

# BACKGROUND INFORMATION DOCUMENT & INVITATION TO COMMENT:

## Peddie Energy 19 MW Photovoltaic Facility, Eastern Cape

### AIM OF THIS DOCUMENT

The aim of this Background Information Document is to provide people affected by and interested in the proposed project with information about this project, the process being followed and to provide them with an opportunity to be involved in the EIA process.

Interested and Affected Parties (IAPs) may raise issues of concern. These will be examined and included in the Reports.

The findings of the EIA will be provided to the DEA (National, Pretoria) for final decision making, as to whether or not the project should go ahead and if so under what conditions.

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Submit comments by:  
15 January 2012

Your involvement in this process is critical, and will help ensure that all relevant issues are raised and assessed in the EIA process



Figure 1: Illustration of photovoltaic arrays on a solar power plant.

### BACKGROUND

InnoWind South Africa (InnoWind) plans to develop a PV facility on 15-20 hectares of land situated near Peddie, between King Williams Town and Grahamstown. The proposed InnoWind Solar Energy facility will generate an estimated 19 MW of electricity. The proposed development falls under the jurisdiction of Ngqushwa Local Municipality in the Eastern Cape.

Coastal and Environmental Services (CES) has been appointed by InnoWind as the independent consultants to undertake the necessary environmental investigations for the PV facility, and to apply for the required authorisation from the Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA). This is in fulfilment of the requirements of South Africa's environmental legislation, details of which, together with an overview of the environmental impact assessment process, are provided in this document.

### PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Notice is hereby given in terms of Regulation 54(2) published in Government Notice No. R543 under Chapter 5 of the National Environmental Management Act (Act 107 of 1998), of the intent to submit an application for an Environmental Impact Assessment.

The proposed project has a development footprint of 15-20 ha (see Table 1). Please refer to Figure 2 for a location map of the proposed development.

## RELEVANT LEGISLATION

The National Environmental Management Act (NEMA)(Act No 107 of 1998) identifies activities in terms of section 24(2)(a) and (d) which may not commence without an authorisation from the competent authority, who in this case is Department of Environmental Affairs, (DEA- National). In order to apply for authorisation for the development, assessment and communication of potential impacts of the activities must follow the procedure as described in regulations 26 to 35 of Government Notice No. R 544 of the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations (2010), promulgated in terms of section 24(5) of NEMA as amended.

The proposed project is subject to a Basic Environmental Impact Assessment in terms of the activities listed in Table 1.

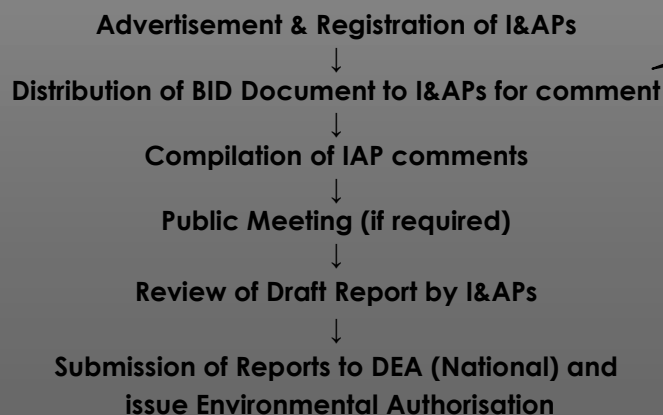
Table 1: Listed activities triggered by the proposed development

Activity No (s)	Listed activity
GN R544 1(ii)	The construction of facilities for the generation of electricity where the output is 10 megawatts or less but the total extent of the facility covers an area in excess of 1 hectare
10 (i)	The construction of facilities or infrastructure for the transmission and distribution of electricity outside urban areas or industrial complexes with a capacity of more than 33 but less than 275 kilovolts.
23 (ii)	The transformation of undeveloped, vacant or derelict land to residential, retail, commercial, recreational, industrial or institutional use, outside an urban area and where the total area to be transformed is bigger than 1 hectare but less than 20 hectares.
GN R546 14 (a)i	The clearance of an area of 5 hectare or more of vegetation where 75% or more of the vegetative cover constitutes indigenous vegetation in all areas outside urban areas.

## APPROACH TO THIS BASIC ASSESSMENT

This phase serves primarily to inform the public and relevant authorities about the proposed project and to determine any impacts. The potential impact on the surrounding will be extensively addressed by specialists and a Basic Assessment Report, along with the Specialist Reports, will then be submitted and a decision will be made by relevant authorities.

### Basic Assessment Process



We are here

## HOW CAN YOU BE INVOLVED

A Public participation Process (PPP) is being conducted as part of the BA. The aim of the PPP is to allow everyone who is interested in, or likely to be affected by the proposed development to provide input into the process.

The Public Participation Process will include:

- Advertisement in the Daily Despatch
- Notice Boards on site
- Circulation of the BID to all I&APs
- An open day/focus group meeting/public meeting
- Review of the report by all registered I&APs

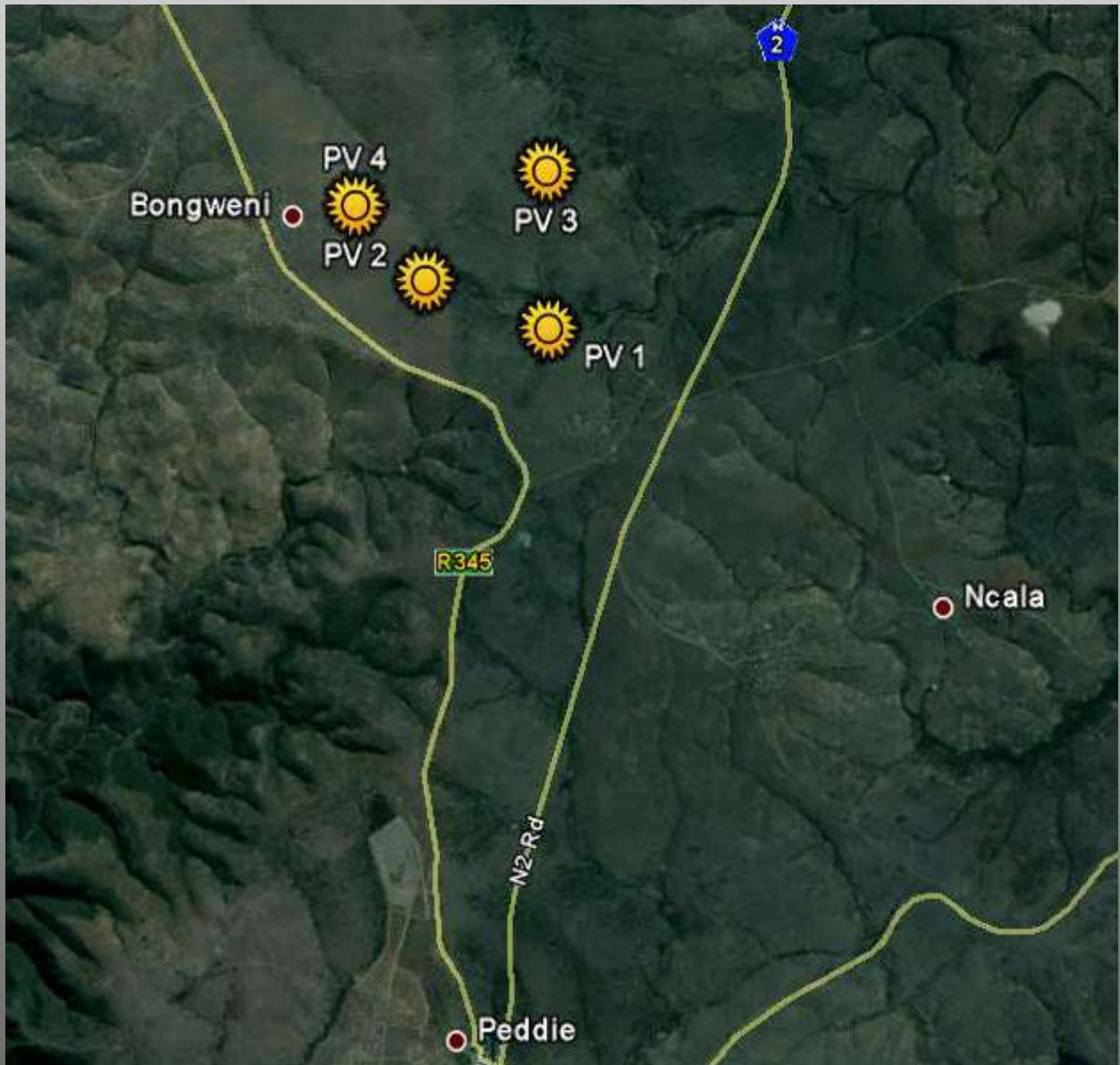


Figure 2: Map showing the location of the proposed development alternatives in relation to Peddie.