

APPENDIX C8
COMMENTS AND RESPONSES REPORT

**GENERAL WASTE DISPOSAL SITE AT THE ESKOM MAJUBA POWER STATION NEAR VOLKSRUST, MPUMALANGA PROVINCE
(DFFE Ref. No.: 14/12/16/3/3/3/403)**

COMMENTS AND RESPONSES REPORT

TABLE OF CONTENT

	PAGE
1. COMMENTS RECEIVED DURING THE 30-DAY ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT REPORT REVIEW & COMMENT PERIOD	1
1.1. Organs of State	1
1.2. Interested and Affected Parties	8
2. COMMENTS RECEIVED DURING THE 30-DAY SCOPING REPORT REVIEW & COMMENT PERIOD	11
1.3. Organs of State	12
1.4. Interested and Affected Parties	25

The EIA process for the General Waste Disposal Site at the Eskom Majuba Power Station was announced on **Friday, 12 November 2021**. The Notification Letter served to invite Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) to register their interest in the project and to submit any comments / queries regarding the proposed project.

The availability of the Scoping Report for review and comment was included in the announcement letter distributed on **Friday, 12 November 2021**. The Scoping Report was made available for a 30-day review and comment period from **Friday, 12 November 2021** until **Monday, 13 December 2021**.

The Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Report was made available for a 30-day review and comment period from **Friday, 01 July 2022** until **Monday, 01 August 2022**. All written comments received to date have been included in this Comments and Responses Report (C&RR), which is included as **Appendix C8** to the final EIA Report.

All comments have been captured verbatim and have not summarised or corrected for grammatical errors.

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS / ACRONYMS

C&RR	Comments and Responses Report	IEA	Integrated Environmental Authorisation
DFFE	Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment	NEMA	National Environmental Management Act
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment	OoS	Organs of State
EMPr	Environmental Management Programme	WML	Waste Management License
I&APs	Interested and Affected Parties		

1. COMMENTS RECEIVED DURING THE 30-DAY ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT REPORT REVIEW & COMMENT PERIOD

1.1. Organs of State

NO.	COMMENT	RAISED BY	RESPONSE
1.	<p>(a) Specific comments</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recommendations provided by specialist reports must be considered and used to inform the preferred layout alternative. Please ensure that all mitigation recommendations are in line with applicable and most recent guidelines. The final EIAR must provide the technical details for the proposed facility in a table format as well as their description and/or dimensions. 	<p>Milicent Solomons Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment Letter dated: 01 August 2022</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> As part of the scope of work, each specialist was required to undertake a comparative assessment of the two layout alternatives considered within the EIA Report and indicate which alternative is preferred, acceptable and fatally flawed (if any), including reasons thereof. The results of the comparative assessment undertaken by each specialist is included in Chapter 7, under Section 7.3 of the EIA Report. Also included within this section is an indication of which alternative should be authorised based on the specialist recommendations. All mitigation measures recommended by the specialists are in line with applicable and most recent guidelines and have been included in the project Environmental Management Programme (EMPr) attached as Appendix N to the EIA Report. The technical details for the proposed facility in a table format, as well as their description and/or dimensions, are included in Table 2.1 under Chapter 2 and Section 2.2.
	<p>(b) Listed Activities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Please ensure that all relevant listed activities are applied for, are specific and can be linked to the development activity or infrastructure as described in the project description. Only activities applicable to the development must be applied for and assessed. If the activities applied for in the application form differ from those mentioned in the final EIAR, an amended application form must be submitted. Please note that the Department's application form template has been amended and can be 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All relevant activities applied for in the application for an Integrated Environmental Authorisation (EA) and Waste Management License (WML) and included in this EIA Report are relevant to the proposed general waste disposal site and its associated infrastructure as described in the project description (refer to Section 4.2.1, Table 4.1 and Section 4.2.2, Table 4.2). The listed activities applied for in the application form submitted on 04 July 2022 are the same as those included in the EIA Report. No amended application form is submitted with

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	<p>downloaded from the following link https://www.environment.gov.za/documents/forms.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is imperative that the relevant authorities are continuously involved throughout the environmental impact assessment process as the development property possibly falls within geographically designated areas in terms of numerous GN R. 985 Activities. Written comments must be obtained from the relevant authorities and submitted to this Department. <u>In addition, a graphical representation of the proposed development within the respective geographical areas must be provided.</u> <p>(c) Public Participation Process</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Please ensure that comments from all relevant stakeholders are submitted to the Department with the final EIAR. A Comments and Response trail report (C&R) must be submitted with the final EIAR. The C&R report must incorporate all comments for this application. Please refrain from summarising comments made by I&APs. All comments from I&APs must be copied verbatim and responded to clearly. Please note that a response such as "noted" is not regarded as an adequate response to I&AP's comments. Please ensure that all issues raised and comments received during the circulation of the draft report from registered I&APs and organs of state which have jurisdiction in respect of the proposed activity are adequately addressed in the final report. Proof of correspondence with the various stakeholders must be included in the final report. Should you be unable to obtain comments, proof should be submitted to the Department of the attempts that were made to obtain comments. The Public Participation Process must be conducted in terms of Regulation 39, 40, 41, 42, 43 & 44 of the EIA Regulations 2014 as amended. The final report must also indicate that this draft report has been subjected to a public participation process. 		<p>the final EIA Report as no changes have been introduced to the application form since the version submitted.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> All comments received to date have been included within the Comments and Responses Report (Appendix C8). Where comments have not been obtained, proof that attempts were made to obtain comments have been included in Appendix C4 and Appendix C5. Maps indicating the development footprint alternatives within the respective geographical areas are included in the description of the receiving environment (Chapter 5 of the EIA Report). Comments received from registered Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) and organs of state (OoS) are included in Appendix C of the final EIA Report. A comments and responses report (C&RR), including all comments received and responses provided, is appended to the final EIA Report (Appendix C8). The C&RR includes all comments for this application and all comments from I&APs have been copied verbatim and responded to accordingly. All issues raised and comments received during the circulation of the draft EIA Report from registered I&APs and OoS are included within the C&RR which is included as Appendix C8 to the final EIA Report. All correspondence records have been appended to the final EIA Report. Appendix C4 includes correspondence with the OoS and Appendix C5 includes correspondence with Stakeholders and I&APs. The Public Participation Process has been conducted in terms of Regulation 39, 40, 41, 42, 43 & 44 of the EIA Regulations 2014, as amended (GNR 326). Chapter 4 of the EIA Report details the activities undertaken as part of the public participation process, including details regarding placement of the draft EIA Report for review and comment on the Savannah Environmental website.

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	<p>(d) Cumulative Assessment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Should there be any other similar projects within a 30km radius of the proposed development site, the cumulative impact assessment for all identified and assessed impacts must be refined to indicate the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Identified cumulative impacts must be clearly defined, and where possible the size of the identified impact must be quantified and indicated, i.e. hectares of cumulatively transformed land. ➤ Detailed process flow and proof must be provided, to indicate how the specialist's recommendations, mitigation measures and conclusions from the various similar developments in the area were taken into consideration in the assessment of cumulative impacts and when the conclusion and mitigation measures were drafted for this project. ➤ The cumulative impacts significance rating must also inform the need and desirability of the proposed development. ➤ A cumulative impact environmental statement on whether the proposed development must proceed. <p>(e) Environmental Management Programme</p> <p>The EMPr must also include the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All recommendations and mitigation measures recorded in the EIAR and the specialist studies conducted. • An environmental sensitivity map indicating environmental sensitive areas and features identified during the assessment process. • Measures to protect hydrological features such as streams, rivers, pans, wetlands, dams and their catchments, and other environmental sensitive areas from construction impacts including the direct or indirect spillage of pollutants. 		<p>The cumulative impact assessment considered other industrial developments within a 30km radius of the proposed general waste disposal site. An evaluation of the potential cumulative impacts is included in Chapter 6, Section 6.9 of the EIA Report. Also included within this section is a cumulative impact environmental statement on whether the proposed development must proceed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The EMPr, which is appended to the EIA Report as Appendix N, includes all recommendations and mitigation measures recorded in the EIA Report and specialist studies conducted (refer to Section 6 – 9 of the EMPr). • An environmental sensitivity map indicating environmental sensitive areas and features identified during the assessment process is included under Section 2.2 of the EMPr as Figure 2.1. • Measures to protect hydrological features are included in the EMPr (Appendix N) under Section 6 – Objective 1, Section 7 – Objective 3, and Section – Objective 1. • The EMPr has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of Appendix 4 of the EIA Regulations, 2014, as

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In addition to the above, the EMPr must comply with Appendix 4 of the EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended. <p>(f) Waste Licensing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clean of GLB reference as this refers to the old classification in terms of Minimum Requirements. • Alternatives assessed should at least be three. • Waste minimization strategy should be discussed and included in the report. • Landfill gas mitigation should be discussed as the facility will also accept organic waste as the methane gas tend to be generated over long period and does not decrease over time as said in the report • You are required three (3) hard copies of the Final Environmental Impact Assessment Report as the hard copies are needed to submit for further engagement with the Department of Water and Sanitation for the issuance of Record of Decision (RoD). 		<p>amended, and a summary of where the requirements of Appendix 4 of the 2014 NEMA EIA Regulations (GNR 326) are provided in the EMPr is included in Section 4, Table 4.1.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reference to GLB has been deleted from the EIA Report as per the Department's request. The report now only makes reference to classification of the landfill in terms of the National Norms and Standards for Disposal of Waste to Landfill (GN. R 636 of 2013). • Alternatives were identified and assessed in accordance with the requirements of the EIA Regulations. Two technically feasible alternatives were identified and assessed from the onset of this project when the application for an Integrated EA and WML, including the draft Scoping Report, was submitted to the Department on 12 November 2021. The comments on the draft Scoping Report issued by the Department on 13 December 2021 did not include the requirement to assess at least three alternatives. Further to this, the acceptance of scoping issued by the Department on 17 February 2022 did not indicate the requirement to assess at least three alternatives. There is also no gazetted legislation that requires the assessment of at least three alternatives for waste disposal sites. Of the two alternatives that were assessed in the EIA Report, no fatal flaws were identified for Alternative A, and as such, the assessment of additional alternatives is not considered necessary. Alternative A has been recommended for authorisation as indicated in Chapter 7, Section 7.6 of the EIA Report. • Waste minimisation strategies applied at the Majuba Power Station which are of relevance to the proposed waste disposal site are discussed in Chapter 2, Section 2.5. • From an air quality perspective, the specialist concluded that there is no need to mitigate or measure post-closure methane

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			<p>emissions, as emissions and their resultant impacts will be insignificant (with the exception of greenhouse gas impacts, which could be more significant). The landfill designers will need to stipulate if there are any management / monitoring measures to prevent methane build-up which could lead to fires or explosions.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Three (3) hard copies of the EIA Report will be submitted to the Department as requested.
	<p>General</p> <p>The EIAR must provide the technical details for the proposed facility in a table format as well as their description and/or dimensions. A sample of the minimum information required is listed under point 2 of the EIA information required for solar energy facility as requested in the acceptance of the SR.</p> <p>Please also ensure that the final EIAR includes the period for which the Environmental Authorisation is required and the date on which the activity will be concluded as per Appendix 3 of the NEMA EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended.</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The proposed project entails the development of a waste disposal site and not a solar energy facility. The technical details for the proposed facility in a table format, as well as their description and/or dimensions, are included in Table 2.1 under Chapter 2 and Section 2.2. • The period for which the Integrated EA and WML is required is included in Chapter 7, Section 7.6 of the final EIA Report.
	<p>You are further reminded to comply with Regulation 23(1)(a) of the NEMA EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended, which states that: "The applicant must within 106 days of the acceptance of the scoping report submit to the competent authority -</p> <p><i>(a) an environmental impact assessment report inclusive of any specialist reports, an EMPr, a closure plan in the case of a closure activity and where the application is a mining application, the plans, report and calculations contemplated in the Financial Provisioning Regulations, which must have been subjected to a public participation process of at least 30 days and which reflects the incorporation of comments received, including any comments of the competent authority."</i></p>		<p>The Final Scoping Report and Plan of Study for the EIA Phase for the general waste disposal site was submitted to the DFFE on 11 January 2022, and acceptance was received on 17 February 2022, therefore marking the start of the EIA Phase. A request for an extension in terms of Regulation 3(7) of the EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended, was submitted to the DFFE on 10 March 2022. Approval of the request for an extension was provided by the Department on 23 March 2022 wherein the prescribed timeframes for the project were extended by a period of 60 days such that the Final EIA Report be submitted to the DFFE 166 days after the acceptance of Scoping was received by the applicant (i.e., on or before 08 August 2022).</p>

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	<p>Should there be significant changes or new information that has been added to the EIAR or EMPr which changes or information was not contained in the reports or plans consulted on during the initial public participation process, you are required to comply with Regulation 23(1)(b) of the NEMA EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended, which states: "The applicant must within 106 days of the acceptance of the scoping report submit to the competent authority – (b) a notification in writing that the documents contemplated in subregulation 1(a) will be submitted within 156 days of acceptance of the scoping report by the competent authority or where regulation 21(2) applies, within 156 days of receipt of the application by the competent authority, as significant changes have been made or significant new information has been added to the documents, which changes or information was not contained in the original documents consulted on during the initial public participation process contemplated in subregulation (1)(a), and that the revised documents contemplated in subregulation 1(a) will be subjected to another public participation process of at least 30 days</p> <p>Should you fail to meet any of the timeframes stipulated in Regulation 23 of the NEMA EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended, your application will lapse.</p> <p>You are hereby reminded of Section 24F of the National Environmental Management Act, Act No. 107 of 1998, as amended, that no activity may commence prior to an Environmental Authorisation being granted by the Department.</p>		<p>Timeframes as per regulations Regulation 23(1)(b) of the NEMA EIA Regulations 2014, as amended, are adhered to.</p> <p>No significant changes have been introduced in the final EIA Report and EMPr.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This comment is noted, and no further action is required. • The applicant is aware that no activity may commence prior to an Integrated EA and WML being granted by the Department.

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2.	<p>The South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA) Archaeology, Palaeontology and Meteorites (APM) Unit accepts the HIA and the PIA reports submitted to the case for commenting, and has no objection to the development going ahead on the following conditions.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Chance Finds Fossil Procedures found in the PIA report under appendix 4 must be included in the EMPr. • In the event that fossils are uncovered during construction then construction must cease within the immediate vicinity, a buffer of 30 m must be established, and a palaeontologist called in to inspect the finds. The palaeontologist must obtain a section 35(4) permit in terms of NHRA and Chapter IV NHRA Regulations, before any fossils are collected. • If there are any new heritages resources are discovered during construction and operation phases of the proposed development, then a professional archaeologist or palaeontologist, depending on the nature of the finds, must be contracted as soon as possible to inspect the findings at the expense of the developer. • If the newly discovered heritage resources prove to be of archaeological or palaeontological significance, a Phase 2 rescue operation may be required at the expense of the developer. Mitigation will only be carried out after the archaeologist or palaeontologist obtains a permit in terms of section 35 of the NHRA (Act 25 of 1999). You may contact SAHRA APM Unit for further details: (Nokukhanya Khumalo/Phillip Hine 021 202 8654). • If any unmarked human burials are uncovered and the archaeologist called in to inspect the finds and/or the police find them to be heritage graves, then mitigation may be necessary and the SAHRA Burial Grounds and Graves (BGG) Unit must be 	<p>Nokukhanya Khumalo</p> <p>South African Heritage Resources Agency</p> <p>Letter dated: 16 March 2022</p>	<p>It is noted that the SAHRA Archaeology, Palaeontology and Meteorites (APM) Unit has no objections to the proposed development subject to implementation of the conditions included in their letter dated 16 March 2022.</p> <p>The chance finds fossil procedure included in the PIA Report has been included in the EMPr (refer to Section 7, Objective 5).</p> <p>The recommendation made by SAHRA has been included in the EMPr (Appendix N of the final EIA Report).</p> <p>The recommendation made by SAHRA has been included in the EMPr (Appendix N of the final EIA Report).</p> <p>The recommendation made by SAHRA has been included in the EMPr (Appendix N of the final EIA Report).</p> <p>The recommendation made by SAHRA has been included in the EMPr (Appendix N of the final EIA Report).</p>

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	contacted for processes to follow (Thingahangwi Tshivhase/Ngqalabutho Madida 012 320 8490).		
	The Final EIA and its appendices must be submitted to the case and once a Record of Decision from the competent authority is issued, it must also be submitted to the case.		The final EIA Report and its appendices will be submitted to SAHRA. Once an Integrated EA and WML has been granted by the competent, this will also be submitted to the case.
	Should you have any further queries, please contact the designated official using the case number quoted above in the case header.		This comment is noted and no further action is required.

1.2. Interested and Affected Parties

NO.	COMMENT	RAISED BY	RESPONSE
3.	<p>The draft report for public review dated July 2022 refers, Herewith our comments to date for inclusion in the public participation report.</p> <p>1. Copyright and Popia Act (Protection of Personal Information Act, 2013)</p> <p>Savannah Environmental has previously been notified by BTW & Associated (Pty) Ltd, following their appointment for the above environmental impact assessment, that BTW & Associates (Pty) Ltd was previously appointed for the EIA and that BTW & Associates was not reimbursed by Eskom for the work done up to the final scoping report and for the specialist studies required as indicated by the Department of Environmental Affairs. BTW & Associates (Pty) Ltd has reimbursed all the specialist sub-consultants for the specialist studies, and the document up to the final scoping and reports from the specialist sub-consultants are therefore still the property of BTW & Associated (Pty) Ltd and not of Eskom</p> <p>Your have reference the BTW & Associated (Pty) Ltd report, " FINAL SCOPING REPORT for submission to Department of Environmental Affairs FOR A NEW GENERAL WASTE DISPOSAL SITE, ESKOM MAJUBA POWER STATION, IN TERMS OF NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT: WASTE ACT (ACT NO 58.OF 2008) REPORT NO:20438-</p>	<p>JL Bouwer</p> <p>For BTW & Associates</p> <p>Letter dated: 25 July 2022</p>	<p>Savannah Environmental has undertaken this enviro-regulatory process using information obtained from Eskom (the client) which was in the public domain. All information produced by BTW & Associates for this project was made available in the public domain. Savannah Environmental did not copy any of this information, but rather referred to this information as part of the scoping phase. We would like to state that under POPIA, we have not breached this law. The information included in the EIA Report is based on new detailed studies commissioned by Savannah Environmental on behalf of Eskom and does not belong to BTW & Associates. Any issues that are for Eskom we kindly urge you to direct them to Eskom.</p>

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	<p>REP-002, DATE:21 January 2019, without obtaining approval from BTW and Associated (Pty) Ltd knowing that the document and information contained in the document is the property of BTW & Associated (Pty) Ltd Refer e.g., to figures 2,1,5.4,5.8 etc copied from the BTW report.</p> <p>You have therefore breached the copyright of BTW & Associated and your are in contravention of the Popia Act (Protection of Personal Information Act, 2013)</p> <p>Apart from the above you have include the report from Messrs Engelab "Geotechnical Investigation – Majuba General Waste Landfill Site, Reference 18-LL3031 dated May 2018" compiled for BTW & Associated in your report for public review. BTW & Associates has not been reimbursed for the report and it is still the property of BTW & Associated. Also in this instance you have breached the copyright of BTW & Associated and you are in contravention of the Popia Act (Protection of Personal Information Act, 2013)</p> <p>You have also clearly referenced the reports of Messrs Nepid Consultant "Wetland Delineation and Aquatic Biodiversity Impact Report" for which the field surveys were for BTW & Associated on the 23rd March 2018 and 11th December 2018, prior to your appointment In this instance you have also breached the copyright of BTW & Associated and you are in contravention of the Popia Act (Protection of Personal Information Act, 2013)</p> <p>The report by Dr JA van Schalkwyk "Phase 1 Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment Development of a General Waste Disposal Site at the Eskom Majuba Power Station, Dr Pixley ka Isaka Seme Local Municipality, Mpumalanga province" dated April 2022, states that the ' the current report is an amendment of the original report to align it with the requirements of the EIA regulations, The current report should be read in conjunction with the original 2018 report"</p> <p>BTW & Associates has not been reimbursed for the report and it is still the property of BTW &Associated. The report can therefore not be</p>		

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	<p>referred to and you are again in breach copyright of BTW & Associated and you are in contravention of the Popia Act (Protection of Personal Information Act, 2013)</p> <p>There may be references to the BTWN & Associated document and specialist studies which are not mentioned above and BTW & Associates retains the right to include such evidence in any further allegations against Savannah environmental</p> <p>Should the breaching of the copyright of BTW & Asscoiates and the contravention of the Popia Act (Protection of Personal Information Act , 2013) mentioned above not be resolved immediately and satisfactorily, BTW Associated (Pty) Ltyd reserves the right to take legal action and to report Savannah Environmental for acting unethically to their professional organisations.</p> <p>2. Alternatives Your paragraph 2.4.2.2 “Non-recyclable general waste to removed by the Dr Pixely Ka Isaka Seme Local municipality for disposal at a nearby landfill site” refers.</p> <p>In the first paragraph is stated: “According to the Integrated Development Plan (IDP) (2017-2022) for the Dr Pixley ka Isaka Seme Local Municipality, the municipality has four licenced waste disposal sites each located in the towns of Volksrust, Amersfort, Perdekop and Wakkerstroom.</p> <p>In the following paragraph the following is stated: “ However, the alternative is not deemed feasible as the Integrated Development Plan (IDP) (2017-2022 for the Dr Pixley Ka Isaka Seme Local Municipality, states that all four waste disposal sites in the municipality are experiencing operational problems in varying degrees as result of insufficient funding, equipment and personnel shortage as well interference by uncontrolled reclaiming activities on daily operations, Furthermore, many of these sites are unlicensed,</p>		<p>Section 2.10.3 of the EIA Report, which provides information of the activity alternative considered and assessed within the EIA Report has been amended as per the comments received from BTW & Associates.</p> <p>Based on the information included in Section 2.10.3 sourced from the IDP for the Dr Pixley Ka Isaka Seme Local Municipality, it is evident that the four licensed waste disposal sites in the municipality are not operated in line with the Minimum Requirements of Waste Disposal and as such, the disposal of Eskom Majuba Power Station's waste at unlicensed or non-compliant facilities would not only be a duty of care issue, but would place Eskom Majuba Power Station at risk from a cradle to grave management perspective.</p> <p>Given the above, this alternative was deemed to not be feasible.</p>

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	<p>and as such, the disposal of our waste at unlicensed or non-compliant facilities would not only be duty of care issue but would place Eskom Majuba Power Station at risk from a cradle to grave management perspective.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The two states are contradictory regarding the licensed/unlicensed status of the landfill sites. To the knowledge of BTW & Associated, the Amersfoort landfill site is licensed and the Dr Pixley ka Isaka Semse Local Municipality indicated they are willing to come to an agreement with Majuba Power station to accept their waste. • Is the above information from a desktop study of the Dr Pixley Ka Isaka Semse Local Municipality IDP only, or was the Amersfoort landfill site assessed as an alternative • Was a cost analysis done for example to invest in upgrading of the Amersfoort landfill site rather than to develop a new landfill at Majuba • What is meant by disposal of our waste <p>The investigation previously done by BTW & Associates, indicated that the disposal of waste from Majuba at the Amersfoort landfill site is a viable option, It is recommended that this alternative should further investigated as the preferred option, and the Amersfoort landfill site rather be upgraded than investing in another new landfill site at Majuba.</p> <p>Please note that the IDP referred to in your document is not the latest version. There is a 'DPKISLM-Adjusted IDP 2020/21' version available</p> <p>BTW & Associated (Pty) Ltd reserves the right to submit further comments within the review period</p>		<p>This comment is noted and no further action is required.</p>

2. COMMENTS RECEIVED DURING THE 30-DAY SCOPING REPORT REVIEW & COMMENT PERIOD

1.3. Organs of State

NO.	COMMENT	RAISED BY	RESPONSE
4.	<p>According to the information provided in the Draft Scoping Report (DSR), the proposed development located in an area zoned Industrial use and adjacent to the existing closed landfill site at the Majuba Power Station.</p> <p>The proposed study area is in a heavily or moderately modified but within high sensitivity according to EIA Screening Report. Kindly take note that the highly sensitive area must be kept as a no-go area.</p> <p>The Directorate does not have any objections to the Draft Scoping Report & Plan of Study.</p> <p>NB: The Public Participation Process documents related to Biodiversity EIA for review and queries should be submitted to the Directorate: Biodiversity Conservation at Email; BCAdmin@environment.gov.za for attention of Mr. Seoka Lekota.</p>	<p>Portia Makitla Case Officer DFFE: Biodiversity Conservation Directorate</p> <p>Letter: 07 December 2021</p>	<p>Numerous seasonal hillslope seepage wetlands and one permanent hillslope seepage wetland were identified within the 500m study boundary. The delineated wetland features are considered to be of high ecological sensitivity and as such, these features, including their associated 32m buffer zones, are regarded as no-go areas for development.</p> <p>The comment that the Directorate does not have any objections to the Draft Scoping Report and Plan of Study is noted, and no further action is required.</p> <p>The Public Participation Process documents will be submitted together with the final Scoping Report to the Directorate: Biodiversity Conservation using the contact information provided.</p>
5.	<p><u>This letter serves to inform you that the following information must be included to the Final Scoping Report:</u></p> <p>(a) Listed Activities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Please ensure that all relevant listed activities are applied for, are specific and can be linked to the development activity or infrastructure as described in the project description. If the activities applied for in the application form differ from those mentioned in the final SR, an amended application form must be submitted. Please note that the Department's application form template has been amended and can be downloaded from the following link https://www.environment.gov.za/documents/forms. 	<p>Samkelisiwe Dlamini Case Officer DFFE</p> <p>Letter: 13 December 2021</p>	<p>All relevant activities applied for in the application for an Integrated Environmental Authorisation (IEA) and Waste Management License (WML) included in the Scoping Report are relevant to the General Waste Disposal Site and can be linked to the development activity or infrastructure in the project description.</p> <p>The listed activities applied for in the application form are the same as those included in the final Scoping Report. No amended application form is submitted with the final Scoping Report as no changes have been introduced to the application form since the version submitted to the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE) on 12 November 2021.</p>

NO.	COMMENT	RAISED BY	RESPONSE
	<p>(b) Final Scoping Report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The license holder must register for the storage of waste on site and comply with the National Norms and Standards for the Storage of Waste, GN926, dated 29 November 2013. • The license holder must register and comply with the national norms and standards for the sorting, shredding, grinding, crushing, screening, or bailing of general waste, GN1093, dated 11 October 2017. • Page 20 of the report assessed the project alternatives. The activity must be investigated further as it is indicated that most of the general waste produced at Majuba power station is recyclable and only a small quantity is required for disposal. The alternatives for the proposed development must be assessed further in the final scoping report to include a detailed description of each alternative, disadvantages, and motivation for the preferred alternatives • The applicant must ensure that information requirements in Appendix 1 below is submitted for the RoD to be processed. 		<p>The applicant will register for the storage of waste on site and comply with the National Norms and Standards for the Storage of Waste, GN926, dated 29 November 2013, as per this requirement.</p> <p>A sorting and storage facility for recyclables is proposed as part of the infrastructure associated with the general waste disposal site. No shredding, grinding, crushing, screening, or bailing of general waste will be undertaken at this facility.</p> <p>The alternative to have the non-recyclable waste removed by the Dr. Pixley Ka Isaka Seme Local Municipality for disposal at a nearby landfill site will be investigated further during the EIA Phase as a detailed assessment of the feasibility of this alternative requires that the municipality's capacity to collect waste from the Majuba Power Station for disposal at their nearby landfill site in Amersfoort be investigated.</p> <p>A detailed hydrogeological study and wetland delineation report, as well as design reports will be submitted as part of the EIA Report. A stormwater management plan will be compiled and submitted as part of the Environmental Management Programme (EMPr) to be prepared during the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Phase of the process. General waste does not require classification in terms of Regulation 4(1) of GN. R 634 of 2013 and as such, a waste classification report will not be prepared.</p> <p>An integrated process is being undertaken for this project. An integrated EA and WML application form has been completed and submitted to the DFFE with the draft Scoping Report on 12 November 2021. It is therefore not required that a separate waste management license application form be completed and submitted with the final Scoping Report.</p>

NO.	COMMENT	RAISED BY	RESPONSE
	<p>(c) <u>Layout & Sensitivity Maps</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Please provide a layout map which indicates the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The proposed waste disposal site with associated infrastructure, overlain by the sensitivity map; ○ All supporting onsite infrastructure e.g. roads (existing and proposed); ○ The location of sensitive environmental features on site e.g. CBAs, heritage sites, wetlands, drainage lines etc. that will be affected; ○ Buffer areas; and ○ All "no-go" areas. • The above map must be overlain with a sensitivity map and a cumulative map which shows neighbouring renewable energy developments and existing grid infrastructure. • Google maps will not be accepted. 		<p>Maps indicating the proposed waste disposal site overlain by sensitive environmental features on site such as Critical Biodiversity Areas (CBAs), wetlands, drainage lines and buffer areas have been included under Chapter 7 of the Scoping Report (refer to Figures 7.1 and Figure 7.2).</p> <p>A separate map indicating land uses within the vicinity of the proposed development has been included under Chapter 6 (refer to Figure 6.1).</p> <p>The maps referred to above were prepared using ArcGIS.</p>
	<p>d) <u>Public Participation Process</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Please ensure that all issues raised and comments received during the circulation of the SR from registered I&APs and organs of state which have jurisdiction (including this Department's Biodiversity Section) in respect of the proposed activity are adequately addressed in the Final SR. Proof of correspondence with the various stakeholders must be included in the Final SR. Should you be unable to obtain comments, proof should be submitted to the Department of the attempts that were made to obtain comments. The Public Participation Process must be conducted in terms of Regulation 39, 40, 41, 42, 43 & 44 of the EIA Regulations 2014, as amended. 		<p>Issues raised and comments received during the 30-day review and comment period of the Scoping Report have been captured and addressed in this C&RR submitted as part of the final Scoping Report.</p> <p>Proof of Correspondence with all stakeholders is included in Appendix C4 and Appendix C5 of the Scoping Report.</p> <p>The Public Participation Process has been conducted in terms of Regulation 39, 40, 41, 42, 43 & 44 of the EIA Regulations 2014, as amended (GNR 326), as well as in accordance with the approved Public Participation Plan (included as Appendix C9 of the Scoping Report). The following has been undertaken:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Process Notification Letter Information on the proposed project was provided to Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) and organs of state (OoS) in the

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			<p>process notification letter distributed on 12 November 2021 (refer to Appendix C3 of the final Scoping Report Report).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Site Notices Site notices announcing the Scoping and EIA process were placed at various locations along the boundary of the development area (i.e., the boundaries of the affected properties) and public areas in the nearest town (i.e., Volksrust and Perdekop) on 03 November 2021. Proof of placement of the site notices is included in Appendix C2 of the final Scoping Report. • Advertisement An advertisement announcing the availability of the Scoping Report for a 30-day review and comment period was placed in the Volksrust Recorder newspaper on 12 November 2021 (tearsheet included in Appendix C2 of the final Scoping Report). • Report available for review The Scoping Report was made available for review by I&APs for a 30-day review and comment period from Friday, 12 November 2021 to Monday, 13 December 2021. <p>The process notification letter distributed on 12 November 2021 providing information on the proposed project (refer to Appendix C3) also included information on the availability of the Scoping Report for a 30-day review and comment period and the details of where the report could be accessed for review.</p> <p>The Scoping Report was made available for download from Savannah Environmental's website and could also be sent via other file transfer services i.e. We Transfer, Dropbox, etc. or on CD, on request.</p>

NO.	COMMENT	RAISED BY	RESPONSE
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A comments and response trail report (C&R) must be submitted with the final SR. The C&R report must incorporate all historical comments for this development. 		<p>No comments were received during the initial Scoping and EIA process undertaken by BTW & Associates. All comments received during the 30-day review and comment period of the draft Scoping Report have been adequately addressed in this C&RR submitted as part of the final Scoping Report.</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The final SR must provide evidence that all identified and relevant competent authorities have been given an opportunity to comment on the proposed development; particularly the South African Astronomical Observatory, the Eastern Cape Environmental Department, the District and Local Municipalities. 		<p>Proof of attempts to obtain comments from organs of state (and local and district municipalities) is included in Appendix C4 of the Scoping Report.</p>
	<p><u>(e) Specialist Assessments</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Specialist studies to be conducted must provide a detailed description of their methodology, as well as indicate the locations and descriptions of turbine positions, and all other associated infrastructures that they have assessed and are recommending for authorisations. 		<p>The specialist studies undertaken as part of the Scoping Phase of the process provide a detailed description of the methodologies used and indicate the position of the proposed general waste disposal site relative to the existing, closed landfill site.</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The specialist studies must also provide a detailed description of all limitations to their studies. All specialist studies must be conducted in the right season and providing that as a limitation, will not be accepted. 		<p>All specialist studies, with the exception of the geotechnical and geohydrological feasibility study, include a detailed description of limitations to the studies. The geotechnical and geohydrological study will be updated to include a description of all limitations to the study during the EIA Phase of the process.</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Should the appointed specialists specify contradicting recommendations, the EAP must clearly indicate the most reasonable recommendation and substantiate this with defensible reasons; and where necessary, include further expert advice. 		<p>This comment is noted and has been adhered to.</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is further brought to your attention that Procedures for the Assessment and Minimum Criteria for Reporting on identified Environmental Themes in terms of Sections 24(5)(a) and (h) and 44 of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998, when applying for Environmental Authorisation, which 		<p>The Scoping Phase specialist studies were undertaken prior to the date of publication of the specialist protocols. Proof of appointment and commissioning of the specialist studies prior to the date of publication of the specialist protocols is attached as Appendix G to the Scoping Report.</p>

NO.	COMMENT	RAISED BY	RESPONSE
	<p>were promulgated in Government Notice No. 320 of 20 March 2020 (i.e. "the Protocols"), and in Government Notice No. 1150 of 30 October 2020 (i.e. protocols for terrestrial plant and animal species), have come into effect. Please note that specialist assessments must be conducted in accordance with these protocols.</p>		
	<p>(f) Cumulative Assessment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Should there be any other similar projects within a 30km radius of the proposed development site, the cumulative impact assessment for all identified and assessed impacts must be refined to indicate the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Identified cumulative impacts must be clearly defined, and where possible the size of the identified impact must be quantified and indicated, i.e. hectares of cumulatively transformed land. ○ Detailed process flow and proof must be provided, to indicate how the specialist's recommendations, mitigation measures and conclusions from the various similar developments in the area were taken into consideration in the assessment of cumulative impacts and when the conclusion and mitigation measures were drafted for this project. ○ The cumulative impacts significance rating must also inform the need and desirability of the proposed development. ○ A cumulative impact environmental statement on whether the proposed development must proceed. 		<p>An assessment of the cumulative impacts associated with the construction and operation of the general waste disposal site and other similar projects within a 30km radius of the project site on ecological, aquatic, heritage, and palaeontological features will be undertaken during the EIA Phase of the process as detailed in the Plan of Study for EIA included in the Scoping Report.</p>
	<p>General You are further reminded to comply with Regulation 21(1) of the NEMA EIA Regulations 2014, as amended, which states that: <i>"If S&EIR must be applied to an application, the applicant must, within 44 days of receipt of the application by the competent authority,</i></p>		<p>All timeframes as per regulations Regulation 21(1) of the NEMA EIA Regulations 2014, as amended, will be adhered to.</p>

NO.	COMMENT	RAISED BY	RESPONSE
	<p><i>submit to the competent authority a scoping report which has been subjected to a public participation process of at least 30 days and which reflects the incorporation of comments received, including any comments of the competent authority"</i></p> <p>You are further reminded that the final SR to be submitted to this Department must comply with all the requirements in terms of the scope of assessment and content of Scoping reports in accordance with Appendix 2 and Regulation 21(1) of the EIA Regulations 2014, as amended.</p> <p>Further note that in terms of Regulation 45 of the EIA Regulations 2014, as amended, this application will lapse if the applicant fails to meet any of the timeframes prescribed in terms of these Regulations, unless an extension has been granted in terms of Regulation 3(7).</p> <p>You are hereby reminded of Section 24F of the National Environmental Management Act, Act No. 107 of 1998, as amended, that no activity may commence prior to an Environmental Authorisation being granted by the Department.</p>		<p>The final Scoping Report submitted is in accordance with the scope and content requirements of Appendix 2 and Regulation 21(1) of the EIA Regulations 2014, as amended.</p> <p>All timeframes as per regulations Regulation 21(1) of the NEMA EIA Regulations 2014, as amended, will be adhered to.</p> <p>This comment is noted, and no further action is required.</p>
6.	<p>(a) Listed Activities</p> <p>(i) The EIAR must provide an assessment of the impacts and mitigation measures for each of the listed activities applied for.</p> <p>(ii) The listed activities represented in the EIAR and the application form must be the same and correct.</p> <p>(iii) The EIAR must assess the correct sub listed activity for each listed activity applied for.</p> <p>(b) Public Participation</p> <p>(i) Please ensure that comments from all relevant stakeholders are submitted to the Department with the EIAR.</p>	<p>Sabelo Malaza DFFE</p> <p>Letter: 17 February 2022</p>	<p>An assessment of impacts and recommended mitigation measures are included in this EIA Report (refer to Chapter 6).</p> <p>The listed activities applied for in the application form submitted are the same as those included in this EIA Report.</p> <p>The EIA Report assess the correct sub listed activities for each listed activity applied for (refer to Section 4.2.1, Table 4.1 and Section 4.2.2, Table 4.2).</p> <p>All comments received to date have been included within the Comments and Responses Report (Appendix C8). Where comments have not been obtained, proof that attempts were made to obtain comments have been included in Appendix C4 and Appendix C5.</p> <p>The database detailing registered I&APs is included as Appendix C1 to the EIA Report.</p>

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	<p>(ii) Please ensure that all issues raised and comments received during the circulation of the draft EIAR from registered I&APs and organs of state which have jurisdiction in respect of the proposed activity are adequately addressed in the final EIAR. Proof of correspondence with the various stakeholders must be included in the final EIAR. Should you be unable to obtain comments, proof should be submitted to the Department of the attempts that were made to obtain comments.</p>		<p>Comments received during the 30-day review and comment period of the draft EIA Report will be captured and addressed in the Comments and Responses Report (Appendix C8) to be submitted with the final EIA Report to the DFFE for decision-making. Proof of correspondence with the various stakeholders will be included in the final EIA Report in Appendix C4 and Appendix C5. Where comments have not been obtained, proof that attempts were made to obtain comments will be included in Appendix C4 and Appendix C5.</p>
	<p>(iii) A Comments and Response trail report (C&R) must be submitted with the final EIAR. The C&R report must incorporate all comments for this development. The C&R report must be a separate document from the main report and the format must be in the table format as indicated in Appendix 1 of this comments letter. Please refrain from summarising comments made by I&APs. All comments from I&APs must be copied verbatim and responded to clearly. Please note that a response such as "noted" is not regarded as an adequate response to I&AP's comments.</p>		<p>All comments received during the Scoping Phase, and the 30-day review and comment period of the draft EIA Report, including those of the DFFE, will be included within the Comments and Responses Report (to be included as Appendix C8 to the final EIA Report). All comments received from I&APs to date have been copied verbatim and responded to clearly (refer to Appendix C8). Comments received during the 30-day review and comment period of the draft EIA Report will also be copied verbatim and responded to clearly within the Comments and Responses Report to be submitted with the final EIA Report.</p>
	<p>(iv) Comments from I&APs must not be split and arranged into categories. Comments from each submission must be responded to individually.</p>		<p>Comments received from I&APs to date on the project have not been split and arranged in categories, and comments from each submission have been responded to individually (refer to Appendix C8).</p>
	<p>(v) The Public Participation Process must be conducted in terms of Regulation 39, 40, 41, 42, 43 & 44 of the EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended.</p>		<p>The public participation process to date has been conducted in terms of Regulation 39, 40, 41, 42, 43 and 44 of the EIA Regulations 2014, as amended (GNR 326). Details of the public participation process undertaken to date is included in detail in Chapter 4 of the EIAR.</p>
	<p>(vi) The EAP is requested to contact the Department to make the necessary arrangements to conduct a site inspection prior to the submission of the final EIAR.</p>		<p>Necessary arrangements to conduct a site inspection prior to submission of the final EIAR will be made with the Department during the 30-day draft EIAR comment and review period.</p>
	<p>(c) Alternatives</p>		<p>An overview of the various alternatives (i.e., property/location alternatives, design and layout alternatives, activity alternatives,</p>

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	<p>(i) The proposed project must be investigated further as it is indicated that most of the general waste produced at Majuba power station is recyclable and only a small quantity is required for disposal. The alternatives for the proposed development must be assessed further in the final EIA process report to include a detailed description of each alternative, disadvantages, and motivation for the preferred alternatives on why it is preferred.</p>		<p>technology alternatives and the 'do-nothing' alternative) considered for the general waste disposal site is included in Chapter 2 of the EIA Report.</p>
	<p>(ii) The applicant must ensure that information requirements in appendix 1 below is included in the environmental impact report.</p>		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. An Integrated Application for EA and WML is submitted with this draft EIA Report. 2. The proposed waste disposal site will only be accepting general waste. General waste does not require classification in terms of Regulation 4(1) of GN. R 634 of 2013. 3. A geohydrological study has been undertaken as part of the proposed project and is attached as Appendix F to the EIA Report. 4. A stormwater management plan has been prepared for the project and is included as an appendix to the EMPr, which is attached as Appendix N to the EIA Report. 5. A Wetland Delineation and Aquatic Biodiversity Assessment has been undertaken as part of the proposed project and is attached as Appendix E to the EIA Report. The assessment includes all the information requirements a listed in appendix 1 of the DFFE's scoping acceptance letter. 6. An engineering design report has been prepared for the proposed project which includes liner layers specified and drawing signed by a professional engineer.
	<p>(d) Layout and Sensitivity Maps (i) The EIAR must provide the four corner coordinate points for the proposed development site (note that if the site has numerous bend points, at each bend point coordinates must be provided) as well as the start, middle and end point of all linear activities.</p>		<p>The EIA Report includes coordinate points of the proposed project site as well as the four corner coordinates of the two alternative footprint areas (Alternative A and Alternative B) (refer to Chapter 1, Table 1.1)</p>

NO.	COMMENT	RAISED BY	RESPONSE
	<p>(ii) A copy of the final preferred layout map. All available biodiversity information must be used in the finalisation of the layout map. Existing infrastructure must be used as far as possible e.g., roads. The layout map must indicate the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » The laydown area footprint; » Internal roads indicating width (construction period width and operation period width) and with numbered sections between the other site elements which they serve (to make commenting on sections possible); » Wetlands, drainage lines, rivers, stream and water crossing of roads and cables indicating the type of bridging structures that will be used; » The location of sensitive environmental features on site e.g. CBAs, heritage sites, wetlands, drainage lines etc. that will be affected by the proposed project and its associated infrastructure; and » All “no-go” areas. » An environmental sensitivity map indicating environmental sensitive areas and features identified during the assessment process. 		<p>A layout map indicating the infrastructure proposed as part of this project is included in Chapter 2, Figure 2.2 and within the Design Report attached to this EIA Report as Appendix K.</p> <p>An Environmental Sensitivity Map indicating all environmentally sensitive features and no-go areas is included as Figure 7.1 under Chapter 7, and Appendix O.</p>
	<p>(e) Specialist Assessments</p> <p>(i) The EAP must ensure that the terms of reference for all the identified specialist studies must include the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » A detailed description of the study's methodology; indication of the locations and descriptions of the development footprint, and all other associated infrastructures that they have assessed and are recommending for authorisations. 		<p>The identified specialist studies include a detailed description of the methodology followed as well as an indication of the location and description of the development and all other associated infrastructure.</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Provide a detailed description of all limitations to the studies. All specialist studies must be conducted in the right season and providing that as a limitation will not be allowed. 		<p>The specialist studies provide a detailed description of the limitations to the studies.</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Please note that the Department considers a 'no-go' area, as an area where no development of any infrastructure is allowed; 		<p>The Department's definition of no-go area is noted. The specialist's definition of 'no-go' area is the same as that of the Department and</p>

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	<p>therefore, no development of associated infrastructure including access roads is allowed in the 'no-go' areas. Should the specialist definition of 'no-go' area differ from the Departments definition; this must be clearly indicated. The specialist must also indicate the 'no-go' area's buffer if applicable.</p>		<p>some 'no-go' areas, including their associated buffer areas, have been recommended by the specialists and will be considered by the project developer.</p>
	<p>» All specialist studies must be final, and provide detailed/practical mitigation measures for the preferred alternative and recommendations, and must not recommend further studies to be completed post EA.</p>		<p>The attached specialist studies (refer to Appendix D - K) are final and include an assessment of the identified potential impacts, as well as practical mitigation measures for the preferred alternative.</p>
	<p>» Should a specialist recommend specific mitigation measures, these must be clearly indicated.</p>		<p>The mitigation measures proposed by the specialists are included in Chapter 6 of the EIA Report, as well as the project EMPr which is attached as Appendix N to the EIA Report.</p>
	<p>» Regarding cumulative impacts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Clearly defined cumulative impacts and where possible the size of the identified impact must be quantified and indicated, i.e. hectares of cumulatively transformed land. o A detailed process flow to indicate how the specialist's recommendations, mitigation measures and conclusions from the various similar developments in the area were taken into consideration in the assessment of cumulative impacts and when the conclusion and mitigation measures were drafted for this project o Identified cumulative impacts associated with the proposed development must be rated with the significance rating methodology used in the process. o The significance rating must also inform the need and desirability of the proposed development. o A cumulative impact environmental statement on whether the proposed development must proceed. 		<p>The footprint of likely future development, such as the proposed power station expansion and proposed solar facility, are within the power station security fence boundary, and these areas are already impacted and partially transformed. Future developments beyond the power station security fence boundary are unknown. The landcover within the broader project site comprises extensive areas of cultivation, but most of these areas are no longer cultivated and are currently lying fallow. This suggests that areas under cultivation in the area have declined significantly over the years. This trend is likely to continue and have positive implications for biodiversity. The area to be occupied by the proposed general waste disposal site and associated infrastructure is small compared to the areas of cultivated land that are likely to become fallow over time, and this trend could offset any negative cumulative impacts of the proposed general waste disposal site on biodiversity.</p> <p>An evaluation of potential cumulative impacts is included in Chapter 6 of the EIA Report.</p>
	<p>(ii) Should the appointed specialists specify contradicting recommendations, the EAP must clearly indicate the most</p>		<p>This comment is noted and is considered by the EAP within this EIA Report.</p>

NO.	COMMENT	RAISED BY	RESPONSE
	<p>reasonable recommendation and substantiate this with defensible reasons; and where necessary, include further expert advice.</p> <p>(iii) The following Specialist Assessments will form part of the EIAR:</p> <p>Specialist Study Wetland Delineation and Biodiversity Assessment Heritage Impact Assessment Palaeontological Impact Assessment Geotechnical and Geohydrological Impact Assessment Air Quality Impact Assessment Detailed Civil Engineering Design Report</p>		<p>All specialist assessments listed in the table form part of this EIA Report (refer to Appendix D – K). It should be noted that although the approved Plan of Study for the EIA Phase had included a Geotechnical Assessment as one of the studies to be undertaken in the EIA Phase based on the fact that the Geotechnical Assessment undertaken in 2018 had recommended that additional test pitting to assess the capping and liner material reserves observed on the other property not far from the proposed landfill be undertaken, further geotechnical investigations as part of the EIA Phase were ultimately not deemed necessary.</p> <p>This is because the design report recommends a geosynthetic clay liner as a permissible alternative for a clay layer since it can substitute for both the clay layer and the geotextile as it can serve both purposes. The 2018 Geotechnical Assessment has therefore been updated to exclude the above recommendation and is attached to this EIA Report as Appendix G.</p>
	<p>(f) General</p> <p>(i) The EIAR must provide the technical details for the proposed facility in a table format as well as their description and/or dimensions.</p>		<p>The EIA Report includes technical details of the proposed facility (refer to Chapter 2 of the EIA Report).</p>
	<p>(ii) Details of the future plans for the site and infrastructure after decommissioning in 20-30 years and the possibility of upgrading the proposed infrastructure to more advanced technologies must be indicated.</p>		<p>The proposed general waste disposal site will remain operational for as long as Majuba Power Station remains operational.</p>
	<p>(iii) Should a Water Use License be required, proof of application for a license needs to be submitted.</p>		<p>The collection and containment of leachate in a leachate evaporation pond requires a water use authorisation. In the event that the flow of water in the watercourses is affected and the bed, banks or course characteristics are altered then a water use authorisation would be required. The alternative sites are within the Regulated area of the seasonal and permanent wetlands (i.e., within</p>

NO.	COMMENT	RAISED BY	RESPONSE
	<p>(iv) The EAP must provide landowner consent for all farm portions affected by the proposed project, whether the project component is linear or not, i.e. all farm portions where the access road, solar panels and associated infrastructure is to be located.</p> <p>(v) A construction and operational phase EMPr that includes mitigation and monitoring measures must be submitted with the final EIAr.</p>		<p>500m), which would also trigger a water use. This will need to be in accordance with the requirements of the Regulations Regarding the Procedural Requirements for Water Use License Applications and Appeals (GN R267), or a GA registered in accordance with the requirements of Revision of General Authorisation. The process of applying for a water use authorisation is currently underway.</p> <p>Landowner consent for the farm portions affected by the proposed project is not required as the property is owned by the applicant.</p> <p>A construction and operational phase EMPr that includes mitigation and monitoring measures as been included as Appendix N to the EIAr. The EMPr will be updated following the 30-day draft EIAr comment and review period, and submitted with the final EIAr.</p>

1.4. Interested and Affected Parties

NO.	COMMENT	RAISED BY	RESPONSE
	No comments were received.		