.	Shawn Johnston: Comment noted.
11.	Roelf van Staden: At this point we do not have any comments on the project. As engineers and technicians we are interested in the technology behind the 765kV programme. We will review the DEIR and provide you with any comments.	Roelf van Staden, Beaufort West Municipality, comment at focus group meeting, 19 May 2014.	Shawn Johnston: Comment noted.
12.	Roelf van Staden: Thank you for the opportunity. Please follow-up with the Central Karoo District Municipality about the project.	Roelf van Staden, Beaufort West Municipality, comment at focus group meeting, 19 May 2014.	Shawn Johnston: Comment noted. We have a meeting scheduled with the Central Karoo District Municipality. Thank you for meeting with our team.
<b>Central Karoo District Municipality Focus Group Meeting</b>			
13.	Andre Koopman: Thank you for the opportunity to interact with your team on the 2nd 765kV EIA.	Andrea Koopman, Central Karoo District Municipality, comment at focus group	Shawn Johnston: Comment noted. Thank you we look forward to your responses on the documentation.

		meeting, 19 May 2014.	
14.	Andre Koopman: We have experience of the 1st 765kV transmission line construction period and it has been very difficult dealing with our local roads being used for construction vehicles. The large tonnage and frequency of use has impacted on the Central Karoo District Municipality budget to maintain roads.	Andrea Koopman, Central Karoo District Municipality, comment at focus group meeting, 19 May 2014.	Kentridge Makhanya: All damaged roads will be rehabilitated upon completion of the construction period. Maintenance of roads will also be addressed inside the Environmental Management Plan report prior to approval.
15.	Andre Koopman: Our team will review the DEIR, however we want to flag the impact of the construction period and vehicle on the district road network. Eskom has not assisted with grading of the roads at all throughout the construction period.	Andrea Koopman, Central Karoo District Municipality, comment at focus group meeting, 19 May 2014.	Kentridge Makhanya: The EMP will be compiled and submitted to DEA for approval. This EMP will address the issue of rehabilitating the roads upon completion of construction.
16.	Andre Koopman: Please provide me with the contact person on the 1st 765kV construction team who I can contact.	Andrea Koopman, Central Karoo District Municipality, comment at focus group meeting, 19 May 2014.	Shawn Johnston: Comment noted. I will e-mail the contact details to your office. Thank you for the opportunity to meet and clarify the project.
<b>Karoo National Park Focus Group Meeting</b>			
17.	Nico van der Walt: Thank you for the briefing and information sharing.	Nico van der Walt, Karoo National Park, comment at focus group meeting, 20 May 2014.	Shawn Johnston: Comment noted.
18.	Nico van der Walt: We are happy that none of the new 765kV transmission lines will pass through the Karoo National Park.	Nico van der Walt, Karoo National Park, comment at focus group meeting, 20 May 2014.	Shawn Johnston: Comment noted.
19.	Nico van der Walt: We endorse your preferred alternative, as it will not impact on the Karoo National Park.	Nico van der Walt, Karoo National Park, comment at focus group meeting, 20 May 2014.	Thank you for your comment

20.	Nico van der Walt: We will review the DEIR and provide comments on the proposed route. We are happy with the preferred alignment being studied and taken forward in the DEIR.	Nico van der Walt, Karoo National Park, comment at focus group meeting, 20 May 2014.	Shawn Johnston: Comment noted. Thank you for the opportunity to clarify the DEIR.
<b>Agri Central Karoo Focus Group Meeting</b>			
21.	Dean Gous: Thank you for briefing me on the matter. I will communicate the availability of the DEIR with all the Agri farmers associations throughout the Central Karoo.	Dean Gousm, Agri Cetral Karoo, comment at focus group meeting, 20 May 2014.	Shawn Johnston: Comment noted.
22.	Dean Gous: The issue of new Eskom transmission lines through the Central Karoo is a very sensitive matter for all farmers who have transmission lines across their property. Many farmers are unhappy about the 1 <sup>st</sup> 765kV and all of the bad things that happened on their farms during the construction period of the 1 <sup>st</sup> 765kV transmission line. In the Central Karoo farmers are now sitting with three transmission lines on their farms. They have two 400kV and one large 765kV crossing large portions of their farms.	Dean Gousm, Agri Cetral Karoo, comment at focus group meeting, 20 May 2014.	Kentridge Makhanya: All problems and difficulties experienced during the construction phase should be addressed with the independent ECO/Landowner Liaison Officer appointed on the project.
23.	Dean Gous: My advice to your team is to speak to all of the farmers associations throughout the Central Karoo and into the Ceres-Karoo. There is major unhappiness amongst all of the farmers with Eskom transmission lines on their farms. They do not want any additional transmission lines across their farms.	Dean Gousm, Agri Cetral Karoo, comment at focus group meeting, 20 May 2014.	Thank you for your advice. We have arranged to meet up with all the farmers associations and to attend to all their issues.
24.	Dean Gous: I will communicate your details and	Dean Gousm, Agri Cetral Karoo,	Shawn Johnston: Comment noted.

	the preferred transmission line routes to all the chairpersons of the various farmers associations so that they can interact with you directly.	comment at focus group meeting, 20 May 2014.	
25.	Dean Gous: You will find that no farmer in the Karoo want a 2nd 765kV transmission line across their farms and that they will be very outspoken against new large transmission lines due to all of the negative experiences of the 1st 765kV transmission line.	Dean Gousm, Agri Cetral Karoo, comment at focus group meeting, 20 May 2014.	Shawn Johnston: Thank you for your input and comments.
<b>Koup 4 Farmers Association Focus Group Meeting</b>			
26.	Christie Mocke: Thank you for your teams input and clarity on the proposed 2nd 765kV transmission line through the Central Karoo. Please note that farmers and transmission lines are no longer friends. We are experiencing large numbers of issue with Eskom power lines and Eskom has not been helpful with resolving the farmers concerns and issues.	Christie Mocke, Chairperson, Koup 4 Farmers Association, comment at focus group meeting, 20 May 2014.	We have informed Eskom on the issues that the farmers have regarding the 1 <sup>st</sup> 765kV line. As we were not involved in the first project, we cannot answer most questions and issues raised on the 1 <sup>st</sup> line. However we will insure that your message reaches Eskom.
27.	Christie Mocke: Farmers are now very reluctant to provide any additional transmission line servitudes to Eskom due to the bad experiences from the 1st 765kV construction period. Our farm safety and security was compromised on many occasions by the contracting teams and the building period stretched far over the planned period.	Christie Mocke, Chairperson, Koup 4 Farmers Association, comment at focus group meeting, 20 May 2014.	Kentridge Makhanya: All problems and difficulties experienced during the construction phase should be addressed with the independent ECO/Landowner Liaison Officer appointed on the project.
28.	Christie Mocke: We will pass the DEIR document onto each of the affected landowners and they can comment on the proposed 2nd 765kV transmission line.	Christie Mocke, Chairperson, Koup 4 Farmers Association, comment at focus group meeting, 20 May 2014.	Shawn Johnston: Thank you.
29.	Christie Mocke: Our major concerns would be	Christie Mocke, Chairperson,	Kentridge Makhanya: All farm owners will be compensated for

	the cumulative affects on farming from all of the transmission lines through the Central Karoo, the bad experiences from the 1 <sup>st</sup> 765kV construction period, safety and security and the dropping property values associated with the transmission lines over farms.	Koup 4 Farmers Association, comment at focus group meeting, 20 May 2014.	the purchase of servitude rights by Eskom.
30.	Christie Mocke: We will review your DEIR and provide you with comments.	Christie Mocke, Chairperson, Koup 4 Farmers Association, comment at focus group meeting, 20 May 2014.	Thank you for your comment
<b>Laingsburg Municipality Focus Group Meeting</b>			
31.	Alida Groenewald: We thank you for the briefing. We have received the DEIR and this project does not affect the Laingsburg Municipality. We support Eskom in its future planning initiatives.	Alida Groenewald, Laingsburg Municipality, comment at focus group meeting, 21 May 2014.	Shawn Johnston: Comment noted.
32.	Alida Groenewald: You need to consult with the farmers in the Moordenaars Karoo, Laingsburg and the Komsberg areas as they have major unhappiness about the construct of the 1st 765KV transmission line through their area.	Alida Groenewald, Laingsburg Municipality, comment at focus group meeting, 21 May 2014.	Shawn Johnston: Comment noted. We are meeting with the farmers of Laingsburg, Moordenaars Karoo and the Komsberg later today and will clarify the project to them.
33.	Alida Groenewald: Please keep the Laingsburg Municipality informed about the progress of the EIA and the project.	Alida Groenewald, Laingsburg Municipality, comment at focus group meeting, 21 May 2014.	We will definetly keep you updated and we will insure, that you receive all relevant documents.
<b>Laingsburg Farmers Association Focus Group Meeting</b>			
34.	Francois Conradie: Thank you for your presentation on the proposed 2nd 765kV transmission line through the Central Karoo, Merweville, Koup 4, Laingsburg, Moordenaars Karoo, Komsberg and into the Ceres-Karoo. Please note we are farmers of the listed areas hereby object to a 2nd 765kV transmission line	Francois Conradie, Laingsburg Farmers Association, comment at focus group meeting, 21 May 2014.	Shawn Johnston: Comment noted.

	through our area. We are currently dealing with the negative impacts of the 1st 765kV transmission line built through the area. We are also dealing with the cumulative effects of three high voltage transmission lines on our area, landscape and farming practice.		
35.	Francois Conradie: As a farming community and as the farmers associations from Laingsburg, Moordenaars Karoo and Komsberg we object to the 2 <sup>nd</sup> 765kV transmission line project. We will appeal the said environmental authorisation if the Department of Environmental Affairs Pretoria and the National Minister of Environmental Affairs provide a positive environmental authorisation for Eskom to go ahead with building a 2 <sup>nd</sup> 765kV transmission through the Central Karoo corridor.	Francois Conradie, Laingsburg Farmers Association, comment at focus group meeting, 21 May 2014.	Thank you for your comment.
36.	Francois Conradie: Eskom’s three transmission lines, namely the two 400kV and the 1 <sup>st</sup> 765kV transmission lines has major negative impacts on our lifestyle, farming practices and our health.	Francois Conradie, Laingsburg Farmers Association, comment at focus group meeting, 21 May 2014.	Kentridge Makhanya: Environmental Impacts of power lines are assessed and quantified inside the EIR report. In most instances mitigation measures are also recommended. Detailed mitigation measures will be provided inside the site specific EMP.
37.	Francois Conradie: The construction of the 1st 765kV transmission line has created so many negative impacts throughout the Central Karoo. As farmers we now need to deal with the social and economic issues created by the Eskom 1st 765kV transmission line construction period. Our safety and security has been compromised by the contractors and their work teams.	Francois Conradie, Laingsburg Farmers Association, comment at focus group meeting, 21 May 2014.	Kentridge Makhanya: All problems and difficulties experienced during the construction phase should be addressed with the independent ECO/Landowner Liaison Officer appointed on the project.
38.	Francois Conradie: We have suffered major	Francois Conradie, Laingsburg	We have informed Eskom on the issues that the farmers have

	stock theft; our roads are in extremely bad condition. The tonnage on our roads has created major safety concerns. The large volume of construction related accidents has also been of major concern.	Farmers Association, comment at focus group meeting, 21 May 2014.	regarding the 1 <sup>st</sup> 765kV line. As we were not involved in the first project, we cannot answer most questions and issues raised on the 1 <sup>st</sup> line.
39.	Francois Conradie: We will provide you with a list of our objections. As a strong farming community we will employ the services of our own environmental expert and lawyers to review and comment on your DEIR.	Francois Conradie, Laingsburg Farmers Association, comment at focus group meeting, 21 May 2014.	Thank you for your comment and we believe that it is well within your right to appoint an expert to assist you. We will await for your comment.
40.	Francois Conradie: As the Laingsburg, Moordenaars Karoo and Komberg Farmers Association we hereby object and will appeal against the construction of a 2nd 765kV transmission line through our area.	Francois Conradie, Laingsburg Farmers Association, comment at focus group meeting, 21 May 2014.	Thank you for your comment.
41.	Francois Conradie: The 2nd 765kV transmission line with also cut through the middle of the ACED Hidden Valley Wind Energy Facility and have an impact on the turbine layout of the wind farm project.	Francois Conradie, Laingsburg Farmers Association, comment at focus group meeting, 21 May 2014.	We will be sure to include your comment in the DEIR
42.	Andries Le Roux: As a community we object and will provide you with the relevant submission once we have reviewed your DEIR. We believe that there are other routes for new transmission line corridors that can be opened. We do not believe the specialist reports stating that linear corridors are best. The specialist and Eskom and the Department of Environmental Affairs Officials do not live here. They do not live with the cumulative effects of high voltage transmission lines in their backyard.	Andries Le Roux, Laingsburg Farmers Association, comment at focus group meeting, 21 May 2014.	Thank you for your comment, and we will make sure that it is included in our Draft BAR. Another route was suggested by some of the farmers associations, which Eskom did acknowledge and included it as one of its alternatives. We will also be doing an impact study on that line .



43.	Andries Le Roux: I will be sending you a series of questions to clarify once we review the DEIR.	Andries Le Roux, Laingsburg Farmers Association, comment at focus group meeting, 21 May 2014.	Thank you for the comment.
44.	Andries Le Roux: We hereby acknowledge receipt of the DEIR in a CD and hardcopy format.	Andries Le Roux, Laingsburg Farmers Association, comment at focus group meeting, 21 May 2014.	Shawn Johnston: Comment noted.
45.	Francois Conradie: Please note for the record of this meeting, all the members of the Laingsburg, Moordenaars Karoo and Komsberg object against the proposed 2nd 765kV transmission line.	Francois Conradie, Laingsburg Farmers Association, comment at focus group meeting, 21 May 2014.	Thank you for your comment
46.	Francois Conradie: Thank you for your time, presentation and the DEIR documentation. Please take our objection and appeal against the 2nd 765kV transmission line very seriously.	Francois Conradie, Laingsburg Farmers Association, comment at focus group meeting, 21 May 2014.	Thank you for your comment.
<b>ACED Hidden Valley Focus Group Meeting</b>			
47.	James Cumming: We are concerned about the 2nd 765kV transmission line impacting directly on our wind energy facility and our turbine positions.	James Cumming, ACED Hidden Valley Wind Farm, comment at focus group, 23 May 2014.	Shape files, will be sent to you for your viewing.
48.	James Cumming: Can you provide us with the latest maps and shape files of the preferred route.	James Cumming, ACED Hidden Valley Wind Farm, comment at focus group, 23 May 2014.	Thank you for your comment. Shaun will make sure, that you receive the shape files.
49.	James Cumming: We will review the DEIR and comment on it.	James Cumming, ACED Hidden Valley Wind Farm, comment at focus group, 23 May 2014.	Thank you and we will await for your comment.
50.	James Cumming: It looks like the 2nd 765kV transmission line will cut through the ACED Hidden Valley wind energy facility.	James Cumming, ACED Hidden Valley Wind Farm, comment at focus group, 23 May 2014.	Shawn Johnston: Comment noted.

51.	Richard Gordon: We would be keen to resolve the matter, however we might have to object and appeal against the 2nd 765kV transmission line where it impact on our Hidden Valley wind energy facility.	Richard Gordon, ACED Hidden Valley Wind Farm, comment at focus group, 23 May 2014.	Thank you for your comment and we understand your concerns. We will make sure that your issues are taken into consideration.
<b>Merweville Farmers Association Focus Group Meeting</b>			
52.	Philippus Bothma: As affected farmers we would like to voice our objection to the proposed 2nd765kV transmission line through the Central Karoo and over our farms for a second time. As farmers we are already impact on by two 400 kV and the 1st 765kV transmission lines. As the Merweville Farmers Association and all of its members we object to, the second Eskom 765kV transmission line being built through our area and across our farms.	Philippus Bothma, Merweville Farmers Association, comment at focus group meeting, 09 June 2014.	Shawn Johnston: Comment noted. Kentridge Makhanya: Comment noted
53.	Philippus Bothma: As a farmers association, the Merweville Farmers support the objections raised by the Central Karoo Farmers Association, Koup 4, Moordenaars Karoo, Laingsburg and the Komsberg Farmers Associations.	Philippus Bothma, Merweville Farmers Association, comment at focus group meeting, 09 June 2014.	Thank you for your comment.
54.	Philippus Bothma: The 1st Eskom 765kV transmission line has brought us as farmer's major hardship and safety and security issue. All of these issues we will raise in our official objection documentation.	Philippus Bothma, Merweville Farmers Association, comment at focus group meeting, 09 June 2014.	Shawn Johnston: Comment noted. Kentridge Makhanya: Comment noted
55.	Philippus Bothma: The farmers of the Merweville district hereby wish to inform Eskom and the Department of Environmental Affairs that the farmers association and its members object to the 2nd 765kV Eskom transmission line. We do	Philippus Bothma, Merweville Farmers Association, comment at focus group meeting, 09 June 2014.	Thank you for your comment .We believe that the specialist which we appointed are highly qualified and are accredited to do specialist studies.

	not believe the specialist reports on the preferred alternative. As farmers we are living with the dangers of high voltage transmission lines on our farms.		
56.	Philippus Bothma: Thank you for your time, presentation, project documentation. Please take our objection against the Eskom 2nd 765kV transmission line seriously.	Philippus Bothma, Merweville Farmers Association, comment at focus group meeting, 09 June 2014.	Thank you for your comment.
<b>Agri Western Cape &amp; Laingsburg Farmers Association Objections</b>			
57.	<p>Dear Ms Mlotswa</p> <p>Agri Wes-Cape comment on the Draft Environmental Impact Report for ESKOM's proposed second GAMMA-KAPPA 765 kV power line</p> <p>NEAS REFERENCE DEA/EIA/0001267/2012 *                  DEA REFERENCE14/12/16/3/3/2/353</p> <p>Thank you for providing Agri Wes-Cape and Laingsburg Farmers Association (Affiliation of AWC) with an opportunity to comment on this application. Our comments follow below.</p> <p>The draft environmental impact report (EIR) relating to ESKOM's proposed second Gamma-Kappa 765 kV power line has neglected to report on the following key aspects of the affected environment which, unless corrected, will mean that the competent authority will not be able to take an informed and objective decision on this application:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The ability of the affected rural road network to absorb high volumes of construction-related traffic without incurring lasting damage; and</li> </ul>	<p>Carl B. Opperman, CEO: AGRICULTURE WESTERN CAPE, Andries le Roux (Laingsburg AA) and Charl de Villiers, comment by e-mail, 14 July 2014.</p>	<p>The EMP does stipulate that Eskom should appoint an CLO, who will take measures to controlling construction related matters.</p> <p>Rehabilitation of roads will be addressed amongst other impacts which will have mitigation measures inside the site specific EMP document. An approved EMP is a legal document which Eskom has to always comply with.</p>

	<p>– Biodiversity conservation priorities in the direct vicinity of the proposed power line corridor/s.</p>		
58.	<p>We are also concerned to note that the draft EIR does not include a summary of key issues raised by interested and affected parties. It is therefore not possible to establish whether and how the environmental assessment process has responded to issues and concerns raised by the affected public or organs of state, and what these, in fact, are.</p> <p>This is a serious substantive flaw as such a summary is required in terms of Reg 31(1)(e)(iii) of the 2010 NEMA EIA regulations (GN R543 of 18 June 2010 as amended).</p>	<p>Carl B. Opperman, CEO: AGRI WES-CAPE, Andries le Roux (Laingsburg AA) and Charl de Villiers, comment by e-mail, 14 July 2014.</p>	<p>Thank you for your input. On appendix 15 of the DEIR, we had included all the comments we received from the Scoping Report. We will also find, that your comments on the DEIR, will be included as appendix 17. We would like to believe that, Appendixes are still part of the DEIR. A summary of all interested and affected parties comments, with responses from the EAP including the date of receipt was included in this Appendix.</p>
59.	<p>Unacceptably high cost of construction-related traffic impacts on the serviceability rural roads</p> <p>This draft EIR – commendably – pays considerable attention to the establishment of roads for construction, involving local stakeholders in siting these routes, and proposing measures for impact mitigation, rehabilitation and financial compensation of farmers who may suffer long-term losses as a result of the construction of power line-related infrastructure on their property.</p> <p>However, there are a number of serious concerns with regard to the proposed construction of access roads over private property, as well as ESKOM's apparent failure to take responsibility for the costs that construction vehicles cause to graveled public roads in the</p>	<p>Carl B. Opperman, CEO: AGRI WES-CAPE, Andries le Roux (Laingsburg AA) and Charl de Villiers, comment by e-mail, 14 July 2014.</p>	<p>Kentridge Makhanya: Damaged roads should always be fully rehabilitated. Rehabilitation of roads will be addressed amongst other impacts which will have mitigation measure inside the site specific EMP document. All problems and difficulties experienced during the construction phase should be addressed with the independent ECO/Landowner Liaison Officer appointed on the project.</p>

	vicinity of these types of projects.		
60.	<p>Failure to provide information on where access and other roads will be constructed</p> <p>A general matter of concern stems from the fact that no landowner whose property may be selected for inclusion in a power line corridor has any knowledge, at this stage, of whether his or her land will be affected, where and how.</p> <p>This is a serious flaw from an environmental and particularly decision-making perspective as the competent authority will, in effect, be basing its decision on what, at best, amounts to half-baked guesswork regarding the precise type, location, extent and reversibility of impacts associated with the proposed power line corridor.</p> <p>Landowners will also have no way of know whether their rights may be affected which potentially places them at a serious administrative and legal disadvantage. It is absolutely unacceptable that planning regarding the precise placement of pylons, and laying of access roads, is left till after an environmental authorisation has been issued. Firstly, the environmental authorisation will not be addressing or controlling actual and potential impacts as these would not have yet been identified and assessed and, ideally, proactively factored into project planning. If identified, these impacts would be so general in nature that it would be impossible for the decision maker to give precise, geographically-specific instructions</p>	<p>Carl B. Opperman, CEO: AGRICULTURE WEST-CAPE, Andries le Roux (Laingsburg AA) and Charl de Villiers, comment by e-mail, 14 July 2014.</p>	<p>Thank you for your comment.</p> <p>The department has not approved any line as yet, we are currently assessing all the alternative, however the final decision will be made by DEA. We wont be able to know where the access road will be, without knowing which line will be approved.</p> <p>We have had several meetings with different farmers associations, to inform them of the development. We also had an Appendix in our scoping report, which had all the farms including farm name and number as well as SD code. Farmers who were going to be affected if any of the alternatives are authorised, where included in the list. Once a line has been authorised, those farmers will be informed of the decision and negotiations will take between them and Eskom.</p>

	on impact avoidance, mitigation and remediation.		
61.	Also, once an environmental authorisation has been issued, and in situ planning starts, how will an interested and affected party be able to object to an undesirable impact (because there was no information, for example, to predict its potential occurrence, in a particular place and at a particular time) if the prescribed appeal procedures have already been concluded, freeing the way for ESKOM to commence with its activities without fear of contradiction?	Carl B. Opperman, CEO: AGRI WES-CAPE, Andries le Roux (Laingsburg AA) and Charl de Villiers, comment by e-mail, 14 July 2014.	Thank you for your comment. An Environmental Control Officer from Eskom, the appointed contractor and appointed Independent consultant will be available on site during the duration of the project. You will be able to communicate with these people, on any issues you might have during construction and operational phase.
62.	The draft EIR may represent a 'first stab' at identifying, at a strategic level, the optimal routes for establishing a second 765 kV power line between Victoria West and Touwsrivier; it does not, however – precisely because of these acute deficiencies with respect to a detailed description and analysis of environmental impacts to a defensible level of predictive confidence – provide a credible basis for informed environmental decision making as prescribed by Chapter 5 of NEMA and, specifically, the general objectives of integrated environmental management.	Carl B. Opperman, CEO: AGRI WES-CAPE, Andries le Roux (Laingsburg AA) and Charl de Villiers, comment by e-mail, 14 July 2014.	Comment noted
63.	In this regard, it bears noting that integrated environmental management must "identify, predict and evaluate the actual (own emphasis) and potential impact on the environment..." of activities which, clearly, cannot be demonstrated in the case of this EIA to date. This objective is	Carl B. Opperman, CEO: AGRI WES-CAPE, Andries le Roux (Laingsburg AA) and Charl de Villiers, comment by e-mail, 14 July 2014.	Comment noted

	<p>supported by the mandatory, minimum requirements for environmental assessment reporting that are prescribed by section 24(4)(a) of NEMA. This hardly instills confidence in the prospects of an informed decision that carries the support of affected parties, regardless of the overall strategic merits of a second high-voltage power line between Victoria West and Touws River.</p>		
<p>64.</p>	<p>Distribution of responsibility for upkeep of roads used by ESKOM                  The draft EIR states that temporary access roads will be decommissioned and rehabilitated. ESKOM, in turn, will only be responsible for maintaining those access roads, post-construction, which will be used exclusively by the electricity utility. This is not acceptable from the perspective of landowners who may be affected by a new power line,                  One of the main objections among local farmers to routing a new power line corridor across farmland along the base of the Roggeveld-Nuweberg escarpment arises from the wear-and-tear caused by construction vehicles to public roads that provide access to the construction sites. These landowners have reached the point that they are no longer prepared to 'carry the can' for future ESKOM operations, chiefly because of the damage that they have incurred as a result of uncompensated, unrepaired damage to the rural road network, and to environmental damage on</p>	<p>Carl B. Opperman, CEO: AGRI WES-CAPE, Andries le Roux (Laingsburg AA) and Charl de Villiers, comment by e-mail, 14 July 2014.</p>	<p>Kentridge Makhanya: Damaged roads should always be fully rehabilitated. Rehabilitation of roads will be addressed amongst other impacts which will have mitigation measures inside the site specific EMP document. An approved EMP is a legal document which Eskom has to always comply with.</p>

	<p>individual farms.                  It must be recognised that public roads in rural areas have been built for much lower traffic volumes and wear-and-tear than is generated by power line construction which enjoys all the benefits of the roads, but does not take responsibility for their damage or repairing it. These costs are passed on to the motoring public at large and, specifically, to the local farming community who are most dependent on these roads but have neither the mandate nor the resources to keep them in good shape.</p>		
65.	<p>Examples of provincial roads that have been damaged in this fashion by construction vehicles undertaking work for ESKOM include the:                  P 2246 P 1484, P 0318 Moordenaars Karoo road                  A connector route that links to the Moordenaars Karoo to the R345, partly via the Northern Cape The Dwars-in-die-Weg gravel road, which links the N1 to the R354.</p> <p>All these roads had previously been used by contractors appointed by ESKOM to construct power lines. However, these roads were simply not designed and built to carry hundreds of trucks a week, as has been the case for the past two years. As a result, these roads need to be re-graveled, as the road surfaces have been completely worn down construction traffic that is attributed to ESKOM's activities.</p> <p>Whereas the roads in the Western Cape have</p>	<p>Carl B. Opperman, CEO: AGRI WES-CAPE, Andries le Roux (Laingsburg AA) and Charl de Villiers, comment by e-mail, 14 July 2014.</p>	<p>Kentridge Makhanya: Damaged roads should always be fully rehabilitated. Rehabilitation of roads will be addressed amongst other impacts which will have mitigation measures inside the site specific EMP document. An approved EMP is a legal document which Eskom has to always comply with.</p>



	<p>been repaired relatively well, damage is worst in the Northern Cape where the roads are no longer safe and no repairs have been undertaken.</p> <p>It is unacceptable that the public must absorb these costs, which, rightfully, need to be carried by ESKOM as part of its obligations to prevent, mitigate and remedy cumulative environmental damage that is a direct consequence of its activities.</p>		
66.	<p>Impacts of ESKOM construction vehicles on farm land and veld</p> <p>Another problem relates to contractors who, by driving where they like, damage vegetation to the extent that it is no longer fit for grazing. This is particularly problematic in a semi-arid region where vegetation does not readily recover after disturbance, if at all, yet is the primary ecosystem service – besides groundwater –, which sustains the rural economy. Such damage to a primary resource is transferred entirely on to the affected farmer at no cost to ESKOM, which is hardly fair or sustainable.</p>	<p>Carl B. Opperman, CEO: AGRI WES-CAPE, Andries le Roux (Laingsburg AA) and Charl de Villiers, comment by e-mail, 14 July 2014.</p>	<p>Kentridge Makhanya: All problems and difficulties experienced during the construction phase should be addressed with the independent ECO/Landowner Liaison Officer appointed on the project.</p>
67.	<p>There have reputedly also been instances where concrete mixers have capsized en route to sites where pylon foundations are in the process of being built. This also results in long-term damage to veld, as the trucks have to be emptied of their loads in order for them to be righted. The spill is not cleared up which contributes to direct loss of grazing and long-term, potentially irreversible environmental</p>	<p>Carl B. Opperman, CEO: AGRI WES-CAPE, Andries le Roux (Laingsburg AA) and Charl de Villiers, comment by e-mail, 14 July 2014.</p>	<p>Thank you for your comment. As we were not involved in the construction of the 1<sup>st</sup> 765kv line, we have informed Eskom on these issues you have. However in our EMP, we have included mitigation measures for such incidences.</p>

	degradation.		
68.	It is specifically for the foregoing reasons, all of which directly relate to the impacts of construction traffic and vehicle use on public and agricultural resources that the members of the Laingsburg Agricultural Association are opposed to options 2 and 3. Instead, ESKOM must identify a route for its second 765 kV Gamma-Kappa power line that will not force farmers in the Moordenaars Karoo, and below the Roggeveld escarpment, to internalise any more costs associated with high-voltage power lines being strung across their land – and such a route must ideally be located along the N1 where it passes through this part of the Western Cape.	Carl B. Opperman, CEO: AGRI WES-CAPE, Andries le Roux (Laingsburg AA) and Charl de Villiers, comment by e-mail, 14 July 2014.	Objection noted, Eskom will be further notified of the suggestion of the second line along N1.
69.	Inadequacies w.r.t. reporting on the natural environment and biodiversity conservation priorities	Carl B. Opperman, CEO: AGRI WES-CAPE, Andries le Roux (Laingsburg AA) and Charl de Villiers, comment by e-mail, 14 July 2014.	A specialist on Ecology was appointed and the detailed report was attached on the draft EIR.
70.	We have also been advised that the draft EIR potentially contains significant shortcomings with regard to the reliability of its assessment and reporting of impacts on biodiversity, which, unless addressed before the final EIR is submitted to the Department of Environmental Affairs for a decision, would almost certainly expose such a decision to a formal challenge.	Carl B. Opperman, CEO: AGRI WES-CAPE, Andries le Roux (Laingsburg AA) and Charl de Villiers, comment by e-mail, 14 July 2014.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- All available and regionally known faunal and floral reference databases were considered or assessed in order to assure that the assessments take as many of the potential species as well as important habitats into consideration as possible given the extent of the various alternatives.</li> <li>- However, consideration should be given to extreme extent each of the proposed alternatives cover that resulted in the likelihood of all documented species as well as a vast variety of different habitats being present along portions of the routes. It should also be noted that the study was aimed at assessing 2km wide corridor alternatives and as such detailed assessments are not practicable at this stage of the investigations.</li> </ul>

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The assessment approach was aimed at identification and prioritisation of portions along the various alternatives that are considered most likely to be able to sustain the most diverse and sensitive faunal and floral populations and where more care would be required in the planning, construction and operational phases of the project. It has been made clear in the reports developed that as part of the planning phase of the development a walk down be undertaken of all areas considered of higher ecological importance identified within the baseline report for the selected route within the selected corridor. By so doing areas of least concern can be identified for the construction of support structures.</li> <li>- It should further be noted that where portions of routes were identified that were considered 'no go' areas, it has been highlighted in the report and where possible alternative alignment has been proposed or recommended.</li> </ul>
71.	Impacts on affected vegetation and ecosystems Firstly, the description and identification of indigenous vegetation, as a substitute for biodiversity at a habitat or community level, is inadequate for the purposes of reliable impact prediction and, by implication, decision making.	Carl B. Opperman, CEO: AGRI WES-CAPE, Andries le Roux (Laingsburg AA) and Charl de Villiers, comment by e-mail, 14 July 2014.	It is not the objective of this report to attempt to demarcate all sections of power line for all the alternative corridors that would need to be mitigated for potential collisions or disturbance of Red Data breeding species. This can only be done once the final alignments have been selected and tower positions have been finalized. Site specific impacts will be considered during the walk down
72.	Unfortunately, the draft EIR does not include the terms of reference that informed any of the specialist studies that alleged took place in support of this EIA and it is therefore not possible to reflect on the adequacy of the specialist assessment (if any) relating to vegetation and, more broadly, biodiversity at species, community, habitat and ecosystem scale along the full extent of the three corridor options. It is also not possible to establish who	Carl B. Opperman, CEO: AGRI WES-CAPE, Andries le Roux (Laingsburg AA) and Charl de Villiers, comment by e-mail, 14 July 2014.	Thank you for your comment. When the specialists were appointed, they were given their terms of reference which we believe they used and incorporated whilst writing their reports and when they were doing their assessments. We would like to believe, that our specialists are highly qualified and have the capacity to do these assessments. Most of the issues, which were raised by the community, have been answered by our specialist. Please find the attached letter of response from our Ecologist specialist, adhering to all biodiversity comments.

	<p>conducted any of the specialist assessments, and what their credentials are as this information is not reflected in the draft EIR. It is telling, however, that there is no reference to 'vegetation assessment' in the draft EIR, or the South African National Biodiversity Institute (SANBI), or the SANBI Biodiversity GIS website (<a href="http://bgis.sanbi.org">http://bgis.sanbi.org</a>), or standard guidelines and terms of reference for biodiversity assessment that apply to applications for environmental authorisation in the Western Cape.ii</p>		<p>Within their specialist declaration form, we included their credentials. further more the specialist did refer to SANBI biodiversity</p>
<p>73.</p>	<p>The draft EIR does address biodiversity – descriptively – at a biome scale, but that is hardly adequate for informed impact assessment and decision making which needs to understand and respond to actual transformation, on the ground, and its implications for the maintenance of ecologically functional landscapes. References to, particularly, terrestrial and aquatic habitats are superficial and do not define what, from the perspective of the EIA, would actually constitute a 'specialised' habitat besides rock outcrops or wetlands.</p>	<p>Carl B. Opperman, CEO: AGRI WES-CAPE, Andries le Roux (Laingsburg AA) and Charl de Villiers, comment by e-mail, 14 July 2014.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- All available and regionally known faunal and floral reference databases were considered or assessed in order to assure that the assessments take as many of the potential species as well as important habitats into consideration as possible given the extent of the various alternatives.</li> <li>- However, consideration should be given to extreme extent each of the proposed alternatives cover that resulted in the likelihood of all documented species as well as a vast variety of different habitats being present along portions of the routes. It should also be noted that the study was aimed at assessing 2km wide corridor alternatives and as such detailed assessments are not practicable at this stage of the investigations.</li> <li>- The assessment approach was aimed at identification and prioritisation of portions along the various alternatives that are considered most likely to be able to sustain the most diverse and sensitive faunal and floral populations and where more care would be required in the planning, construction and operational phases of the project. It has been made clear in the reports developed that as part of the planning phase of the development a walk down be undertaken of all areas considered of higher ecological importance identified within the baseline 2report for the selected route within the selected corridor. By so doing areas of least</li> </ul>

			<p>concern can be identified for the construction of support structures.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- It should further be noted that where portions of routes were identified that were considered 'no go' areas, it has been highlighted in the report and where possible alternative alignment has been proposed or recommended.</li> <li>- It is not the objective of this report to attempt to demarcate all sections of power line for all the alternative corridors that would need to be mitigated for potential collisions or disturbance of Red Data breeding species. This can only be done once the final alignments have been selected and tower positions have been finalized. Site specific impacts will be considered during the walk down</li> </ul>
74.	<p>How were plant species of special concern identified? What is the reference that would support such as classification? Are all rock outcrops equally important for all animal and plant species and, if not, which are the important ones, where? The same goes for wetlands. Would a seep system at the base of the Roggeveld escarpment be treated in the same manner as a marginal seasonal watercourse in the Moordenaars-Karoo? This is vital information for any environmental decision making process and it is missing.</p>	<p>Carl B. Opperman, CEO: AGRI WES-CAPE, Andries le Roux (Laingsburg AA) and Charl de Villiers, comment by e-mail, 14 July 2014.</p>	<p>The site specific EMP, will have a look at the detail.</p> <p>It is not the objective of this report to attempt to demarcate all sections of power line for all the alternative corridors that would need to be mitigated for potential collisions or disturbance of Red Data breeding species. This can only be done once the final alignments have been selected and tower positions have been finalized. Site specific impacts will be considered during the walk down</p>
75.	<p>There is tangential reference to The Vegetation Map of South Africa, Lesotho and Swaziland, iii but without linking the latter to either the 2011 National Biodiversity Assessment or the national list of threatened ecosystems which feeds into the system of integrated environmental</p>	<p>Carl B. Opperman, CEO: AGRI WES-CAPE, Andries le Roux (Laingsburg AA) and Charl de Villiers, comment by e-mail, 14 July 2014.</p>	<p>Thank you for your comment.</p>

	management via Listing Notice 3 of the 2010 NEMA EIA regulations.		
76.	If the R345 (Matjiesfontein-Sutherland) road is used as the centreline of an arbitrary transect to illustrate this point, the draft EIR should have recorded the fact that one or more of the proposed corridors would pass through either Koedoesberge Moordenaars-Karoo (SkV 6) or Central Mountain Shale Renosterveld (FRs 5). These are but two of the many vegetation types that the corridors could be expected to traverse along their c. 370 km route between Victoria West and Touwsrivier.	Carl B. Opperman, CEO: AGRI WES-CAPE, Andries le Roux (Laingsburg AA) and Charl de Villiers, comment by e-mail, 14 July 2014.	Thank you for your comment and it has been noted. The areas will be looked more on the walk down to determine their sensitivity to the construction of the powerline.
77.	This is a serious flaw as it is not possible to determine with any accuracy which and how indigenous vegetation may be affected by the proposed power line, what the ecosystem status of this vegetation is, and whether its removal may trigger the requirement for environmental authorisation in terms of the relevant listed activities in Listing Notice 3 (GN R. 546 of 18 June 2010 as amended). It is essential that this information be included in the final EIR, failing which ESKOM runs the risk of commencing listed activities for which it has not applied and therefore does not have the requisite authorisation to undertake such activities legally.	Carl B. Opperman, CEO: AGRI WES-CAPE, Andries le Roux (Laingsburg AA) and Charl de Villiers, comment by e-mail, 14 July 2014.	<p>All available and regionally known faunal and floral reference databases were considered or assessed in order to assure that the assessments take as many of the potential species as well as important habitats into consideration as possible given the extent of the various alternatives.</p> <p>However, consideration should be given to extreme extent each of the proposed alternatives cover that resulted in the likelihood of all documented species as well as a vast variety of different habitats being present along portions of the routes.</p> <p>The assessment approach was aimed at identification and prioritisation of portions along the various alternatives that are considered most likely to be able to sustain the most diverse and sensitive faunal and floral populations and where more care would be required in the planning, construction and operational phases of the project. It has been made clear in the reports developed that as part of the planning phase of the development a walk down be undertaken of all areas considered of higher ecological importance</p>
78.	Impacts on ecosystem services: Grazing	Carl B. Opperman, CEO: AGRI	Thank you for your comment and it has been noted.

	<p>Impacts on indigenous vegetation do, as the draft EIR points out, potentially translate into impacts on grazing which is the backbone of agriculture and livelihoods in the area that is to be traversed by a second power line corridor between Victoria West and Touws River.</p> <p>It would serve this environmental process well if an independent grazing specialist were to be appointed to undertake an assessment of the potential economic impacts of changes to the availability and/or quality of grazing in the study domain of the alternative power line corridors.</p> <p>In its current form, the draft EIR is silent on the question as to how the proposed power line corridor would affect the provision of ecosystem services that underpin the rural economy and, particularly, its agricultural mainstay.</p>	<p>WES-CAPE, Andries le Roux (Laingsburg AA) and Charl de Villiers, comment by e-mail, 14 July 2014.</p>	
79.	<p>Biodiversity conservation priorities</p> <p>Furthermore, the draft EIR is also entirely mute on the strategic conservation value of ecosystems and other components of biodiversity that may occur along the three proposed power line corridors. Once again, using the R345 between the N1 and the Klein Roggeveld Mountains as a random transect, the following picture emerges with regard to biodiversity conservation priority areas that have been identified within a ca 25 km band on either side of the latter road:</p>	<p>Carl B. Opperman, CEO: AGRI WES-CAPE, Andries le Roux (Laingsburg AA) and Charl de Villiers, comment by e-mail, 14 July 2014.</p>	<p>This can only be done once the final alignments have been selected and tower positions have been finalized. Site specific impacts will be considered during the walk down and incorporated in the site specific EMP.</p>

	<p>– The R345 is flanked by land identified as focal areas by the National Protected Areas Expansion Strategy (NPAES).vi Your attention is drawn to Listing Notice 3 that, among others, identifies the construction or expansion of roads in NPAES focal areas as activities requiring environmental authorisation.</p> <p>– These NPAES focal areas also coincide with habitat identified as either Critical Biodiversity Areas or Ecological Support Areas by the biodiversity conservation plan for the Central Karoo District Municipality.vii This information is not mentioned in the draft EIR, which means that the prediction, assessment and evaluation of impacts on biodiversity is decoupled from the crucial contribution that affected habitats may make to the maintenance of an efficient and viable network of conservation areas in the Central Karoo DM.</p> <p>– Furthermore, one or more watercourses and associated valley bottom wetlands between the Bakenshoogte Pass and Meintjiespas Rivier (about 15 km NNE of the point where the R345 crosses the boundary between the Northern and Western Cape provinces) are identified as Freshwater Ecosystem Priority Areas by the national Freshwater Ecosystem Priority Areas Project.viii</p>		
80.	<p>Although options 2 and 3 run directly through this area, this is not mentioned in the draft EIR. This is a serious flaw and detracts from both the</p>	<p>Carl B. Opperman, CEO: AGRI WES-CAPE, Andries le Roux (Laingsburg AA) and Charl de</p>	<p>This will be done once the final alignments have been selected and tower positions have been finalized. Site specific impacts will be considered during the walk down and incorporated in</p>



	empirical authority and predictive value of this environmental assessment.	Villiers, comment by e-mail, 14 July 2014.	the site specific EMP.
81.	It can be reasonably concluded that this superficial and unreliable treatment of biodiversity applies to the full length of the alternative power line corridors. Failure to consult the abovementioned biodiversity plans in the planning phase for the second 765 kV power line between the Gamma and Kappa substations has denied ESKOM the opportunity to proactively identify a corridor route that would have the least adverse impact on national biodiversity conservation priorities.	Carl B. Opperman, CEO: AGRI WES-CAPE, Andries le Roux (Laingsburg AA) and Charl de Villiers, comment by e-mail, 14 July 2014.	This can only be done once the final alignments have been selected and tower positions have been finalized. Site specific impacts will be considered during the walk down and incorporated in the site specific EMP and attached reports.
82.	Also, by failing to contextualise impacts relative to systematically-defined biodiversity conservation priorities, the type, extent and significance of actual impacts on affected biodiversity will remain unanalysed and unreported.	Carl B. Opperman, CEO: AGRI WES-CAPE, Andries le Roux (Laingsburg AA) and Charl de Villiers, comment by e-mail, 14 July 2014.	This can only be done once the final alignments have been selected and tower positions have been finalized. Site specific impacts will be considered during the walk down and incorporated in the site specific EMP.
83.	This fatally flaws this environmental assessment process as an objective and reliable informant to decision making which, in terms of section 240 of the National Environmental Management Act 107 of 1998 (NEMA) must be based on 'all relevant factors' – that, with respect to national biodiversity conservation priorities, have not been put on record, let alone assessed. If the issues raised above are not deemed relevant by the Environmental Assessment Practitioner or ESKOM, this needs to be recorded and explained.	Carl B. Opperman, CEO: AGRI WES-CAPE, Andries le Roux (Laingsburg AA) and Charl de Villiers, comment by e-mail, 14 July 2014.	The assessment approach was aimed at identification and prioritisation of portions along the various alternatives that are considered most likely to be able to sustain the most diverse and sensitive faunal and floral populations and where more care would be required in the planning, construction and operational phases of the project. It has been made clear in the reports developed that as part of the planning phase of the development a walk down be undertaken of all areas considered of higher importance.

<p>84.</p>	<p>Adequacy of draft EIR for informed and balanced decision making</p> <p>The national environmental management principles (NEMA s 2) inter alia state that people and their needs must be placed at the forefront of environmental management, the development must be socially, environmentally and economically sustainable, and that environmental justice must be pursued so that adverse environmental impacts – such as outlined and explained here – shall not be distributed in such a manner as to unfairly discriminate against any person.</p>	<p>Carl B. Opperman, CEO: AGRI WES-CAPE, Andries le Roux (Laingsburg AA) and Charl de Villiers, comment by e-mail, 14 July 2014.</p>	<p>Thank you for your comment and we are very much aware of the statement which you made and that is why the EIA does not discriminate against any individual. An CLO and ECO will always be on site, to ensure that all your concerns are taken into consideration.</p>
<p>85.</p>	<p>These principles, which can be enforced by the courts, also require that environmental management must avoid loss of biodiversity and disturbance to ecosystems and where such loss or disturbance cannot be avoided, it must be mitigation and remedied. Furthermore, management and planning must pay specific attention to stressed and/or sensitive ecosystems that are subject to significant development pressure. There is also a general duty of care on ESKOM to prevent and reverse environmental degradation.</p>	<p>Carl B. Opperman, CEO: AGRI WES-CAPE, Andries le Roux (Laingsburg AA) and Charl de Villiers, comment by e-mail, 14 July 2014.</p>	<p>Thank you for your comment. Eskom will definitely adhere to the final EMP and its mitigation measures.</p>
<p>86.</p>	<p>It is believed that our key concerns Summarised below need to be interpreted in the context of the foregoing principles and obligations. As matters stand,                  (a) The draft EIR with respect to the construction of ESKOM's proposed second</p>	<p>Carl B. Opperman, CEO: AGRI WES-CAPE, Andries le Roux (Laingsburg AA) and Charl de Villiers, comment by e-mail, 14 July 2014.</p>	<p>Thank you for your comment. Your concerns have been passed to Eskom.</p>

	Gamma-Kappa 765 kV power line does not provide a defensible basis for informed and balanced environmental decision making; and (b) Farmers have clearly stated their opposition to another power line that ruins rural roads and natural agricultural resources as a result of construction- related traffic but for which ESKOM seemingly is not prepared to take any responsibility.		
87.	Summary We are strongly of the opinion that critical shortcomings with regard to the relevance and quality of information on which this EIA is based need to be addressed before a final EIR can be submitted for an authority decision.	Carl B. Opperman, CEO: AGRI WES-CAPE, Andries le Roux (Laingsburg AA) and Charl de Villiers, comment by e-mail, 14 July 2014.	Comment noted and these issues, will be addressed.
88.	For this reason, the following specialist studies must be undertaken and integrated with the final EIR: 1. An independent assessment by a professional engineer on the historical and anticipated physical and socio-economic impacts of traffic generated by power line construction on public and private roads within this particular study domain;1 2. An independent study on the economic implications of changes to the quality and availability of grazing within the three proposed power line corridors; and 3. An independent biodiversity assessment, by an ecologist with an established track record in applied research in the southern and south-western Karoo, using the terms of	Carl B. Opperman, CEO: AGRI WES-CAPE, Andries le Roux (Laingsburg AA) and Charl de Villiers, comment by e-mail, 14 July 2014.	Thank you for your comment. Eskom did have a professional engineer onsite, prior to the appointment of the consultants.

	reference recommended by CapeNature in its requirements for addressing biodiversity in development applications		
89.	Lastly, it is strongly recommended that if the foregoing studies do not go ahead, that the draft EIR be independently reviewed by an external specialist in terms of section 24N of NEMA to evaluate the adequacy of the report for informed decision making and to make findings and recommendations in this regard.	Carl B. Opperman, CEO: AGRI WES-CAPE, Andries le Roux (Laingsburg AA) and Charl de Villiers, comment by e-mail, 14 July 2014.	Comment noted.
90.	References: i Section 23(2)(b), NEMA ii Brownlie S (2005) Guideline for involving biodiversity specialists in EIA processes: Edition 1. CSIR Report No ENV-C 2005 053 C. Republic of South Africa, Provincial Government of the Western Cape, Department of Environmental Affairs and Development Planning, Cape Town; De Villiers CC, Brownlie S, Clark B, Day EG, Driver A, Euston-Brown DIW, Helme NA, Holmes PM, Job N and AB Rebelo (2005) Fynbos Forum Ecosystem Guidelines for Environmental Assessment in the Western Cape, Fynbos Forum and Botanical Society of SA, Kirstenbosch; CapeNature (2011) CapeNature's requirements for providing comments on agricultural, environmental, mining, planning and water-use related applications. CapeNature Scientific Services, Assegaibosch, Stellenbosch. iii Mucina L, Rutherford MC and Powrie LM (2006) The Vegetation Map of South Africa, Lesotho and Swaziland. Strelitzia 19, South	Carl B. Opperman, CEO: AGRI WES-CAPE, Andries le Roux (Laingsburg AA) and Charl de Villiers, comment by e-mail, 14 July 2014.	Comment noted.

	African National Biodiversity Institute, Pretoria.		
91.	<p>Reference:</p> <p>1 It is crucial that baseline information be provided at a scale that is relevant to the impacts that are associated with power line construction, otherwise there no way that the affected public or the decision maker can be reasonably expected to formulate an informed understanding of the implications of the respective corridor alignments on the biodiversity pattern and process.</p>	<p>Carl B. Opperman, CEO: AGRI WES-CAPE, Andries le Roux (Laingsburg AA) and Charl de Villiers, comment by e-mail, 14 July 2014.</p>	<p>Thank you for your comment.</p>
92.	<p>Reference:</p> <p>iv Driver A, Sink, KJ, Nel, JN, Holness, S, Van Niekerk, L, Daniels, F, Jonas, Z, Majiedt, PA, Harris, L and K Maze (2012) National Biodiversity Assessment 2011: An assessment of South Africa’s biodiversity and ecosystems. Synthesis Report. South African National Biodiversity Institute and Department of Environmental Affairs, Pretoria.</p> <p>v National list of ecosystems that are threatened and in need of protection (GN 1002, 9 December 2011)</p> <p>vi Government of South Africa (2010) National Protected Areas Expansion Strategy for South Africa 2008, Government of South Africa, Pretoria.</p> <p>vii Skowno AL, Holness SD and Desmet P (2009) Biodiversity Assessment of the Central Karoo District Municipality, DEA&amp;DP Report EADP05/2008, 52 pp.</p> <p>viii</p>	<p>Carl B. Opperman, CEO: AGRI WES-CAPE, Andries le Roux (Laingsburg AA) and Charl de Villiers, comment by e-mail, 14 July 2014.</p>	<p>Thank you for your comment.</p>

	<p>LANDBOU/NATUURLIKE                  HULPBRONNE/HULPBRONBEWARING EN                  OMGEWINGSAKE/GAMMA KAPPA                  POWERLINE/2014/AWK brief draft                  environmental impact report Julie 2014                  Nel JL, Driver AL, Strydom WF, Maherry AM,                  Petersen C, Hill L, Roux DJ, Nienaber S, van                  Deventer H, Swartz ER and LB Smith-Adao                  (2011) Atlas of Freshwater Ecosystem Priority                  Areas in South Africa: Maps to support                  sustainable development of water resources.                  South African National Biodiversity Institute,                  Pretoria.</p>		
<p>93.</p>	<p>In the past two years we've had the following                  bad experiences with the construction of the                  Eskom 765KV - power line in                  Moordernaarskaroo:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The roads are in a terrible state and as a                      result of this our vehicles are falling apart.</li> <li>2. The contractors we used to transport our                      products that are to be sold refuses to use the                      roads because of the damage it causes their                      vehicles.</li> <li>3. The truck drivers working on the                      construction of the line drive very irresponsibly                      especially around "blind bends/turns". I've had                      to swerve out of their way on to the shoulder of                      the road to avoid a collision. Most of the                      residents have had similar experiences.</li> <li>4. The veld takes a long time to recover.                      You can still see signs of the damage that was</li> </ol>	<p>H L N MULLER, Anysrivier                  Farmer, 24 June 2014,                  comment by e-mail.</p>	<p>Kentridge Makhanya: Comment noted</p>

	<p>done thirty years ago when the first line was built. The trucks and other heavy vehicles does not keep to the established route thus causing more damage to the veld.</p> <p>5. In Moordenaarskaroo we have 3 Eskom power lines an one ADSL line to Sutherland. We don't benefit from this at all and it is very unsightly. This also devalues our properties and many buyers are not interest in buying when all you see are power lines.</p> <p>6. The proposed Gamkor 3 line runs through an inhabitable area with no access routes. A lot of damage will be done to this area when construction starts.</p> <p>7. Our gravel roads were not built to deal with the heavy traffic we are currently experiencing. We do not have sufficient funds for the upkeep of the roads and the promise of help has not been forthcoming.</p> <p>8.The Gamkor-1 line next to the N1 should be considered since the N1 can deal with the trucks and other heavy construction vehicles. It will also not be necessary to built new roads. The area is quite level without any mountains and gorges which should make construction easier. The cost of running these vehicles will be greatly reduced.</p> <p>9. We've sacrificed a lot for power lines that does not benefit us a all and we are not looking forward to another such catastrophe.</p>		
94.	I would like to thank that your team for taking the time to come and see us personally with	O. G. CONRADIE, Komsberg Farmer, comment by e-mail, 24	Thank you for your comments.

	regards to the proposed 765kv power line that will be running through our farms in the Laingsburg district. I do understand that you are only the messenger but since you've committed to relay our concerns I would like you bring the following to Eskoms ` attention.	June 2014.	
95.	As a farmer I would like to use this opportunity to inform you that I am not in favor of this proposed power line. I'm sure you must have noticed that the whole community is against it. The construction process of the current power line has opened our eyes and made us aware of what it entails to build a power line on your farm or in your district.	O. G. CONRADIE, Komsberg Farmer, comment by e-mail, 24 June 2014.	Kentridge Makhanya: Comment noted
96.	I think that the main reason for our unhappiness is the state of our roads. I have to wonder what the reaction of the city folk would be if the roads to their work, schools, shops etc were badly damaged and no attempt was made to fix the roads. While we are not thousands of people we too need to get to work, take our kids to school and get to the shops. Our vehicles are badly damaged, the gearbox of my work vehicle was completely damaged, not too mention all the broken windows. The fact that Eskom is not liable for damage to the roads, as was mentioned at the meeting, is very scary. The big question is then who will take the responsibility of the "quicker than normal" wear and tear of these roads now that more heavy vehicles are using it. I would like you to respond to this please. I would also like to point out that our	O. G. CONRADIE, Komsberg Farmer, comment by e-mail, 24 June 2014.	Kentridge Makhanya: Damaged roads should always be fully rehabilitated. Rehabilitation of roads will be addressed amongst other impacts which will have mitigation measures inside the site specific EMP document. An approved EMP is a legal document which Eskom has to always comply with.



	once calm and peaceful road has now become very dangerous.		
97.	The damage to the veld that was done will take years repair and I would like to know what exactly is being planned to expedite the recovery process. The monetary ..... will not be enough. I would also like to mention that because of the topography of the area a road in the veld is not viable. Rainwater can cause the road to turn very quickly into a river. As farmers we use two track roads that can be easily repaired should there be a flood and you make the road where the flood would cause the least damage. Eskom built their roads wherever they wanted too.	O. G. CONRADIE, Komsberg Farmer, comment by e-mail, 24 June 2014.	Kentridge Makhanya: Comment Noted
98.	The value of our property has decreased because of the construction of the power lines and the little compensation we received will never make up for it.	O. G. CONRADIE, Komsberg Farmer, comment by e-mail, 24 June 2014.	Comment Noted
99.	We find it increasingly difficult to move our cattle. Because we make use of winter and summer grazing our cattle are in danger with all the vehicles on the road. One of the drivers decided to hoot at a flock of sheep in order to make then move faster. This only resulted in the breaking through the fence (not sure how many of the sheep were scratched). The fence was repaired but a lot of time was wasted and it was quite the animals on the road again- the moving of our animals are planned and needs to be executed within a certain space time. Countless	O. G. CONRADIE, Komsberg Farmer, comment by e-mail, 24 June 2014.	Kentridge Makhanya: All problems and difficulties experienced during the construction phase should be addressed with the independent ECO/Landowner Liaison Officer appointed on the project. The ECO will then make sure that corrective and preventative measures are in place to rectify such matters.

	times gates have been left open which mean that different kinds of prized sheep then enters each other's camps. Because these camps are so big we lose up to 2 days to make sure the sheep are back in the correct camp. This is very frustrating.		
100.	We also find a lot more animals are run down and left on the side of the road. We also have the endangered Knoppie dop and Padloper tortoises.	O. G. CONRADIE, Komsberg Farmer, comment by e-mail, 24 June 2014.	Thank you for the information provided.Eskom will be advised to look forward the animals and the Environmental Control officer will also be notified and the regulated speed should be adhered all the times so as to preserve them.
101.	If you really have to build another line I really don't think that our area is the only option. The people next to the N1 should also get their chance. This area with its three power lines has done its duty to help with this country electricity problem!!	O. G. CONRADIE, Komsberg Farmer, comment by e-mail, 24 June 2014.	Thank you for your comment and it has been noted.
102.	I would like to thank you for taking the time to inform us about the proposed 765kv power line that will run through our farms in the Laingsburg District.	Marinda Le Roux, Farmer Komsberg, comment by e-mail, 24 June 2014	Thank you for your comment.
103.	I would like to add my objection to the many you already have in respect of yet another power line. I understand that you are only busy with interviews/ recordings but the construction of the current power line has everyone up in arms. Unnecessary damage is being done to the veld, our roads are being damaged and the towers have not been rehabilitated. Not too mention the unsightly view in our beautiful Karoo. No one in top management cared to study the weather patterns to check how rainfall	Marinda Le Roux, Farmer Komsberg, comment by e-mail, 24 June 2014	Kentridge Makhanya: Comment Noted

	can hamper this project. There are absolutely no control over how the contractors use the roads, they speed and do not stick to their side of the road. Many can attest to a narrow escape. They will end up colliding with each other. They only get to work after 8 and then rush to be back in town at 5.		
104.	I am extremely worried that a lot of the workers are out to have a good time. We are going to have a baby boom. When these guys hit the N1 they simply through their simcards out the window and cannot be reached. Who are going to look after these children? Who will pay for bigger schools etc.	Marinda Le Roux, Farmer Komsberg, comment by e-mail, 24 June 2014	Kentridge Makhanya: Message received
105.	All this could have been avoided if the right people, the farmers were consulted first. It's too late to do anything now. The damage has been done. It can take between 15 – 20 years for the veld to rehabilitate. The land for grazing set aside for this project is astronomical if you put them altogether. If you really need to build another power line that this area is not your only option. We have done more than just our duty.  I hope the message will reach the current project managers and co.	Marinda Le Roux, Farmer Komsberg, comment by e-mail, 24 June 2014	Kentridge Makhanya: Message received
106.	I would like to strongly object to the construction of a new power line next to the existing power line. The contractors are causing damage to the road with their heavy vehicles. To repair vehicles are costly. The line does not run	Jacobus O. Fourie, Farmer Laingsburg, 24 June 2014, comment by e-mail.	Objection has been noted.

	through my property but I have to use the road up until Klipfontein. I make use of rotational grazing and in winter months I have to transport my sheep from Moordenaarskaroo to grazing in the Tankwa Karoo area next to Ceres. In summer months we return to Moordenaarskaroo.		
107.	Because the road is in such a bad condition the transporters are refusing to transport my sheep. Should a second line be built I would have to start thinking of quitting farming. I would like to urge Eskom not to cause any further disruption. I am in favor of a second power line next to the N. I do not believe that it will damage tourism. Tourist not only looks at nature but also at man made structures. The road between Laingsburg and Beaufort West is very boring and a engineering – genius such as this will attract a lot of attention.	Jacobus O. Fourie, Farmer Laingsburg, 24 June 2014, comment by e-mail.	Damaged roads should always be fully rehabilitated. Rehabilitation of roads will be addressed amongst other impacts which will have mitigation measures inside the site specific EMP document. An approved EMP is a legal document which Eskom has to always comply with.  Kentridge Makhanya: All problems and difficulties experienced during the construction phase should be addressed with the independent ECO/Landowner Liaison Officer appointed on the project. The ECO will then make sure that corrective and preventative measures are in place to rectify such matters.
108.	I would like to inform you that, on behalf of the Laingsburg Farmers Association, we strongly opposed the proposed construction of a second 765kv Eskom power line as well as the impact assessments that were done.	Andries de V Le Roux, Chairperson Laingsburg Agricultural Association, comment by e-mail, 01 July 2014.	Thank you. Objection has been noted.
109.	I also object to this construction in my personal capacity as landowner in this area.	Andries de V Le Roux, Chairperson Laingsburg Agricultural Association, comment by e-mail, 01 July 2014.	Thank you. Objection has been noted.
110.	I will forward my objections to you before 18 July 2014.	Andries de V Le Roux, Chairperson Laingsburg	Thank you. Objection has been noted.

		Agricultural Association, comment by e-mail, 01 July 2014.	
111.	I would like to object to the proposed second Eskom power line 765 KV which will run through the Central-Karoo, Moordenaars-Karoo and Klein Roggeveld.	Johannie M. Spaan, Farmer Moordenaars Karoo, comment by e-mail, 07 July 2014.	Thank you. Objection has been noted.
112.	I herewith strongly object to the proposed construction of a power line running through our area known as the Klein Roggeveld.	E. M. Van Zyl, Klein Roggeveld Farmer, comment by e-mail, 13 July 2014.	Thank you. Objection has been noted.
113.	This area already has 3 power lines and I urge you to consider the first option namely the option that runs along the N1.	E. M. Van Zyl, Klein Roggeveld Farmer, comment by e-mail, 13 July 2014.	Thank you. Comment has been noted.
114.	Because our area has quite a few dams we have a very huge bird life that can get caught in the power lines. Option one's are has less dams which means less endangerment to the birds.	E. M. Van Zyl, Klein Roggeveld Farmer, comment by e-mail, 13 July 2014.	Thank you. Comment has been noted.
115.	We also have quite a few animals on the endangered species list namely the knoppies and padloper tortoises and riverine rabbit.	E. M. Van Zyl, Klein Roggeveld Farmer, comment by e-mail, 13 July 2014.	Thank you. Comment has been noted.the contractor, Environmental control officer should make sure they look out for these animals during construction and they should make sure they adhere t the regulated speed all the time, to reduce harm to animals.
116.	The N1 is flatter than our area.  You wouldn't need to build any new roads.  North of the N1 is a "trekpad" that is driveable for normal vehicles and they have gates. There are not many hills and gorges to navigate.  You also have cellphone reception next to the N1	E. M. Van Zyl, Klein Roggeveld Farmer, comment by e-mail, 13 July 2014.	Thank you. Comment has been noted.

	which will make communication easier.		
117.	We would like to propose that you look at an alternative site for the proposed power line that can run around our farms.	Niel Brink, Farmer Spitskop, Laingsburg, comment by e-mail, 17 July 2014.	Thank you. Comment has been noted.
118.	We are strongly opposed to the construction of this new Eskom line. The land has been registered as the Spitzkop Conservancy because of its biodiversity status.	Niel Brink, Farmer Spitskop, Laingsburg, comment by e-mail, 17 July 2014.	Thank you. Objection has been noted.
119.	Our objections are related to protection, farming, development and tourism. There are unfortunately already 3 lines in the area that is very unsightly in this area. The visual impact is already of such a sensitive nature that should you add another line to the area it will do damage in terms of hunting, tourism and the protection of said area.	Niel Brink, Farmer Spitskop, Laingsburg, comment by e-mail, 17 July 2014.	Thank you. Objection has been noted and information noted.
120.	We've managed to shield accommodation and camping areas from the sight of the power lines but adding another one would make this impossible. We have suffered a great loss the past two years because we could not accommodate tourist or campers because of the damage that was done to the access roads by ESKOM. Our vehicles and that of our guests have been damaged.	Niel Brink, Farmer Spitskop, Laingsburg, comment by e-mail, 17 July 2014.	Kentridge Makhanya: Damaged roads should always be fully rehabilitated. Rehabilitation of roads will be addressed amongst other impacts which will have mitigation measures inside the site specific EMP document. An approved EMP is a legal document which Eskom has to always comply with.
121.	We are in the process developing a farm for hunting. An area where 4 power lines are visible is definitely not where overseas hunters would want to spend their money.	Niel Brink, Farmer Spitskop, Laingsburg, comment by e-mail, 17 July 2014.	Thank you. Your concerns have been noted.
122.	In June 2014 we had to watch how one of our endangered birds had to struggle in flight to	Niel Brink, Farmer Spitskop, Laingsburg, comment by e-	All problems and difficulties experienced during the construction phase should be addressed with the independent

	miss the line in spite of your many methods to make the lines more visible for them and this was even before there was any power on the line.	mail, 17 July 2014.	ECO/Landowner Liaison Officer appointed on the project. The ECO will then make sure that corrective and preventative measures are in place to rectify such matters. Eskom has partnered with EWT, whose intention is to save the vulture colonies and enforce proper mitigation measures such as bird flappers and diverters. The unfortunate incident should have been brought to Eskom's attention and they would have gladly investigated the incident.
123.	We have had to abandon some plans to build on the new farm because a third line would run across these buildings.	Niel Brink, Farmer Spitskop, Laingsburg, comment by e-mail, 17 July 2014.	Comment noted.
124.	We have had to get rid of or move very good troughs because of the impact of the lines and because of your studies indicating that it will affect our animals. (this is in total conflict with your study on page 10 of the information that was given to us "Farming activities can be practice under conductors...")	Niel Brink, Farmer Spitskop, Laingsburg, comment by e-mail, 17 July 2014.	Towers can be placed in such a way, as to minimise impacts on farming. Only structures, material stacking and planting of trees are forbidden within the servitude area. Eskom acquires servitudes according to the Constitution and Expropriation Act, which states that the actual financial loss must be paid. Farmers should still be able to continue, with their normal farming activities.
125.	We have sacrificed a lot in this area for the sake of the economy. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Damage to the veld</li> <li>• Property values plummeting</li> <li>• Transport contractors refusing to use the road to transport our sheep and cattle</li> <li>• Damage to vehicles because of the damaged roads</li> <li>• Loss of grazing for the animals</li> <li>• Loss of income because tourist can not access the area with their own vehicles</li> <li>• Gates being left open by Eskom</li> </ul>	Niel Brink, Farmer Spitskop, Laingsburg, comment by e-mail, 17 July 2014.	Thank you for your comment, and it has been noted. One of the conditions of the EMP and which should always be adhered to, is that Eskom should appoint an Environmental Control Officer. One of the roles of the ECO, is to liaise with the landowners. No access to anyone's farm, without prior arrangement with the landowner. The construction workers should be confined to their working area and will not be allowed to roam around the landowner's property.

	contractors, disrupted breeding programs and increased veterinary costs because sheep entering each others camps. Just to name a few		
126.	Why should we sacrifice our quality of life, losing our property, losing the beauty of our area and deal with plummeting property prices when we don't even use Eskom power in the Karoo for the luxury of others.	Niel Brink, Farmer Spitskop, Laingsburg, comment by e-mail, 17 July 2014.	Thank you for your comment and it has been noted.
127.	Environmental Impact assessment? The third line is not yet active nor has it been rehabilitated and no assessor has been to study the Spitzkop Conservancy what then of the 3rd line. Impact studies cannot be done if no report has been done on the impact of the existing lines in the area. Because of this is a protected area no development such as this one should be granted without the permission of Cape Nature.	Niel Brink, Farmer Spitskop, Laingsburg, comment by e-mail, 17 July 2014.	Thank you for your comment.
128.	<p>With this submission I hereby object against the 2nd 765kV transmission line that is planned for the Moordenaars Karoo and Klein Roggeveld. My objection consist of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We have already 3 high voltage transmission lines crossing our property (2 x 400kV and 1 x 765kV);</li> <li>• The property value of our farms are already much lower than adjacent farms;</li> <li>• The construction of such a transmission line has major impacts on the local infrastructure. The roads were never built to</li> </ul>	A de V Le Roux Family Trust, Laingsburg, comment by e-mail, 17 July 2014.	<p>Kentridge Makhanya: Objection noted</p> <p>One of the conditions of the EMP and which should always be adhered to ,is that Eskom should appoint an Environmental Control Officer. One of the roles of the ECO, is to liase with the landowners. No access to anyones farm, without prior arrangement with the landowner. The construction workers should be confined to their working area and will not be allowed to roam around the land owners property.</p>



<p>handel the large volumes of traffic per week and the road infrastructure are currently in a very bad state. There have been a few accidents with contractor vehicles. Water pipes and culvert have been damaged by the weight of trucks and mobile cranes. In the Northern Cape section of the Klein Roggeveld route not road maintenance are done by the road authority.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• With the construction of the 1st 765kV transmission the impact on the community and roads were much higher that when the two 400kV lines were built.</li> <li>• Grazing has been damage to such an extent with the erection of the pylons and pulling of cables. Rehabilitation will be done once the construction is completed, however the veld will never recover from the construction damage.</li> <li>• In the EIA it is mentioned that construction will take 12 months. I want to mention it that the construction of the 1st 765kV transmission line took a total of 3 years. After 3 years its not yet complete. One of the reasons for this is the remote area of the Klein Roggeveld and the Moordenaars Karoo.</li> <li>• The 3 alternative presented on the maps in the EIA are very confusing and misleading. The options in the report does not correspond to the colour codes on the maps. Very misleading report and maps.</li> <li>• At the meeting held at Saaiplaas the options were clarified. Is option 2 north or south</li> </ul>		
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	<p>of the existing 765kV line?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What as the reason for dropping the option 1?</li> <li>• In section 1 of the EIA it is mentioned about the terrain. Would it not be better to construct the pylons on level ground instead of the mountain areas?</li> </ul>		
129.	<p>I have stated my objections with the list above and why I object to the 2nd 765kV transmission line. I understand that a 2nd 765kV transmission line is required, however we have enough lines crossing our region and farms. I'm of the opinion that the 2nd 765kV line can be built on another place were it would not affect the road infrastructure and nature.</p>	<p>A de V Le Roux Family Trust, Laingsburg, comment by e-mail, 17 July 2014.</p>	<p>Thank you. Objection noted.</p>
130.	<p>I hope that my objection and the objections of all the other affected parties would be taken up seriously and that it would be more than a tick box excise to get a line through the area.</p>	<p>A de V Le Roux Family Trust, Laingsburg, comment by e-mail, 17 July 2014.</p>	<p>Thank you. Objection noted.</p>
131.	<p>Objection against the 2nd 765kV transmission line in the Moordenaars Karoo and Laingsburg.</p>	<p>J.J le Roux, Laingsburg, comment by e-mail, 10 July 2014.</p>	<p>Thank you. Objection noted.</p>
132.	<p>As the owner of the farm Klipfontein in the Moordenaars Karoo I hereby object and wish to express my concern about the construction of the 2nd 765kV transmission line through the area.</p>	<p>J.J le Roux, Laingsburg, comment by e-mail, 10 July 2014.</p>	<p>Thank you. Objection noted.</p>
133.	<p>I already have 3 transmission lines crossing my farm and I am not in favour of a fourth line crossing my farm. I object to the 2nd 765kV transmission line. The two 400kV lines were built</p>	<p>J.J le Roux, Laingsburg, comment by e-mail, 10 July 2014.</p>	<p>Kentridge Makhanya: Objection Noted</p>

	in my parent's time. The construction of the 3rd line been contracted by EJP/KEC has taken 3 years. We only received a minimal amounts of money for the line crossing our farms, however in other areas farmer were paid higher/maximum for the transmission lines crossing their farms.		
134.	All the roads used by contractors, public or private have all been damaged during the construction period. There has been no attempt to rehabilitate the roads and no budget has been allocated to the rehabilitation of roads. Motor gates have been damage by 10-ton trucks. Hundreds of loads were transported from the N1.	J.J le Roux, Laingsburg, comment by e-mail, 10 July 2014.	Kentridge Makhanya: Damaged roads should always be fully rehabilitated. Rehabilitation of roads will be addressed amongst other impacts which will have mitigation measures inside the site specific EMP document. An approved EMP is a legal document which Eskom has to always comply with.
135.	Locals are concerned about the safety on the roads. It becomes a mission just to get from the farm to the town using the roads. After large amounts of complaints to the head of KEC there have been a slight improvement.	J.J le Roux, Laingsburg, comment by e-mail, 10 July 2014.	Kentridge Makhanya: Comment is noted
136.	The farmers of the Moordenaars Karoo have major safety and security concerns about the influx of the large amount of workers into the area. The concern is about farm attacks. The tranquility of the area, its people and animals has been impacted on quite heavily.	J.J le Roux, Laingsburg, comment by e-mail, 10 July 2014.	Kentridge Makhanya: All problems and difficulties experienced during the construction phase should be addressed with the independent ECO/Landowner Liaison Officer appointed on the project. The ECO will then make sure that corrective and preventative measures are in place to rectify such matters.
137.	The 1st 765kV transmission line construction brought no benefits to the farming community. It's a legacy of no benefit, only damage to our farms, way of life and no one want to buy or invest in a farm with transmission lines on it.	J.J le Roux, Laingsburg, comment by e-mail, 10 July 2014.	Kentridge Makhanya: Comment is noted

138.	I'm of the opinion that the farmers of the Moordenaars Karoo contributed enough to South Africa's National Interest and the next line should be built next to the N1.	J.J le Roux, Laingsburg, comment by e-mail, 10 July 2014.	Thank you for your comment. We have asked Eskom to have a look at the route you are proposing. They will get back to us, whether it is technically viable on their side.
139.	As an inhabitant of the Moordenaars Karoo and owner of the farm Anysrivier I strongly object to the 2nd 765kV transmission line.	S.M. Muller, Klipfontein Laingsburg, comment by e-mail, 23 April 2014	Objection noted.
140.	Services in the Moordenaars Karoo have been reduced due to the state of our road infrastructure. We are sheep farmers who need to use the roads and transport our products by truck to get our product to market. We have no options. The abattoir in town refuses to send its truck to come and collect our sheep due to the bad state of the roads. The ambulance personnel complain about the bad state of the roads and the numerous flat tires they experience.	S.M. Muller, Klipfontein Laingsburg, comment by e-mail, 23 April 2014	Kentridge Makhanya: Comment is noted
141.	The Moordenaars Karoo road is a high-risk road with a large amount of blind corners and rises. The locals drive safely. In the past year almost every farm had a negative encounter with a construction truck or bakkie. The construction teams travelled at high speeds on the narrow country roads. Large amounts of complaints were made about the road incidents.	S.M. Muller, Klipfontein Laingsburg, comment by e-mail, 23 April 2014	Kentridge Makhanya: Comment is noted
142.	The road surface is in a bad state and the district municipality is not concerned about the state of the road. The motor gates on the farms have been destroyed by the weight of the trucks. The entire road network is now corrugated.	S.M. Muller, Klipfontein Laingsburg, comment by e-mail, 23 April 2014  S.M. Muller, Klipfontein Laingsburg, comment by e-mail, 23 April 2014	Kentridge Makhanya: Comment is noted

143.	Do you know how our farms look was the transmission lines have been constructed? We have transmission lines crossing our farms to Sutherland and from Laingsburg. An ADSL line to Sutherland. Another 3 transmission lines cross our property. Mr., Hans Simon is one of many farmer over who's farms 3 transmission line cross. The open spaces from the first two-transmission line are still visible today. Where is all the green conservationist who should police this? As farmers we are not allowed to clean the river to prevent flooding but Eskom has carte blanche to do what they want.	S.M. Muller, Klipfontein Laingsburg, comment by e-mail, 23 April 2014	Kentrige Makhanya: All problems and difficulties experienced during the construction phase should be addressed with the independent ECO/Landowner Liaison Officer appointed on the project. The ECO will then make sure that corrective and preventative measures are in place to rectify such matters.
144.	What did it cost Eskom to construct the last line? The work was given to subcontractors. Cost was high due to the remoteness of the service road and to access the area. Workers arrived at 9:30 at the site and leave at 15:00 workers leave to make the 100km journey back. It cost about R9.00/l for fuel and workers worked a maximum of five hours a day. It started off with 10 vehicles and later it becomes 12 vehicle per day on the road. Last year it was up to 37 vehicle on the road. With the heavy rains the road became worse and the rivers could not be crossed due to flooding. The cost of construction vehicle maintenance and fuel must have been very high.	S.M. Muller, Klipfontein Laingsburg, comment by e-mail, 23 April 2014	Kentrige Makhanya: The cost of building a 765kV power line is generally high.
145.	It is unthinkable that another transmission line should be built through our area. I propose that it is constructed next to the N1. This will be better access and the cost of construction and vehicle maintenance will be lower. The	S.M. Muller, Klipfontein Laingsburg, comment by e-mail, 23 April 2014	Thank you for your comment. We have asked Eskom to have a look at the route you are proposing. They will get back to us, and whether it is technically viable on their side.

	government built roads, ADSL lines and towers next to the national roads and no one is worried about the visual impact. Here our infrastructure is damaged and the visual impact on our sense of place is heavily impacted on.		
146.	Please keep the 2nd 765kV transmission line out of the Moordenaars Karoo.	S.M. Muller, Klipfontein Laingsburg, comment by e-mail, 23 April 2014	Thank you. Objection noted.
147.	As landowner in the Roggeveld and Moordenaarskaroo I would like to comment on the proposed 4th power line in the district. The three existing power lines runs through my property and the substation is also on my farm so I know what I am talking about.	Francois Conradie, Saaiplaas Farmer, Komsberg & Roggeveld Farmer, comment by e-mail 21 June 2014.	Comment noted.
148.	With the erection of the power lines a lot of damage is being done to the plant line – in reality it will not be rehabilitated in this lifetime. After the construction we try and rehabilitate by ploughing and creating ..... but in 10 to 15 years from now when the lines need to be serviced the roads to these lines will be reopened for people to drive. This past winter I had to go and tow an Eskom Land cruiser that got stuck in the mud underneath the lines.	Francois Conradie, Saaiplaas Farmer, Komsberg & Roggeveld Farmer, comment by e-mail 21 June 2014.	Kentridge Makhanya: Rehabilitation methods of damaged fields will have to be improved.
149.	No farmer wants a high-tension power line running over his farm. We are however realistic and because there is a need in this country and bent over backwards to accommodate and agreed to the building of 3 power lines. We have done our bit and will not give commit to agree that another line be built in the Roggeveld/	Francois Conradie, Saaiplaas Farmer, Komsberg & Roggeveld Farmer, comment by e-mail 21 June 2014.	Kentridge Makhanya: Comment is noted

	Moordenaarskaroo area. I find it that its absolute nonsense to think that because you built 3 lines in this area all the other lines should be build here as well.		
150.	The power lines have had a negative impact on the value of our property. Eskom paid compensation but it really doesn't compensate for the fact that our property value has declined because of the construction of the power lines.	Francois Conradie, Saaiplaas Farmer, Komsberg & Roggeveld Farmer, comment by e-mail 21 June 2014.	Kentridge Makhanya: Comment is noted
151.	We also own a guesthouse and our clientele is not happy with the unsightly power lines. I feel that I will be taking a further loss if the next power line is build, as it will run close to my home.	Francois Conradie, Saaiplaas Farmer, Komsberg & Roggeveld Farmer, comment by e-mail 21 June 2014.	Your comment has been noted.
152.	There are currently a few companies running tests to see if wind energy will be beneficial to this area. We have requested that these companies run their electricity through one line. The electricity on my farm still needs to be added to the network.	Francois Conradie, Saaiplaas Farmer, Komsberg & Roggeveld Farmer, comment by e-mail 21 June 2014.	Kentridge Makhanya: Comment is noted
153.	In the Roggeveld and Moordenaarskaroo we have a few endangered species : Karoo of Boulenger Padloper (Homopus Boulengerie), Knoppiedop (Psammobates tentorius); Verkleurmanneljie - Dwergverkleurmanneljie (Bradhyrodion Kaeroicum), Skinke-Boulenger se blinde pootlose skink (Typhosaurus vernis) Rivier konyn - already very scarce	Francois Conradie, Saaiplaas Farmer, Komsberg & Roggeveld Farmer, comment by e-mail 21 June 2014.	Thank you for your comment. Mitigation measures, will be included in the site specific EMP. An ecologist will identify high risk areas during the walkdown and suggest, where the pylon should be placed.
154.	The Moordenaarskaroo is a fossil rich area and with the construction of the power lines a lot of damage will be done to this heritage.	Francois Conradie, Saaiplaas Farmer, Komsberg & Roggeveld Farmer, comment by e-mail 21	Thank you for your comment. The heritage specialists, have done assessments on the area and has made a lot of recommendations, and have put mitigation measures, further

		June 2014.	more where they do a site specific EMP and walkdown they will also look the areas in a more detailed manner and where there are obstacles which need to be avoided they will note them and advise where possible if there is need to divert they will because HIA were asked to study a 4 km route so as to be able to avoid heritage site especially during walkdown they will also be assist Eskom where to put the pylons.
155.	The Roggeveld has very soft but continuous winter rain and the surface is mud. The winter rain turns our area into wetlands. The people who did the impact studies did so in winter and their 4x4 got stuck in the mud. They had to get the fire department in Matjiesfontein to come and help them but they too got stuck in the mud. They borrowed a tractor from my wife and this too got stuck in the mud. When I got home I had to go and rescue the whole lot but the damage that was done to the veld was quite huge.	Francois Conradie, Saaiplaas Farmer, Komsberg & Roggeveld Farmer, comment by e-mail 21 June 2014.	Thank you, comment has been noted.
156.	This area also has a lot of skuins hellings which makes it difficult and extremely expensive to build these power lines. The 765 line which is nearing completion was meant to be completed 11 months ago. When they reach the Roggeveld and Moordenaarskaroo area they were still on schedule but because of the rugged terrain it lead to delays of nearly a year. If you need to confirm these facts please contact the company who constructed the 765 power line.	Francois Conradie, Saaiplaas Farmer, Komsberg & Roggeveld Farmer, comment by e-mail 21 June 2014.	Kentridge Makhanya: Advice is greatly noted and will be used a part of lessons learnt for future projects.
157.	My farmhouse where I live permanently, not just weekends, is less than a meter away from the	Francois Conradie, Saaiplaas Farmer, Komsberg & Roggeveld	Kentridge Makhanya: All problems and difficulties experienced during the construction phase should be addressed with the



	road that runs with the line. The construction vehicles caused a lot of dust, which led to my whole family suffering with allergies and made our home uninhabitable at times.	Farmer, comment by e-mail 21 June 2014.	independent ECO/Landowner Liaison Officer appointed on the project. The ECO will then make sure that corrective and preventative measures are in place to rectify such matters.
158.	I find it extremely unbelievable and far fetched that the report that stated that we should build three lines in our area now wants us to accommodate a fourth line. This will not be the last of such construction and I suggest Eskom look at alternative areas where they can build these lines.	Francois Conradie, Saaiplaas Farmer, Komsberg & Roggeveld Farmer, comment by e-mail 21 June 2014.	Thank you for your comment. Your comment, has been noted.
159.	The roads are damaged so badly by the construction vehicles and trucks. Underground pipes have been damaged in three places and, pipes running underneath a cement surface have also been damaged. The heavy traffic on the road has caused a lot of potholes and the surface of the road has been badly damaged. It appears that the Northern Cape government is bankrupt so now the farmers are sitting with the mess.	Francois Conradie, Saaiplaas Farmer, Komsberg & Roggeveld Farmer, comment by e-mail 21 June 2014.	Kentridge Makhanya: Comment is noted
160.	Both my bakkies have cracked windscreen caused by construction vehicles driving y too fast. If this line is built next to a tarred road you will experience none of these problems.	Francois Conradie, Saaiplaas Farmer, Komsberg & Roggeveld Farmer, comment by e-mail 21 June 2014.	Kentridge Makhanya: All problems and difficulties experienced during the construction phase should be addressed with the independent ECO/Landowner Liaison Officer appointed on the project. The ECO will then make sure that corrective and preventative measures are in place to rectify such matters.
161.	Because I farm in the Roggeveld and in Moordenaarskaroo I used the road that runs with the power lines a lot. Apart from the damage to my vehicle and the potholes in the road it also takes a lot longer to drive the road	Francois Conradie, Saaiplaas Farmer, Komsberg & Roggeveld Farmer, comment by e-mail 21 June 2014.	Thank you, comment has been noted.

	which leads to a higher maintenance costs.		
162.	I run a game farm where we hunt Springbok, and we do not hunt close to the power lines for obvious reasons. Should you another line be running over my farm it will definitely affect my business negatively.	Francois Conradie, Saaiplaas Farmer, Komsberg & Roggeveld Farmer, comment by e-mail 21 June 2014.	Thank you, comment has been noted.
163.	The power lines have a negative effect on bird life – I can show you the carcasses. The existing line lies directly in the flight path of the birds. If the line is built next to the N1 it will not be in the flight path of the birds which means there will be less casualties.	Francois Conradie, Saaiplaas Farmer, Komsberg & Roggeveld Farmer, comment by e-mail 21 June 2014.	All problems and difficulties experienced during the construction phase should be addressed with the independent ECO/Landowner Liaison Officer appointed on the project. The ECO will then make sure that corrective and preventative measures are in place to rectify such matters. Eskom has partnered with EWT, whose intension is to save the vulture colonies and inforce proper mitigation measures such as bird flappers and diverters. The unfortunate incident should hav been brought to Eskom’s attention and they would have gladly investigated the incident.
164.	On my farm I have stone walls that was built in the 1800 and its been declared a heritage site. The 2nd line runs through my stonewall.	Francois Conradie, Saaiplaas Farmer, Komsberg & Roggeveld Farmer, comment by e-mail 21 June 2014.	Thank you for your comment. Avoiding sensitive areas will be considered and if there is no other route, then mitigation measures will be applied to balance the supply of electricity with minimal impacts to the heritage sites.
165.	I also have a windmill on my farm close to one of the exiting lines. If theres ..... in the air I can t get the windmill to work because of the electric shock. I reported this to Eskom but they haven’t addressed my problem.	Francois Conradie, Saaiplaas Farmer, Komsberg & Roggeveld Farmer, comment by e-mail 21 June 2014.	Kentridge Makhanya: Please report such matters to the independent ECO on the project
166.	With the upgrading of the two substations on my farm some nasty alien vegetation was brought in – probably with the sand. I contacted Eskom but received no help. I’ve had to get rid of the alien vegetation Eskom brought on to my farm. We have no knowledge of this plant and it is not	Francois Conradie, Saaiplaas Farmer, Komsberg & Roggeveld Farmer, comment by e-mail 21 June 2014.	Kentridge Makhanya: Please report such matters to the independent ECO on the project

	familiar to our area.		
167.	<p>Before construction of the last 765 line the contractors met with the farmers. The new line was built 80 meters from the access road from the previous line – this same road would be used for the new line. I asked them to open roads to each “paal” to avoid people creating unnecessary access roads. The environmentalist said no to my request. Now we sit with the problems I predicted – see attached photo.</p>	<p>Francois Conradie, Saaiplaas Farmer, Komsberg &amp; Roggeveld Farmer, comment by e-mail 21 June 2014.</p>	<p>Kentridge Makhanya: Noted</p>
168.	<p>Building a line on the Southern route offers the following:</p> <p>The new line can run parallel to the tarred N1 which means the landowner’s roads will not be damaged as much. North of the N1 is another access road (trekpad) that the farmers use – this is ideal when servicing the power line. You would not have to build a new road.</p> <p>This will have no visual impact of the N1 road users. We understand that this is the way route 1 has been pegged – and is possible. I can’t comprehend why route 2 was suggested.</p>	<p>Francois Conradie, Saaiplaas Farmer, Komsberg &amp; Roggeveld Farmer, comment by e-mail 21 June 2014.</p>	<p>Thank you for your comment, and it has been noted.</p>
169.	<p>Because there’s an existing road there are gates and fence which means a huge saving in time and cost.</p>	<p>Francois Conradie, Saaiplaas Farmer, Komsberg &amp; Roggeveld Farmer, comment by e-mail 21 June 2014.</p>	<p>Thank you for your comment, and it has been noted.</p>
170.	<p>The Moordenaarskaroo is a fossil rich area and the power lines are destroying it. Parts next to the N1 are not as rich in fossils and falls in the</p>	<p>Francois Conradie, Saaiplaas Farmer, Komsberg &amp; Roggeveld Farmer, comment by e-mail 21</p>	<p>Thank you for your comment, and it has been noted.</p>

	eccs groek fossils.	June 2014.	
171.	<p>This area has a lot of sun and very little clouds which makes it ideal for solar farms in order to generate electricity for the Cape.</p> <p>We have a lot of veldblom spesies that are damaged by the construction of the roads and power lines.</p>	<p>Francois Conradie, Saaiplaas Farmer, Komsberg &amp; Roggeveld Farmer, comment by e-mail 21 June 2014.</p>	<p>Kentridge Makhanya: Noted</p>
172.	<p>If you use the existing access road (trek pad) it will not be necessary to build new river crossings. The road is fairly straight and level.</p>	<p>Francois Conradie, Saaiplaas Farmer, Komsberg &amp; Roggeveld Farmer, comment by e-mail 21 June 2014.</p>	<p>Thank you for your comment</p>
173.	<p>The area rainfall is different and does not lead to wetlands in the winter.</p>	<p>Francois Conradie, Saaiplaas Farmer, Komsberg &amp; Roggeveld Farmer, comment by e-mail 21 June 2014.</p>	<p>Thank you for your comment</p>
174.	<p>The area has 100% cell phone reception whilst the area where the Northern lines are has no reception.</p>	<p>Francois Conradie, Saaiplaas Farmer, Komsberg &amp; Roggeveld Farmer, comment by e-mail 21 June 2014.</p>	<p>Thank you for your comment</p>
175.	<p>Impact study: I am not too impressed with the impact study that was done for the power lines. It looks like it was taken from Google Earth.</p> <p>They never noticed that I have a guesthouse on the proposed route in spite of a big notice board. – see attached picture</p> <p>As far as I know there was not much communication with the people in the area – someone just came and took a few photos.</p>	<p>Francois Conradie, Saaiplaas Farmer, Komsberg &amp; Roggeveld Farmer, comment by e-mail 21 June 2014.</p>	<p>Thank you for the comment.</p> <p>Your comment has been noted. I would like to believe that for you to be registered as an interested and affected party and to receive the report, some form of communication must have been made with you.</p> <p>We had advertised in different newspapers, so to inform people about the project.</p> <p>The tourism report, has been formatted, so as to make it more</p>

	<p>No one can read the part on tourism as there are no spaces between the words.</p> <p>The reports were not of good quality – binding came loose, too many pages for binding rings.</p> <p>Recommendations were made without any motivations.</p> <p>I hope Eskom will look at the facts, whether it comes from an advocate, Cape Nature or whomever before making any decisions.</p>		<p>readable.</p> <p>When the reports, left our offices they were in good condition and from our side the binding rings did fit. We however did send you an electronic copy as well, for such incidences as those that you just mentioned.</p> <p>Nevertheless we do apologise on behalf of the post office.</p> <p>Your comments, will be included in the final report. They will be looked at by Eskom and by the Department.</p>
176.	Eskom should mark Roggeveld and Moordenaarskaroo a NO GO area on their maps.	Francois Conradie, Saaiplaas Farmer, Komsberg & Roggeveld Farmer, comment by e-mail 21 June 2014.	Kentridge Makhanya: Comment received
177.	If Eskom cannot build a line to the South of Roggeveld and Moordenaarskaroo they should consider building it further North from us. We are going to take this fight to court if we have to since we feel we have done more than enough to accommodate power lines.	Francois Conradie, Saaiplaas Farmer, Komsberg & Roggeveld Farmer, comment by e-mail 21 June 2014.	Kentridge Makhanya: Comment received
178.	We hope that Eskom will listen to us, the farmers in the Roggeveld and Moordenaarskaroo are who helped them a lot, and find an alternative area to build their new line. I also understand the line next to the N1 has a servitude – which service towns and stations.	Francois Conradie, Saaiplaas Farmer, Komsberg & Roggeveld Farmer, comment by e-mail 21 June 2014.	Kentridge Makhanya: Comment received
<b>CapeNature’s Objections</b>			
179.	Dear Shawn,	Alana Duffell-Canham, Cape	Dear Alana, Thank you for your e-mails and comments on the

	<p>Please will you pass on the attached comments to Nzumbulelo Heritage solutions. Please note that whilst some examples of errors and omissions have been provided in our comments, we cannot provide a comprehensive list of all the factual, grammatical and other errors evident throughout the report. Suffice it to say that the report needs a significant amount of review and editing by the consultants.                  Kind regards, Alana</p>	<p>Nature Scientific Services, comments by e-mail, 11 July 2014</p>	<p>Eskom Gamma-Kappa and Kappa-Omega DEIR. I hereby acknowledge receiving both e-mails and attached comment letters.                   Sincerely,                  Shawn Johnston</p>
180.	<p>CapeNature would like to thank you for the opportunity to comment on this proposed activity and wish to make the following comments:</p> <p>Overview:                  1. The information provided in the main report regarding the description of the study area is generalised and does not focus on the vegetation found in the study area. Although the report states that this section of the power line is found within the Karoo Biome, the biodiversity descriptions (page 62) focus on Fynbos and not on the Karoo vegetation types which are found in the area such as Gamka Karoo, Tanqua Karoo, Eastern Upper Karoo, Upper Karoo, Koedoeberge-Moerdenaars Karoo, Karoo Hardeveld, Southern Karoo Riverine vegetation and Tanqua Wash Riviere.</p>	<p>Alana Duffell-Canham, Cape Nature Scientific Services, comments by e-mail, 11 July 2014</p>	<p>Thank you for your comment. As we are not ecology specialists, we appointed a specialist to prepare a report which is not generalised. If you believe that our information is generalised, please refer to the specialist reports, who are qualified and have the expertise on ecology (Fauna and fauna ) hence they were appointed to detail the study and we believe they did everything in their ability to do their studies.</p>
181.	<p>2. Older references were used such as Low and Rebelo (1996) which are not entirely inaccurate but more recent resources do exist which should</p>	<p>Alana Duffell-Canham, Cape Nature Scientific Services, comments by e-mail, 11 July</p>	<p>Thank you for your comment and comments have been noted.</p>

	be used (see pages 74, 124 & 125). Numerous grammatical errors also make the description of the various regions difficult to read.	2014	
182.	3. The report does not provide a description of how the three route alternatives to be investigated were decided upon. Furthermore, the report does not provide a clear step- by-step explanation of how the preferred route alternative was decided upon. A table should be provided clearly outlining the pros, cons and fatal flaws for each route alternative. From the specialist studies provided it appears that not all specialist studies concurred with regard to which power line route should be the preferred route.	Alana Duffell-Canham, Cape Nature Scientific Services, comments by e-mail, 11 July 2014	Thank you for your comment. All the specialists, have a recommendation section where they advise as to which route is the most preferred. Within the DEIR on page 151 to 171 under "CONCLUSIONS DRAWN FROM EIA PROCESS", we have given a description of how the specialist came about to choosing their preferred route. You can also refer to the specialist reports, for a more detailed explanation.
183.	4. The main report also only provides a very general discussion of impacts. Whilst the information provided is insufficient to draw any conclusions regarding the significance of site specific impacts of the preferred route and of the other route alternatives. This basically results in the Environmental Impact Report (EIR) being no more informative than the Scoping Report. The Scoping Report should have provided sufficient information to determine the preferred corridor. The EIA phase of the project should have investigated the preferred corridor in detail. CapeNature notes that it is the applicant's intention to conduct a walk-down and to conduct negotiations with the landowners regarding the final positions of the pylons and access roads only after environmental authorisation has been received. However, the footprint of the roads	Alana Duffell-Canham, Cape Nature Scientific Services, comments by e-mail, 11 July 2014	<p>It is not the objective of this report to attempt to demarcate all sections of power line for all the alternative corridors that would need to be mitigated for potential collisions or disturbance of Red Data breeding species. This can only be done once the final alignments have been selected and tower positions have been finalized. Site specific impacts will be considered during the walk down.</p> <p>The specialist went to site, to do their assessments so as to indicate which route is the most preferred.</p> <p>During the EIA stage the final positions of the pylons, footprint, stockpiling, parking turning areas and access road can not be detailed as we do not know which route will be authorised only this will be done during the walkdown and also on the site specific EMP which will be done when Eskoms receives a positive authorisation. A number of specialist including the fauna and flora will participate in the walk down as well with Eskom representatives in mapping the route and marking pylon position.</p> <p>Further more sensitive areas will be avoided and more</p>

	<p>and pylons is significant and it is necessary to assess these impacts at a much finer-scale than what has currently been done. Our previous comments specifically requested that the entire development footprint including access routes, stockpiling areas, parking and turning areas be assessed. Many shrubs in the Karoo never recover from being driven over as many are extremely slow-growing. For example, a normal "karoobossie" like <i>Pentzia</i> spp., <i>Eriocephalus</i> spp., <i>Dicoma</i> spp., <i>Monechma</i> spp., etc.) is often over 300 years old. Decision-makers need to be aware of site-specific issues regardless of the length of power line being assessed.</p>		<p>mitigation measures will be put during the walkdown as areas differ.</p>
<p>184.</p>	<p>5. Some of the recommendations made on pages 180 to 182 of the report are confusing and questionable. For example recommendation number 6 states that the line should be patrolled annually and areas where collisions have occurred then be marked reactively. Note that bird carcasses which may be present as a result of collisions and electrocutions quickly decompose or are scavenged and disappear within days, how will collision sites be determined if the line is not patrolled for months at a time? With regard to point 9 "avoid sensitive habitats", the level of detail and the scale of maps provided for the sensitivity assessment are not adequate to accurately determine all areas of high sensitivity. Sensitive areas must be groundtruthed and mapped in detail.</p>	<p>Alana Duffell-Canham, Cape Nature Scientific Services, comments by e-mail, 11 July 2014</p>	<p>This can only be done once the final alignments have been selected and tower positions have been finalized. Site specific impacts will be considered during the walk down and incorporated in the site specific EMP.</p>



<p>185.</p>	<p>6. The maps provided in the report which indicate underlying features are at a broad scale. Some of the maps indicating specific features are not linked to specific text in the report nor do they provide any explanation of the importance or relevance of the features in terms of how they influenced the selection of the route alternatives. For example, the "Flora Sites Map" shows "key vegetation community", "special habitat location" and "habitat of threatened/rare species" but no explanation is provided as to the importance of these sites or their relevance to the proposed power lines. Furthermore, these maps are unlikely to provide an indication of all important sites would become evident at a finer scale and the sites indicated on the map are largely irrelevant to the proposed power line route options. The river maps are also not useful at the scale provided as specific landscape features and sizes of features cannot be identified. The Natural features map also requires more explanation in the report, what is the importance of these features and how did they impact on the power line route selection, why are the "Natural features" as indicated in the title and map legend also "Scenic Landscape Features" as indicated by the labels on the map? Many of these features are hundreds of kilometres from the power line routes, what is their relevance to the power line route alternatives and the selection of the preferred route?</p>	<p>Alana Duffell-Canham, Cape Nature Scientific Services, comments by e-mail, 11 July 2014</p>	<p>Thank you for your comment.</p>
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186.	7. A concerning omission in that the main report does not provide maps indicating Critical Biodiversity Areas (CBAs), aquatic CBAs or Freshwater Ecosystem Priority Areas (FEPAs). CBAs, FEPAs and protected areas are key biodiversity informants that should be used to inform site/route selection. Although some of the specialist reports contain maps indicating these features, the main report should also contain these maps and reference to their importance.	Alana Duffell-Canham, Cape Nature Scientific Services, comments by e-mail, 11 July 2014	Thank you for your comment. We have included the maps you require, under appendix 1. However, we would like to believe that, if those maps are included in the specialist report then they are part of our report. All the appendices included , are part of the report. This includes, all the specialist reports attached.
187.	8. Another important map that should be provided is one indicating Important Bird Areas (IBAs). Karoo National Park and Anysberg Nature Reserve have been determined as IBAs.	Alana Duffell-Canham, Cape Nature Scientific Services, comments by e-mail, 11 July 2014	Thank you for your comment. We have included the maps you require, under appendix 1. However, we would like to believe that, if those maps are included in the specialist report then they are part of our report. All the appendices included , are part of the report. This includes, all the specialist reports attached.
188.	9. In future, please provide the correct shape files digitally early on in the process so we can overlay these onto our information.	Alana Duffell-Canham, Cape Nature Scientific Services, comments by e-mail, 11 July 2014	Comment noted
189.	Ecology Specialist Study: 10. The ecology study is largely desk-top based with minimal ground-truthing conducted. The information regarding field assessments is not clear i.e. more details are required with regard to when the site visits were conducted as well as the extent of the area covered etc. Whilst CapeNature understands that the specialists had time and budgetary constraints, we remain of the opinion that more groundtruthing should	Alana Duffell-Canham, Cape Nature Scientific Services, comments by e-mail, 11 July 2014	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- All available and regionally known faunal and floral reference databases were considered or assessed in order to assure that the assessments take as many of the potential species as well as important habitats into consideration as possible given the extent of the various alternatives.</li> <li>- However, consideration should be given to extreme extent each of the proposed alternatives cover that resulted in the likelihood of all documented species as well as a vast variety of different habitats being present along portions of the routes. It should also be noted that the study was aimed at assessing 2km wide corridor alternatives and as such detailed assessments are not practicable at this stage of the investigations.</li> </ul>

	<p>have been done especially within CBAs and in areas within or near protected areas. Using information for plants and fauna at a quarter degree scale has only limited usefulness and species lists are certainly not comprehensive and we question the use of this as a key informant for determining route sensitivity. The ecology study is sufficient to indicate that possibly route alternative 1 will have less impact than the other route alternatives but there is insufficient information regarding site specific impacts and mitigation measures to determine if this route is acceptable in terms of impacts on biodiversity or whether additional route alternatives (other than those alternatives already provided) should be sought and investigated.</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The assessment approach was aimed at identification and prioritisation of portions along the various alternatives that are considered most likely to be able to sustain the most diverse and sensitive faunal and floral populations and where more care would be required in the planning, construction and operational phases of the project. It has been made clear in the reports developed that as part of the planning phase of the development a walk down be undertaken of all areas considered of higher ecological importance identified within the baseline report for the selected route within the selected corridor. By so doing areas of least concern can be identified for the construction of support structures.</li> <li>- It should further be noted that where portions of routes were identified that were considered 'no go' areas, it has been highlighted in the report and where possible alternative alignment has been proposed or recommended.</li> <li>-</li> </ul>
190.	<p>11. With regard to sensitivity mapping, it appears that the ecology study equates ecological sensitivity to ecological importance but they are not in fact the same.</p>	<p>Alana Duffell-Canham, Cape Nature Scientific Services, comments by e-mail, 11 July 2014</p>	<p>The client has been provided with the GIS files indicating areas considered to be of very high and high sensitivity identified using all desktop information available with special mention of fine scale plans as well as site visits.</p>
191.	<p>12. From information provided later we gathered that CBA maps were used in sensitivity mapping but are not listed in the criteria provided on pages 60 to 63 of the ecology study. In addition, it appears that the ecology study equates ecological sensitivity to ecological importance but they are not always necessarily the same.</p>	<p>Alana Duffell-Canham, Cape Nature Scientific Services, comments by e-mail, 11 July 2014</p>	<p>It is the opinion of the specialists that alternative route alignment be considered around these areas and that CBAs be avoided as far as possible regardless of what faunal or floral species are found within them. By so doing the site specific impacts associated with these areas will most likely be avoided.</p>
192.	<p>13. The ecology study gives some consideration to general mitigation of construction related impacts but does not adequately consider impacts that may occur during the operational</p>	<p>Alana Duffell-Canham, Cape Nature Scientific Services, comments by e-mail, 11 July 2014</p>	<p>-Site specific mitigation measures can then be developed for areas where re-alignment is not an option, however this would require detailed site assessments of all these areas; possibly as a 'second phase' assessment that can inform the EIA prior to final submission or prior to finalisation of the EMP for the project. This will allow for the</p>

	<p>phase of the power line. Brushcutting and fire management is not as much of an issue in the Karoo as it is in the Fynbos but there are other issues such as management of erosion along access roads to consider. Feedback from landowners regarding this issue under the existing power lines has largely been unfavourable.</p>		<p>further development of site specific construction and operational mitigation measures.                  - It should be noted that the assessment was based on a worst case scenario and are therefore considered indicative of the significance of impact that could result due to vegetation clearing and construction related activities within each sensitivity class.</p>
193.	<p>Avifaunal Specialist Study:                  14. Impacts on birds are of high concern for any large power line project. However, there is sufficient information and research to indicate that if the lines are aggregated, they will be more visible and birds will be able to more easily navigate around the power lines which suggests that the preferred alignment should closely follow the first 765kV line route (i.e. alternative 2 should be the preferred route alternative). The findings of the avifaunal specialist study supports this. We note that the bat study also concluded that it would be better to have two major obstacles in close proximity. However, the cumulative loss of habitat resulting from having more than one power line in close proximity should also be taken into account.</p>	<p>Alana Duffell-Canham, Cape Nature Scientific Services, comments by e-mail, 11 July 2014</p>	<p>Thank you for your comment. Your concerns, have been acknowledged.</p>
194.	<p>Wetland and River Assessment:                  15. The "Surface Water Study" entailed a fair amount of ground truthing of the main river channels and entailed mapping of significant riparian areas. The study done for the Gamma to Kappa study area is more detailed than the one</p>	<p>Alana Duffell-Canham, Cape Nature Scientific Services, comments by e-mail, 11 July 2014</p>	<p>Thank you for your comment.</p>

	done for the Kappa to Omega study area as all the main river corridors have been delineated and no-go areas have been identified and mapped. It appears Alternative 3 has the least sensitive areas and areas requiring avoidance.		
195.	Tourism Impact Assessment: 16.This study was of potential interest to CapeNature as the power lines could have a potential impact on our protected areas, especially visual impacts as well as impacts on biodiversity. Unfortunately, this report provided as Appendix 11 is completely illegible as the words in each paragraph are joined.	Alana Duffell-Canham, Cape Nature Scientific Services, comments by e-mail, 11 July 2014	The TIAS does not identify permanent negative or prohibitive barrier to the developing the proposed powerline in any of the alternative servitudes. As such, this study supports the preferred route subject to it being the most suitable from other impact and technical recommendations.
196.	Environmental Management Plan: 17. The EMP needs to be updated to include inter alia a map clearly indicating areas of high sensitivity/no-go areas, more information regarding site rehabilitation after construction as well as operational management measures for on-going alien clearing and fire management. 18. Note that should certain plant species need to be removed or translocated this may require a permit from CapeNature. As the exact footprint of the infrastructure is unknown and has therefore not been assessed in detail at this stage it is unknown whether any of the relevant species will be affected. This may cause delays later on.	Alana Duffell-Canham, Cape Nature Scientific Services, comments by e-mail, 11 July 2014	Thank you for your comment. The EMP which was included, is more of generic because it covers the whole area in general. If Eskom receives an authorisation, they will appoint an independent consultant, who will further appoint specialists to do a walk down in order to compile a site specific/impact specific EMP.  Depending on where the pylons will be placed, and whether any plant species will be removed, yes Eskom will apply for a permit. As you have mentioned, at this stage we do not know.
197.	Protected Areas: 19.We are pleased to note that none of the route alternatives for this section of the power line are	Alana Duffell-Canham, Cape Nature Scientific Services, comments by e-mail, 11 July	Thank you for your comment. We have had several meetings with farmers associations, so as to consider their inputs. Please refer to appendix 15.

	<p>proposed through any CapeNature Nature Reserves. However, alternatives 2 and 3 do run through a Protected Environment – namely Spitzkop which is in the process of being officially declared. Alternative 3 also runs through Karoo National Park.</p> <p>20. It is not only protected areas that are of concern. Inputs from landowners regarding sensitive areas and desired management objectives of their land must also be seriously taken into consideration (this does not appear to have been done so far).</p>	<p>2014</p>	<p>Eskom also does take responsibility to inform all the landowners along the approved route.</p>
<p>198.</p>	<p>Conclusion:                  21. Whilst the information provided does indicate that biodiversity impacts resulting from power line route alternative 2 may possibly be more acceptable than the other route alternatives, there is too little information to determine if these impacts can be avoided or adequately mitigated as the EIR places too much reliance on post-authorisation measures such as walk downs of the preferred route at which stage issues, which should have been discovered and dealt with during the EIA, could be discovered and cause major delays to the project. Alternatively these issues could be overlooked as authorisation will have already been obtained. Issues and requirements identified by I&amp;APs during the Scoping phase have been largely skimmed over in the EIR and comments and response report. CapeNature therefore objects to this application and is of the</p>	<p>Alana Duffell-Canham, Cape Nature Scientific Services, comments by e-mail, 11 July 2014</p>	<p>It is not the objective of this report to attempt to demarcate all sections of power line for all the alternative corridors that would need to be mitigated for potential collisions or disturbance of Red Data breeding species. This can only be done once the final alignments have been selected and tower positions have been finalized. At this stage, the following recommendations are put forward from a potential bird impact perspective:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <input type="checkbox"/> For the reasons stated above, corridor 2 emerged as the alternative with the lowest risk to birds. It is therefore recommended that this alignment is used.</li> <li>• <input type="checkbox"/> Prior to construction commencing, a helicopter inspection should be conducted in order for the avifaunal specialist and/or the Endangered Wildlife Trust (EWT) to record any large raptor nests on existing transmission lines that could be impacted by the construction of the proposed line.</li> <li>• <input type="checkbox"/> Should any nests be recorded, it would require management of the potential impacts on the breeding birds once construction commences, which would necessitate the involvement of the EWT, and the Environmental Control Officer. An effective communication strategy should be implemented whereby the EWT is provided with a construction</li> </ul>

	opinion that a decision to authorise this application should not be made based on the inadequate, incorrect (and in places illegible) report and appendices provided.		<p>schedule which will enable them to ascertain when and where breeding Red Data eagles could be impacted by the construction activities. This could then be addressed through the timing of construction activities during critical periods of the breeding cycle, once it has been established that a particular nest is active.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>□ Once the final alignments and tower positions have been selected, the sections of the line that would need the application of Bird Flight Diversers to mitigate for potential collisions should be indicated by the avifaunal specialist. This exercise should be informed by an analysis of satellite imagery supplemented by on site ground-truthing.</li> </ul>
199.	CapeNature reserves the right to revise initial comments and request further information based on any additional information that may be received.	Alana Duffell-Canham, Cape Nature Scientific Services, comments by e-mail, 11 July 2014	Comment noted.
<b>ACED Hidden Valley Wind Energy Facility Objections</b>			
200.	<p>Dear Shawn,</p> <p>This is to formerly offer comment on the DEIR of proposed routing of the 2nd Eskom 765kV transmission line by African Clean Energy Developments Pty Ltd (ACED).</p> <p>While ACED supports the expansion of the National Grid, we are not in support of the proposed routing of the 2nd Eskom 765kV transmission line. The reasons for this are as follows:</p> <p>The current proposed routing of the line traverses a number of land portions under lease by ACED (Remaining Extent of Standvastigheid 210, Portion 3 of Rheebokke Fontein 209,</p>	James Cumming, ACED Hidden Valley Wind Farm, comment by e-mail, 11 August 2014.	Kentridge Makhanya: Meeting will be arranged

	<p>Portion 2 of Rheeboeke Fontein 209) for wind farm development between Sutherland and Matjiesfontein. More specifically, the line is shown to pass directly through key strings of planned turbine positions and a facility 132kV overhead line on these land portions - see example below (blue line = access roads, straight blue line = proposed line routing, green line = facility HV OHL).</p> <p>The wind farms in question are in the advanced stages of development and will likely be constructed before the line is built and commissioned. ACED kindly requests that Eskom engage with ACED and its partners on these projects in proposing a more suitable routing, avoiding our leased land, such that our planned turbine positions and overhead line are avoided and no risks are posed to our wind farm developments.</p>		
<b>Merweville Farmers Association Objections</b>			
201.	<p>Mr. Johnston, find attached two documents (objections and list of objectors) from the Merweville Farmers Association relating to the fourth Eskom transmission line.</p>	<p>Marie Bothma, Merweville Farmers Association, comment by e-mail, 11 August 2014.</p>	<p>Thank you for the comment.</p>
202.	<p>The Merweville Farmers Association hereby object against the fourth transmission line next to the three existing transmission lines in the Merweville area.</p>	<p>Marie Bothma, Merweville Farmers Association, comment by e-mail, 11 August 2014.</p>	<p>Thank you for your comment.</p>
203.	<p>Reasons for the objection are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There are already 3 transmission line in the area with a negative impact on the</li> </ul>	<p>Marie Bothma, Merweville Farmers Association, comment by e-mail, 11 August 2014.</p>	<p>Kentridge Makhanya: Comment received</p>



	<p>area;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• On many farms three transmission lines already exist. Farmers cannot afford to provide Eskom with an additional 2km wide servitude to utilise. The farmers in this area are mainly small stick farmers and derive their livelihood from this type of farming. The average farm size is 3500 ha with an average of 10 ha for small stock farming. The size of the farms have not been factored into the line planning;</li> <li>• The construction of the 3<sup>rd</sup> line (1<sup>st</sup> 765kV) has been a huge frustration for the local community. After three years of construction it has not been completed;</li> <li>• The total veld area over which the construction was done has been destroyed. The footprint area will take years to rehabilitate and restore;</li> <li>• Large areas were destroyed by the large trucks and tractors. The agreement was for small footprint areas and not large areas;</li> <li>• Game and stock farming has been impacted on over the three years of construction. This includes injuries to animals and death of animals. Loss of fence lines and gates;</li> <li>• Eskom gates were left open and led to the mixing of game and cattle on farms;</li> <li>• The Eskom servitude roads are being</li> </ul>		
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	<p>used by people passing through the area;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The mains roads into the area has been destroyed by the large construction vehicles; and,</li> <li>• The workers who resided in a compound in Merweville left the community with huge social problems.</li> </ul> <p>In light of our objections we want Eskom to note that the Merweville community object to the second 765kV transmission line. Please take our comment seriously. Find attached our list of 72 objectors.</p>		
204.	<p>We strongly object to the proposed 2<sup>nd</sup> 765kV transmission line.</p> <p>We already have 3 transmission lines crossing our farms.</p>	<p>Johnny Moche, Manager,                  Riverport Trading, 273                  LEEUFONTEIN, 416                  KNOFFELFONTEIN and 80/3                  WELGEMOED Farms</p>	<p>Kentridge Makhanya: Comment received</p>
205.	<p>2. We are busy with the development of the CAPE KAROO NATURE RESERVE on the affected farms. It is about t ± 20 000 ha. This second line would affect our nature reserve extremely negative. Our project will be a large scale job creation initiative that will provide jobs for 120 - 200 persons. With job opportunities for previously disadvantage communities. The second line would endanger this project.</p>	<p>Johnny Moche, Manager,                  Riverport Trading, 273                  LEEUFONTEIN, 416                  KNOFFELFONTEIN and 80/3                  WELGEMOED Farms</p>	<p>Thank you for your comment. We will definitely take these comments into consideration.</p>
206.	<p>3. With the construction of the 1<sup>st</sup> 765kV transmission line a large amount of our game were poached and stolen and a second line</p>	<p>Johnny Moche, Manager,                  Riverport Trading, 273                  LEEUFONTEIN, 416</p>	<p>Kentridge Makhanya: All problems and difficulties experienced during the construction phase should be addressed with the independent ECO/Landowner Liaison Officer appointed on the</p>

	would affect our farms negatively.	KNOFFELFONTEIN and 80/3 WELGEMOED Farms	project. The ECO will then make sure that corrective and preventative measures are in place to rectify such matters.
207.	4. The gravel roads were badly affected and no repairs were made.	Johnny Moche, Manager, Riverport Trading, 273 LEEUFONTEIN, 416 KNOFFELFONTEIN and 80/3 WELGEMOED Farms	Kentridge Makhanya: Damaged roads should always be fully rehabilitated. Rehabilitation of roads will be addressed amongst other impacts which will have mitigation measure inside the site specific EMP document. All problems and difficulties experienced during the construction phase should be addressed with the independent ECO/Landowner Liaison Officer appointed on the project.
208.	5. The vegetation along the transmission lines is heavily impacted on. It will take years for the vegetation to rehabilitate.	Johnny Moche, Manager, Riverport Trading, 273 LEEUFONTEIN, 416 KNOFFELFONTEIN and 80/3 WELGEMOED Farms	Concern has been noted.
209.	We have requested of Eskom to move the transmission lines (the line lying 1km north of the two 400kVs) as it is situated 50m from the other lines. We are completely against the building of the 2 <sup>nd</sup> 765kV and propose a route along the N1 as depicted in one of the alternatives.	Johnny Moche, Manager, Riverport Trading, 273 LEEUFONTEIN, 416 KNOFFELFONTEIN and 80/3 WELGEMOED Farms	Thank you for your comment. We have informed Eskom of the recommendation you have made. They will be looking at whether that route you are proposing is cost and technically viable.
<b>Southern African Square Kilometer Array Project (SKA) Comments &amp; Objections</b>			
210.	Re: Development of 765kV Transmission Line between Gamma and Kappa Substations This letter is in response to your package posted to the South African SKA Project Office, Rosebank, and provides an assessment on the potential development of a 765kV transmission line between the Gamma and Kappa substations (DEA Ref.: 14/12/16/3/3/2/353), and the risk it may pose on the Square Kilometre Array	Dr. Adrian Tiplay, South African SKA Site Bid Manager, comment by e-mail, 12 April 2014	Thank you for the information. Your comments have been noted and we will definitely inform you on the progress of the project.

	<p>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 power infrastructure on the Square Kilometre Array. This letter serves to confirm the outcomes of the risk assessment, and proposals for any future investigations associated with this facility.</p> <p>i. The location of the proposed transmission line has been provided in the document pack sent by Nzumbululo. The nearest SKA stations to this transmission line have been considered;</p> <p>ii. Based on distances to the nearest SKA stations, and the information currently available on the detailed design of the PV installation, Line S2 poses a low risk of detrimental impact on the SKA along the entire route. Should Line S1 or S3 be considered, we advise that the route on each of these options may need to be reconsidered for approximately 20km;</p> <p>iii. 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;</p> <p>iv. 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>		
211.	This technical advice is provided by the South	Dr. Adrian Tiplay, South African	Comment noted.

	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.	SKA Site Bid Manager, comment by e-mail, 12 April 2014.	
212.	Dear Helen, We recently received the draft EIA report for the proposed 765kV transmission line via post. However, we could not locate the section or reference that deals with our submission and comments - I refer you to the attached letter sent to you in April 2013. This may be because we mistakenly passed through it - please could you direct us to the relevant section for us to review your response to our concerns. Kind Regards, Dr. Adrian Tiplady SKA Site Bid Manager	Dr. Adrian Tiplay, South African SKA Site Bid Manager, comment by e-mail, 20 June 2014.	Comment noted.
<b>Western Cape Department of Transport Comments</b>			
213.	Your correspondence NEAS Ref DEA/EIA/0001267/2012 and DEA Ref 14/12/16/3/3/2/353 dated 31 May 2014 refers.	M.L. Watters, Road Network Management, Western Cape Department of Transport, comment by e-mail, 30 June 2014.	Comments noted.
214.	Comment is required on a Basic EIA Report for the proposed Gamma-Kappa 2 <sup>nd</sup> 765kV power line and related infrastructure upgrade in Northern and Western Cape. The proposal consist of three possible route options. All three proposed routes start plus minus 40 km north-	M.L. Watters, Road Network Management, Western Cape Department of Transport, comment by e-mail, 30 June 2014.	Comments noted.

	east of Three Sisters and they terminate plus minus 21km north of Touwsrivier.		
215.	<p>This Branch, the Road Authority of numerous roads in the vicinity of all three proposed route options, has the following initial comments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SANRAL is the Controlling Authority of all National Roads and such SANRAL would need to provide comment and approval on any proposed route which affects National Road 1. SANRAL should also be listed as an I&amp;AP. Correspondance to SANRAL can be addressed to the Regional Manager, SANRAL, Private Bag X19, Bellville, 7530.</li> <li>• This Branch's standard conditions for the provision of power lines/cables over, under or along Trunk, Main, Divisional and Minor Roads must be complied with at all times in the case of any work undertaken within the statutory width or within a distance of 95 metres from the centre line of trunk, main, divisional and minor roads.</li> </ul>	M.L. Watters, Road Network Management, Western Cape Department of Transport, comment by e-mail, 30 June 2014.	Thank you for your comment
216.	As this Branch is not opposed to the proposed power line and infrastructure upgrade, it will comment in detail during the required application for wayleaves on the various roads affected by the proposed power line and infrastructure upgrade.	M.L. Watters, Road Network Management, Western Cape Department of Transport, comment by e-mail, 30 June 2014.	Thank you for your comment.
<b>Department of Environmental Affairs and Development Planning (D:EA&amp;DP) Western Cape Province</b>			
217.	The following comments are relevant, which will	Loretta Osborne, Department of	Thank you for the comment and your comment has been

	<p>form part of the Department’s final response:</p> <p>2.1. An integrated waste management approach must be used that is based on waste minimisation and must incorporate avoidance, reduction, recycling, re-use and disposal where appropriate.</p>	<p>Environmental Affairs and Development Planning Western Cape, Directorate Land Management: Region 1, comment by e-mail, 22 August 2014.</p>	<p>noted.</p>
218.	<p>2.2 Any solid waste from the proposed development must be disposed of at an appropriately licensed waste disposal facility.</p>	<p>Loretta Osborne, Department of Environmental Affairs and Development Planning Western Cape, Directorate Land Management: Region 1, comment by e-mail, 22 August 2014.</p>	<p>Thank you for the comment.</p>
219.	<p>2.3 No surface or groundwater must be polluted due to any activity on the site.</p>	<p>Loretta Osborne, Department of Environmental Affairs and Development Planning Western Cape, Directorate Land Management: Region 1, comment by e-mail, 22 August 2014.</p>	<p>Comment noted</p>
220.	<p>2.4 Should any archaeological artefacts be exposed during excavation, the construction in the vicinity of the finding must be stopped. Under no circumstances shall any artefacts be destroyed. Such an archaeological site must be marked and fenced off, and South African Heritage Resource Agency must be contacted within 48 hours.</p>	<p>Loretta Osborne, Department of Environmental Affairs and Development Planning Western Cape, Directorate Land Management: Region 1, comment by e-mail, 22 August 2014.</p>	<p>Thank you for the comment.</p>
221.	<p>2.5 Comments received during the Public Participation Process from the Interested and</p>	<p>Loretta Osborne, Department of Environmental Affairs and</p>	<p>Comment Noted</p>

	Affected Parties and the relevant authorities and a Comments and Response Report that adequately addresses any highlighted issues must be included in the final EIA Report.	Development Planning Western Cape, Directorate Land Management: Region 1, comment by e-mail, 22 August 2014.	
222.	2.6 Please ensure that all relevant recommendations and mitigation measures stipulated in the specialist reports are included in the draft Environmental Management Programme to be submitted with the final EIA Report.	Loretta Osborne, Department of Environmental Affairs and Development Planning Western Cape, Directorate Land Management: Region 1, comment by e-mail, 22 August 2014.	Thank you for the comment.
223.	2.7 All original signed declarations are to be included with the final EIA Report submitted to the competent authority for decision-making.	Loretta Osborne, Department of Environmental Affairs and Development Planning Western Cape, Directorate Land Management: Region 1, comment by e-mail, 22 August 2014.	Thank you for the comment.
224.	2.8 The recommendations and mitigation measures stipulated in the specialist reports must be implemented and complied with.	Loretta Osborne, Department of Environmental Affairs and Development Planning Western Cape, Directorate Land Management: Region 1, comment by e-mail, 22 August 2014.	Thank you for the comment.
225.	2.9 The reports refers to sensitive vegetation, however Activity 12 of Government Notice No. R. 546 was not applied for.	Loretta Osborne, Department of Environmental Affairs and Development Planning Western Cape, Directorate Land Management: Region 1,	Comment noted and activity will be applied for.



		comment by e-mail, 22 August 2014.	
226.	2.10 Furthermore, the development also crosses water courses, but Activities 11 and 18 of Government Notice No. R. 544 and Activity 16 of Government Notice R. 546 were not applied for.	Loretta Osborne, Department of Environmental Affairs and Development Planning Western Cape, Directorate Land Management: Region 1, comment by e-mail, 22 August 2014.	Comment noted and activities will be applied for.
227.	2.11 The reports refer to the proposed Kappa Omega 2nd 765kV powerline approximately 415km and substations upgrade and the proposed Gamma Kappa 2nd 765kV powerline approximately 370km and substations upgrade. The lengths should rather be distinguished/differentiated.	Loretta Osborne, Department of Environmental Affairs and Development Planning Western Cape, Directorate Land Management: Region 1, comment by e-mail, 22 August 2014.	Comment noted.
228.	2.12 The route descriptions is also unclear. Detailed route descriptions must be provided.	Loretta Osborne, Department of Environmental Affairs and Development Planning Western Cape, Directorate Land Management: Region 1, comment by e-mail, 22 August 2014.	Comment noted.
229.	2.13 The reports also refer to only one rating matrix. No distinction between impact ratings for individual routes were considered. A comparative assessment of the positive and negative implications of the proposed activity and identified alternatives must be considered.	Loretta Osborne, Department of Environmental Affairs and Development Planning Western Cape, Directorate Land Management: Region 1, comment by e-mail, 22 August 2014.	Thank you for your comment.
230.	2.14 The Botanical assessment does not address	Loretta Osborne, Department of	Comment noted .

	the need for fire for management of indigenous vegetation. Similarly, the EMP only includes Fire Prevention and does not include the managing of vegetation and fire during the operational phase.	Environmental Affairs and Development Planning Western Cape, Directorate Land Management: Region 1, comment by e-mail, 22 August 2014.	
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