

APPENDIX C8
COMMENTS & RESPONSES REPORT



TO BE INCLUDED IN THE FINAL EIA

SCOPING PHASE

**LIMESTONE PV2, NEAR DANIELSKUIL, NORTHERN CAPE PROVINCE
(DFFE Ref.no.: 14/12/16/3/3/2/2270)
COMMENTS AND RESPONSES REPORT**

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The Limestone Solar PV2 application for Environmental Authorisation was announced on Monday, 06 January 2023. The Background Information Document (BID), distributed on Monday, 06 January 2023, 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. A notification letter accompanied the BID, announced the availability of the Scoping Report for review and comment. All written comments received from the commencement of the Scoping phase to date have been included in this Comments and Responses Report (C&RR).

The Scoping Report was made available for a 30-day review and comment period from **Friday, 06 January 2023** to **Monday, 06 February 2023**. The C&RR has been updated with comments received during the review and comment period and the written comments are included in **Appendix C6** of the final Scoping Report.

NOTE:
In terms of Regulation 44(1) of the EIA Regulations 2014, as amended, please note that the comments raised, and responses provided at the various virtual Meetings held during the 30-day review period of the Scoping Report are attached as **Appendix C7** of the final Scoping Report.

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS / ACRONYMSI See

EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment	SR	Scoping Report
DFFE	Department Forestry, Fisheries and the Environmental	IRP	Integrated Resources Plan (IRP)
I&APs	Interested and Affected Parties		

1. COMMENTS RECEIVED DURING THE SCOPING PHASE AND SCOPING REPORT 30-DAY REVIEW PERIOD

1.1. Organs of State

NO.	COMMENT	RAISED BY	RESPONSE
1.	<p><u>Transnet has reviewed the SR and brings the following comment.</u></p> <p>This project will not affect Transnet due to its locality. The closest point of the area of concern to our rail is about 3km North-East.</p>	<p>L Boye Transnet - Acting Depot Manager Letter dated: 12 January 2023</p>	<p>It has been noted that the Transnet area of concern for their rail is about 3km North-East and the project would not impact on it due to locality. No further action is required.</p>
2.	<p><u>The department has reviewed the SR and the following information must be included to the final Scoping Report (SR):</u></p> <p>1. Competent Authority</p> <p>a) Clarify the reason for this department being the competent authority in terms of S24C of NEMA. This must be expanded on and updated in the application form. State clearly whether the applicant intends to bid the project in terms of the REIPPPP and IRP. This is especially in reference to page 6 of the application form which states that: 'The developer intends to submit a bid in terms of a regulated power purchase procurement process (e.g., REIPPPP) to evacuate the generated power into the national grid or obtain a commercial PPA (Power Purchase Agreement.' and further states: The site is also in proximity to large electricity users which opens opportunities for commercial PPAs, either behind the meter connection or Wheeling to a 3rd party off-taker.</p> <p>b) The applicant must clarify the intention of the application as this has direct implications in terms of the identification of the competent authority.</p>	<p>Ms Millicent Solomons Acting Chief Director: Integrated Environmental Authorisation Letter Dated: 03 February 2023</p>	<p>The developer intends to submit a bid in terms of a regulated power purchase procurement process (e.g., REIPPPP) evacuate the generated power into the national grid. This forms part of the Integrated Resources Plan (IRP).</p> <p>In terms of GN R779 of 1 July 2016, the Minister of the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE) is the Competent Authority for all activities relating to the Integrated Resources Plan (IRP) of 2010 –2030 (and any updates thereto) that require environmental authorisation. As the application for environmental authorisation relates to the proposed solar facility and associated infrastructure, which is related to the IRP and national energy provision, the Minister is the Competent Authority.</p> <p>The intention of the application has been further clarified in the Final Scoping Report. The applicant intends to bid the solar PV facility into a regulated power purchase procurement process, such as the REIPPPP.</p>

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	<p>2. <u>Listed Activities</u></p> <p>a) Please ensure that all relevant listed activities are applied for, are specific and can be linked to the development activity or infrastructure (including thresholds) as described in the project description. Only activities (and sub-activities) applicable to the development must be applied for and assessed. Furthermore, kindly ensure that the latest listed activities, as amended in 2021, are applied for.</p> <p>b) It is imperative that the relevant authorities are continuously involved throughout the environmental impact assessment process, as the development property falls within geographically designated areas in terms of Listing Notice 3 Activities. Written comments must be obtained from the relevant authorities (or proof of consultation if no comments were received) and submitted to this Department. In addition, a graphical representation of the proposed development within the respective geographical areas must be provided.</p> <p>c) 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</p>		<p>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 have been applied for and assessed. All listed activities applied for are indicated in Section 7.2 of the Final Scoping Report.</p> <p>All identified and relevant competent authorities have been consulted during the scoping process. Evidence that all identified and relevant competent authorities were given an opportunity to comment on the proposed development is included in Appendix C8 of the final Scoping Report.</p> <p>In addition, they will be continuously consulted throughout the EIA process. Evidence of consultation will be included in the EIA report.</p> <p>A geographical map with a geographical representation of the proposed development has been included in Appendix D of the FSR. A preliminary sensitivity map of the identified sensitivities during the scoping phase is also included as Figure 10.1 in FSR.</p> <p>The activities applied for in the application form do not differ to the activities mentioned in the final Scoping Report, therefore and amended application form will not be submitted with this FSR.</p>

NO.	COMMENT	RAISED BY	RESPONSE
	<p>form template has been amended and can be downloaded from the following link https://www.dffe.gov.za/documents/forms</p>		
	<p>3. Layout & Sensitivity Maps</p> <p>a) Please provide a layout map which indicates the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » the PV development area; » Position of all infrastructure e.g. panels, BESS, substations, grid connection etc.; » Permanent laydown area footprint; LY » All supporting onsite infrastructure e.g. roads (existing and proposed); » Substation(s) and/or transformer(s) sites including their entire footprint; » Connection routes (including pylon positions) to the distribution/transmission network; and » All existing infrastructure on the site. » 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. <p>b) The above map must be overlain with a sensitivity map and a cumulative map which shows neighbouring renewable energy developments and existing grid</p>		<p>An appropriate facility layout map indicating the proposed layout of the Solar PV Facility and associated infrastructure has been included as Figure 10.2 in Section 10.4 of the final scoping report.</p> <p>The grid connection will be a separate process, and that Eskom will determine the final connection plan, which will be included in the EIA</p> <p>The layout map has also been overlaid with site sensitivities including all buffers and "no-go" areas. Based on the sensitivity data that will be obtained from suitably qualified specialists during the EIA Phase the layout map may be updated and included in the EIA report. A cumulative map indicating neighbouring renewable energy</p>

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	<p>infrastructure. All available biodiversity information must be used in the finalisation of the map and infrastructure must not encroach on extremely sensitive areas as far as possible.</p> <p>c) Ensure that similar colours are not used to differentiate between infrastructure. i.e. items must be easily distinguishable in the Legend.</p> <p>d) Google maps will not be accepted for decision-making purposes.</p>		<p>developments and existing grid infrastructure has been included in Figure 9.7 of the FSR.</p> <p>Google maps have not been included in the FSR and will not be included in the EIA Report.</p>
	<p>4. Public Participation</p> <p>a) Please ensure that all issues raised, and comments received on the draft SR from registered I&APs and organs of state which have jurisdiction (including this Department's Biodiversity Section: BCAdmin@dffe.gov.za) 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 must be submitted to the Department of the attempts that were made to obtain comments. The Public Participation Process must be conducted in terms of the approved public participation plan and Regulation 39, 40, 41, 42, 43 & 44 of the EIA Regulations 2014, as amended.</p> <p>b) A comments and response trail report (C&R) must be submitted with the final SR. The C&R report must incorporate all historical comments (pre and post submission of the draft SR) for this development. The C&R</p>		<p>All comments received from organs of state Interested and affected parties (I&APs), which have jurisdiction in respect of the application during the commencement of the EIA process and those received on the Scoping Report that was made available for a 30-day review and comment period have been included within this Comments and Responses Report Appendix 8, and have been responded to, as required.</p> <p>Copies of all written comments received from organs of state are included in Appendix C6: Comments Received of the final Scoping Report.</p> <p>Proof of correspondence with the various stakeholders and proof of attempts to obtain comments from the stakeholders on the project database are included in Appendix C5: Stakeholder Correspondence of the final Scoping Report.</p> <p>Proof of correspondence with organs of state and proof of attempts to obtain comments are included in Appendix C4: Organs of State Correspondence of the final Scoping Report.</p>

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	<p>report must be a separate document from the main report and the format must be in the table format which reflects the details of the I&APs and date of comments received, actual comments received, and response provided. Please ensure that comments made by I&APs are comprehensively captured (copy verbatim if required) and responded to clearly and fully. Please note that a response such as "Noted" is not regarded as an adequate response to I&AP's comments.</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 follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Site notices were placed on the boundaries of the development site (refer to Appendix C2: Site Notices & Newspaper Advertisements of the final Scoping Report) » An advertisement announcing the EIA process and availability of the Scoping Report for review and comment was placed in the NoordkaapBulletin on the 15 December 2022 and a reminder Advertisement on the 26 January 2023, published in Afrikaans and English (word text as submitted to the newspaper and tearsheet are in Appendix C2: Site Notices & Newspaper Advertisements of the final Scoping Report) » The availability of the Scoping Report for review and comment was announced by a notification letter, accompanied by the BID, sent to all registered I&APs and organs of state on the project database (refer to Appendix C4: Organs of State Correspondence and Appendix C5: Stakeholder Correspondence of the final Scoping Report.) <p>Virtual Meetings were held with various stakeholder groups on 26 January 2023, and notes of the meetings are included in Appendix C7: Minutes of Meetings of the final Scoping Report</p> <p>The Scoping Report was made available for download on 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 (refer to Appendix C4: Organs of State Correspondence and Appendix C5: Stakeholder Correspondence of the final Scoping Report.)</p>

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	<p>5. Specialist Assessments to be conducted in the EIA Phase</p> <p>a) Specialist studies to be conducted must provide a detailed description of their methodology, as well as indicate the locations and descriptions of PV arrays, and all other associated infrastructures that they have assessed and are recommending for authorisations.</p> <p>b) 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> <p>c) Should the appointed specialists specify contradicting recommendations, the EAP must clearly indicate the most reasonable recommendation and substantiate this with defensible reasons; and where necessary, include further expertise advice.</p> <p>d) 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 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>Specialist studies will be conducted as part of the EIA Phase and will be included in the EIA Report. The Specialist studies will 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> <p>All specialist reports compiled for the Final Scoping Report include a detailed description of the limitations of the studies. All specialist studies have been conducted in the correct season. During the EIA Phase, all specialist studies, will provide a detailed description of the limitations to the studies submitted as part of the EIA Report.</p> <p>No contradicting recommendations were provided by the specialists as part of the scoping process. This comment is noted and will be taken into consideration during the EIA Phase of the process.</p> <p>The specialist studies will be conducted in accordance with Government Notice No. 320 of 20 March 2020 (i.e., "the protocols"), and Government Notice No. 1150 of 30 October 2020 (i.e., protocols for terrestrial plant and animal species).</p>

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	<p>e) Additionally, the protocols specify that an assessment must be prepared by a specialist who is an expert in the field and is SACNASP registered for e.g.an aquatic assessment must be prepared by a specialist registered with SACNASP, with expertise in the field of aquatic sciences.</p> <p>f) Should the appointed specialists specify contradicting recommendations, the EAP must clearly indicate the most reasonable recommendation and substantiate this with defensible reasons; and where necessary, include further expertise advice.</p> <p>g) Please include a table in the report, summarising the specialist studies required by the Department's Screening Tool, a column indicating whether these studies were conducted or not, and a column with motivation for any studies not conducted. Please note that if any of the specialists' studies and requirements/protocols recommended in the Department's Screening Tool are not commissioned, motivation for such must be provided in the report per the requirements of the Protocols.</p>		<p>Specialist assessments will be undertaken by suitably qualified SACNASP registered specialist. The Specialist Assessments will be included in the EIA Report.</p> <p>This comment is noted and will be taken into consideration during the EIA Phase of the process.</p> <p>Table 7.5 of the FSR summarizes the specialist studies required by the Department's Screening Tool and an indication of which studies were undertaken. Where studies have not been undertaken, a motivation has been provided.</p>
	<p>6. Cumulative Assessment to be conducted in the EIA Phase</p> <p>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:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Identified cumulative impacts must be clearly defined, and where possible the size of the identified impact must be quantified and 		<p>Potential cumulative impacts have been identified and Section 9.4 of the Final Scoping Report. An assessment of potential cumulative impacts will also be assessed during the EIA Phase and will be included in the EIA report. and included in the EIA report.</p>

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	<p>indicated, i.e. hectares of cumulatively transformed land.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » 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>7. Environmental Management Programme The EMPr must include the following: a) It is drawn to your attention that for substation and overhead electricity transmission and distribution infrastructure, when such facilities trigger activity 11 or 47 of the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations Listing Notice 1 of 2014, as amended, and any other listed and specified activities necessary for the realisation of such facilities, the Generic Environmental Management Programme, must be used and submitted with the final report over and above the EMPr for the facility i.e. separate EMPr for the substation, powerline and the facility. b) Further to the above, you are required to comply with the content of the EMPr in terms of Appendix 4 of the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations, 2014, as amended.</p>		<p>An EMPr for the Solar Energy PV Facility will be completed according to Appendix 4 of the EIA Regulations and will be included in the EIA Report. furthermore, the Generic EMPr for the substation will also be included into the EIA Report.</p>
	<p>General</p>		

NO.	COMMENT	RAISED BY	RESPONSE
	<p>You are further reminded to comply with Regulation 21(1) of the NEMA EIA Regulations 2014, as amended, which states that:</p> <p>"If S&EIR must be applied to an application, the applicant must, within 44 days of receipt of the application by the competent authority, submit to the competent authority a SR 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."</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 SR in accordance with Appendix 2 and Regulation 21(1) of the NEMA 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 submission of the final Scoping Report with the prescribed timeframes of the EIA Regulations.</p> <p>The Scoping Report has been prepared in accordance with Appendix 2 of the EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended (GNR 326).</p> <p>The Applicant acknowledges that no activity may commence prior to receipt of the Environmental Authorisation.</p>

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	<p>Department of Agriculture and Rural Development: Northern Cape Province Could you kindly please provide the documentation for the proposed Oryx wind farm development?</p>	<p>Natalie Uys Production Scientist Grade A: Botanist, Acting Scientific Manager Grade B: Research and Development Support</p> <p>Letter Dated: 07 February 2023</p>	<p>The Oryx Wind Energy Facility does not form part of the solar PV application process. A separate application for Environmental Authorisation will be lodged for the Wind Energy Facility. The Department of Agriculture and Rural Development: Northern Cape Province will be registered notified once the application process commences.</p>
	<p>Please take note that these are general comments relating to the development footprints. Could you please provide an overview document / presentation from the next phase from the results from the EIA studies showing environmental sensitivities and new layouts for both the solar developments and the wind farms.</p>		<p>The facility layout has been included in Section 10.4 of the FSR. The layout may be revised based on the sensitivities that will be identified from the Specialist studies undertaken for the EIA Phase. The Revised layout will be included in the EIA report. A separate application for Environmental Authorisation will be lodged for the Wind Energy Facility. The Department of Agriculture and Rural Development: Northern Cape Province will be registered notified once the application process commences.</p>
	<p>The availability of foundational and baseline data for the Northern Cape is limited and as a result the Screening Tool as well as the National Vegetation map has limitations and shortcomings when assessing impacts for this area. You cannot only rely desktop surveys and proper site surveys are for that reason critically important and always recommended</p>		<p>A Terrestrial Biodiversity Assessment (including flora and fauna) will be undertaken and will include both a desktop analysis and site sensitivity verifications as part of the EIA Phase. The Terrestrial Biodiversity Assessment will be included in the EIA report.</p>
	<p>There are numerous plant and animal species are protected under the Northern Cape Nature Conservation Act no 9 of 2009 (NCNCA). Some protected and specially protected flora species found in this area include: <i>Boophone disticha</i>, <i>Harpogophytum procumbens</i>, <i>Vachellia haematoxylon</i>, <i>Aloe grandidentata</i>, <i>Boscia foetida</i>, <i>Olea europaea subsp. africana</i> etc. Fauna and flora permits will be needed from the department for handling/ removing/ relocating/ destroying all specially protected and protected flora and fauna. Estimated</p>		<p>A Terrestrial Biodiversity Assessment (including fauna and flora) as part of the EIA Phase. The Terrestrial Biodiversity Assessment will be included in the EIA report. A permit application will be submitted to the Department, should any protected species be identified during the assessment.</p>

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	numbers for species that need to be removed must be provided for permit approval.		
	Boscia albitrunca is protected under both the National Forest Act (NFA) and under the NCNCA. The actual number of trees to be removed must be provided for permit purposes. Contact person for DFFE Forestry in the Northern Cape is Jacoline Mans, Jmans@dffe.gov.za .		<p>A Terrestrial Biodiversity Assessment (including fauna and flora) as part of the EIA Phase. The Terrestrial Biodiversity Assessment will be included in the EIA report.</p> <p>A permit application will be submitted to the Department, should any protected tree species be identified during the assessment.</p>
	Please consult the Birdlife guidelines for avifaunal assessments for solar (Jenkins et al., 2017).		The avifauna specialist study that formed part of the Final Scoping Report includes a reference list of all resources used. A number of Birdlife publications were consulted. As part of the EIA phase, Birdlife will be consulted.
	<p>An offset investigation report is recommended needed to due to the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) The site is located in a Critical Biodiversity Area (CBA 2) are and there are immense developmental pressures in the surrounding area. b) The Ghaap plateau is seen as a sensitive ecosystem. c) The site is located in the Griqualand West Centre of Endemism (Van Wyk & Smith, 2001) – recent work by Frisby and Van Staden on this should be consulted (Frisby et al., 2015; Staden, 2021; Van Staden et al., 2020). d) Numerous pan systems are located in the site that are seen as sensitive (Kotze et al., 2019). e) The site is located in a Primary Focus Area for the Northern Cape Protected Areas Expansion Strategy. f) The site is located in Southern Ghaap Plateau Strategic Water Resource Area. g) There is Olive tree woodland in the area 		The comments are noted and acknowledged and will be provided to the Terrestrial Biodiversity Specialist to thoroughly address and include in the Terrestrial Biodiversity Assessment that will be included in the EIA report.

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	<p>The Northern Cape Critical Biodiversity Areas (CBA) map https://bgis.sanbi.org/Projects/Detail/203 was signed off by the head of department as an "instrument for informing decisions and priorities on biodiversity". The before-mentioned CBA map meets both the criteria of the definition of a systematic biodiversity plan, therefore Listing Notice 3 activities in CBAs and Ecological Support Areas (ESAs) would apply.</p>		<p>The SANBI CBA maps were considered as part of the SR and will be consulted during the EIA Phase. 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. This included those activities related to and CBA/ESA areas in Listing Notice 3. All listed activities applied for are indicated in Chapter 7, Table 7.1, of the Final Scoping Report</p>
	<p>I.t.o. the terrestrial biodiversity please assess, mitigate and make provision for the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Please take note that tortoise populations are affected by the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. electrocutions with electric fences. ii. predations by crows – (relates to waste management). b. Giant bull frogs were found in pans after the recent rains. Most of the injuries and mortalities to this species occurs from collision with vehicles when moving between their breeding sites (pans) and their burrows. Their burrows can range from 200m to 1km from the pans and they are capable of estivating underground for 7 years. Herbicide and pesticide use should also be restricted near the sites (Yetman, undated). Please liaise with EWT in this regard. 		<p>The comments are noted and acknowledged and will be provided to the Terrestrial Biodiversity Specialist to thoroughly address and include in the Terrestrial Biodiversity Assessment (including fauna, flora and freshwater) that will be included in the EIA report.</p> <p>EWT will be consulted as recommended.</p>
	<p>The following are concerns i.t.o. of the cumulative footprint should be assessed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Other land uses in the area, which can be illustrated by the latest land cover map. b. The impact of solar facilities on the drying of pans system. The is evidence from 		<p>The comments are noted and acknowledged and will be provided to the Terrestrial Biodiversity and Avifauna Specialists to thoroughly address and include in the Terrestrial Biodiversity Assessment (including fauna, flora and freshwater) and Avifaunal Assessment that will be included in the EIA report. The Studies will assess potential cumulative impacts associated with the proposed development and provide appropriate mitigation measures to address the impacts.</p>

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	<p>existing solar farms changing the surface hardness of the wetland catchments.</p> <p>c. The heat island effect (local warming, impacts on reptiles etc.).</p> <p>d. Lake effect on birds (mortalities and injuries on birds).</p> <p>e. Lake effect on insects (e.g. insects have been lying eggs on panels instead of pans).</p> <p>f. Insect mortalities (security lights at these sites at night attract insects).</p> <p>g. Bat impacts (bats are attracted to by the security lights).</p>		
	<p>South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA)</p> <p>The SAHRA Archaeology, Palaeontology and Meteorites (APM) Unit requests that the pending assessment of the impact to heritage resources comply with section 38(3) of the NHRA as required by section 38(8) of the NHRA. The HIA must include an archaeological and palaeontological component.</p> <p>The field-based archaeological component of the HIA must be conducted by a qualified archaeologist and must comply with the SAHRA 2007 Minimum Standards: Archaeological and Palaeontological Components of Impact Assessment Reports.</p> <p>The proposed development is located within an area of very high Palaeontological Sensitivity as per the SAHRIS Palaeo Sensitivity map. As such, a field-based based Palaeontological Impact Assessment (PIA) must be</p>	<p>Natasha Higgitt Manager Development Application Unit</p> <p>Letter Dated: 08 February 2023</p>	<p>A complete HIA which complies with Section 38(8) of the NHRA will be undertaken by a suitably qualified Specialist and will be included in the EIA report.</p> <p>A complete PIA which complies with the 2012 Minimum Standards: Palaeontological Components of Heritage Impact Assessments will be undertaken by a suitably qualified Specialist and will be included in the EIA report.</p>

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	<p>undertaken by a qualified palaeontologist. The report must comply with the 2012 Minimum Standards: Palaeontological Components of Heritage Impact Assessments.</p> <p>Any other heritage resources as defined in section 3 of the NHRA that may be impacted, such as built structures over 60 years old, sites of cultural significance associated with oral histories, burial grounds and graves, graves of victims of conflict, and cultural landscapes or viewsapes must also be assessed.</p> <p>Further comments will be issued upon receipt of the pending heritage reports and the Draft EIA inclusive of appendices.</p>		
	<p>Control Biodiversity Officer Grade: Biodiversity Conservation</p> <p>Based on the information provided in the report, the Directorate Biodiversity Conservation does not object the proposed Draft Scoping Report and plan of Study. The final report must comply with the 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.</p> <p>All Public Participation Process documents related to Biodiversity EIA review and other Biodiversity EIA queries must be submitted to the Directorate: Biodiversity Conservation at Email: BCAdmin@environment.gov.za for attention of Mr Seoka Lekota.</p>	<p>Seoka Lekota Control Biodiversity Officer Grade B: Biodiversity Conservation: Department of Forestry, Fisheries & the Environment</p> <p>Letter Dated: 08 February 2023</p>	<p>The NO Objection to the Scoping Report is noted and acknowledged. The EIA report will comply with the 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.</p> <p>All Public Participation Process documents related to Biodiversity EIA review and other Biodiversity EIA queries will be submitted to the Directorate: Biodiversity Conservation at Email: BCAdmin@environment.gov.za for attention of Mr Seoka Lekota.</p>

NO.	COMMENT	RAISED BY	RESPONSE

1.2. Interested and Affected Parties

NO.	COMMENT	RAISED BY	RESPONSE
	Kgatelopele Local Municipality has reviewed the SR and has no objection to the proposed project.	Willie Blundin Municipal Manager Email dated: 31 January 2023	We acknowledge that the Kgatelopele Local Municipality has no objections to the proposed development. No further response is required.
	As a neighbor and member of the farming community we do NOT oppose the project but would like to communicate a few of our concerns. 1. As you will see, if you visit the site, our roads are not in a good condition. With all the extra construction vehicles needed on such a project, our road will become impossible to use with our normal vehicles. Will you maintain the road, because government will not provide more than what they do at the moment, which is already not enough.	Mrs C York Email dated: 05 February 2023	The NO opposition to the development is noted. A Traffic Impact Assessment will be conducted as part of the EIA phase which will determine potential impacts on roads that may arise from the development. Appropriate mitigation measures will be provided for the identified potential impacts which will be included in the EIA Report and the EMPr
	2. We live in a relative safe community. We really are very concerned about the inflow of people looking for jobs on the site. Not all will be successful, and those who are not, will become a security risk to the rest of the farming community. To try to prevent that, it would perhaps help to keep the employment office in town and not on site.		A Social Impact Assessment will be conducted as part of the EIA phase and will consider the influx of job seekers. As part of this, appropriate mitigations will be implemented to reduce the impact this may have on the local community, as well as on safety and security. A project office will be established in town where stakeholder engagements and employment opportunities will be managed from. Site access will be restricted during construction and operation to only project-related personnel.

NO.	COMMENT	RAISED BY	RESPONSE
	<p>3. We live on the Ghaap mountain Plateau and although we have a lot of underground water, it is not very deep and dependent on rainwater for recharge. Almost all of the farms in the vicinity's underground water is connected to 2 or 3 big underground "dams". A study by Golder Associates showed that.</p> <p>We have two concerns regarding our water, contamination and excessive usage which may result in the water level dropping and neighbouring farms boreholes going dry.</p>		<p>Water will either be sourced from the municipality or abstracted from boreholes. Mitigation measures regarding both water contamination and excessive use of water will be covered by actions stipulated in the EMPs which will be included in the EIA report. Hydrogeological studies will also be conducted and Water Use License Applications applied for to ensure that water is abstracted sustainably.</p>
	<p>4. Veldfires is another concern. Not only with more people in the area, but also if they plan a living facility of some kind on site. We had devastating fires in the last couple of years, because of ignorant people.</p>		<p>The comment is noted and acknowledged. Mitigation measures to address veldfires will be covered by actions stipulated in the EMPs which will be included in the EIA report.</p>
	<p>5. We realise that the project can also bring job opportunities to local people, therefore we do not oppose the project, but hope that you will be responsible in planning and executing all of the phases of your project, keeping the wellbeing of our community in mind.</p>		<p>A Social Impact Assessment (SIA) will be conducted as part of the EIA phase and will consider the impact of the development on the local community. The study will also look at potential measures to reduce negative impacts whilst enhancing positive ones.</p>
	<p>1. The development of alternative energy sources is critically important for the electricity supply in South Africa. The South African economy relies on the government to supply stable and adequate electricity to not just keep the current economy going but create capacity for growth. The current dismal electricity supply situation is deeply negatively impacting our economy and leading to more unemployment as</p>	<p>Johan du Plessis Email dated: 06 February 2023</p>	<p>We acknowledge the comments and the lack of objection to the project. No further action is required.</p>

NO.	COMMENT	RAISED BY	RESPONSE
	business suffer or even fail. We support the development of Limestone PV1 and PV2		
	2. We would like to request of governmental, provincial, and local authority structures to expedite all processes required to establish new electricity generation capacity, in particular green energy projects like Limestone PV1 and PV2 in the interest of bringing stability and capacity to the national electricity grid.		
	3. We would like to request government to further relax stringent and time-consuming regulations and requirements to assist in the rapid development of alternative energy generation like Limestone PV1 and PV2. We all need more electricity as soon as possible.		
	4. We know that projects like Limestone PV1 and PV2 will create short-term and long-term job opportunities, aiding much needed regional development in support of the local economy. We would fully support projects like this to bring stability and help elevate poverty in the local community.		As part of the EIA process a Social Impact Assessment will be conducted and included in the EIA Report. This will assess impacts such as job creation, establishment of infrastructure to support job security and socio-economic development and provide recommendations to further enhance these positive benefits.
	5. We would like to see upskilling of the local community to participate in development of projects like these not just for construction but also operation and maintenance of PV and Wind generation infrastructure.		
	6. We would also like to urge Eskom to expedite investment in more grid capacity for the Northern Cape to allow the export of electricity from the Postmasburg, Daniels Kuil and Lime Acres area to unlock even more potential for similar projects in this area. This area has already proven its ability to successfully establish and operate alternative energy		We acknowledge the comments and the NO objection to the project. A separate application will be lodged for the grid connection infrastructure associated with the Solar PV Energy Facility.

NO.	COMMENT	RAISED BY	RESPONSE
	<p>generation and have other projects currently under construction. Grid capacity remains a major constraint for this economic growth point in the region.</p>		
	<p>Telkom With reference to your above- mentioned application, I hereby confirm that the proposed work installation is approved in terms of Section 29 of the Electronic Communications Act No. 36 of 2005 as amended.</p> <p>No infrastructure of our Client (Openserve) will be affected by this proposal. We did our utmost to ensure that we indicate our route as accurate as possible and should you discover any of our cables that is not on the sketch please stop and contact us immediately to arrange a site meeting. In the event that our cables are exposed and damaged/stolen by a third party the damages will be repaired at the customer's account. Please make use of pilot holes in order not to damage our infrastructure. Therefore, any damages occurred during construction of work will be repaired at the customer's account.</p> <p>Although we are not affected by this proposal, Mr Vivian Groenewald must be contacted at telephone number 081 362 6738 from our Network Field Services. Two (2) weeks prior to commencement of Proposed work.</p>	<p>Chris Schutte Letter dated: 05 February 2023</p>	<p>The Approval of the proposed work installation is noted and acknowledged. The details as contained in the correspondence have been provided to the Applicant for further action, as may be required.</p>

NO.	COMMENT	RAISED BY	RESPONSE
	<p>Approval of the proposed route is valid for six months. If construction has not yet commenced within this period, then the file must be resubmitted for approval.</p> <p>Any changes/deviations from the original planning during or prior to construction must immediately be communicated to this office.</p> <p>on completion of this project, please certify that all requirements as stipulated in this letter have been met. Please note that should any of our client {openseve} infrastructure has to be relocated or altered as a result of your activities the cost for such alteration or relocation will be for your account in terms of section 25 of the Electronic communication Act'</p> <p>Mr Vivian Groenewald must be contacted at telephone number 081 352 6738' Two (2) weeks prior to commencement of proposed work. It's important that all services are shown on site before construction starts.</p> <p>Approval of the proposed route is valid for six months. If construction has not yet commenced within this period, then the file must be resubmitted for approval. Any changes/ Deviations from the original planning during or</p>		

NO.	COMMENT	RAISED BY	RESPONSE
	<p>prior to construction must immediately to communicate to this office</p> <p>Please notify this office and forward an as built plan, within 30 days of completion of construction'.</p> <p>Mr Vivian Groeneward must be contacted at terephone number o081 362 6738. Two (2) weeks prior to commencement of proposed work, It's important that all services are shown on site before construction starts.</p>		