iWink Consulting
Traffic & Transport Engineering
Road Safety

LIMESTONE PV 2
NORTHERN CAPE PROVINCE

Transport Impact Assessment

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LIMESTONE PV 2
TRANSPORT IMPACT ASSESSMENT

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report serves as the Transport Impact Assessment aimed at determining the traffic impact of the proposed Limestone PV 2 Project near Danielskuil in the Northern Cape Province. The Limestone PV 2 Project forms part of a proposed cluster of renewable energy projects, which will comprise:

- Limestone PV 1 – up to 150 MW Maximum Export Capacity
- Limestone PV 2 – up to 150 MW Maximum Export Capacity
- Oryx WEF (Wind Energy Facility) – up to 360 MW

Limestone PV 1 will be dealt with in a separate report. Oryx WEF is still in an earlier planning stage and will be addressed at a later stage.

The two solar projects will be located in close proximity to each other within the Kgatelopele Local Municipality and the ZF Mgcawu District Municipality of the Northern Cape Province of South Africa. The sites will respectively accommodate a solar power facility and associated support structures and facilities to allow for the generation and evacuation of electricity.

Feasible access points were assessed considering sight lines, access spacing requirements and road safety aspects and are discussed in this report. It is recommended to ensure that the access points are kept clear of vegetation and any other obstructions to ensure sight lines are kept.

In general, non-motorised transportation (NMT) is a dominant mode of transportation in rural areas, with private cars and minibus/taxis being the second-most used mode of transport, followed by buses. Currently, there are no known future planned public transport facilities in the vicinity of the site. However, generally the developer or appointed contractor of a renewable energy project will provide shuttle busses for workers during the construction phase.

The highest trip generator for the project is expected during the construction phase. The actual construction stage peak hour trips are dependent on the construction period, construction programming, material availability, component delivery, abnormal load permitting etc. The decommissioning phase is expected to generate similar trips as the construction phase. The traffic impact during the operational phase is considered negligible.

For the construction and decommissioning phases, the impact expected to be generated by the vehicle trips is an increase in traffic and the associated noise, dust, and exhaust pollution. Based on the high-level screening of impacts and mitigation, the project is expected to have a low negative impact during the construction and decommissioning stages including the recommended mitigation measures.

LIMESTONE PV 2 PROJECT

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project Description

AGV Projects (Pty) Ltd is proposing the development of a commercial solar energy generation facility and associated infrastructure on farm portions located approximately 16 kms south of Danielskuil and 50 km east of Postmasburg within the Kgatelopele Local Municipality and the ZF Mgcawu District Municipality of the Northern Cape Province (see **Figure 1-1**). The project will comprise of a contracted capacity of up to 150 MW Maximum Export Capacity.

Limestone PV 2 is one of two proposed solar PV developments to be located in close proximity of each other (see **Figures 1-2**). Development areas have been identified for each of these two proposed facilities. Within the identified development areas, development footprints have been defined in a manner which has considered the environmental sensitivities present on the affected property and intentionally remains outside of highly sensitive areas.

The preferred project site for Limestone PV 2 is approximately 1 842 ha, and the affected farm portion is Portion 4 of the Farm Engeland 300.

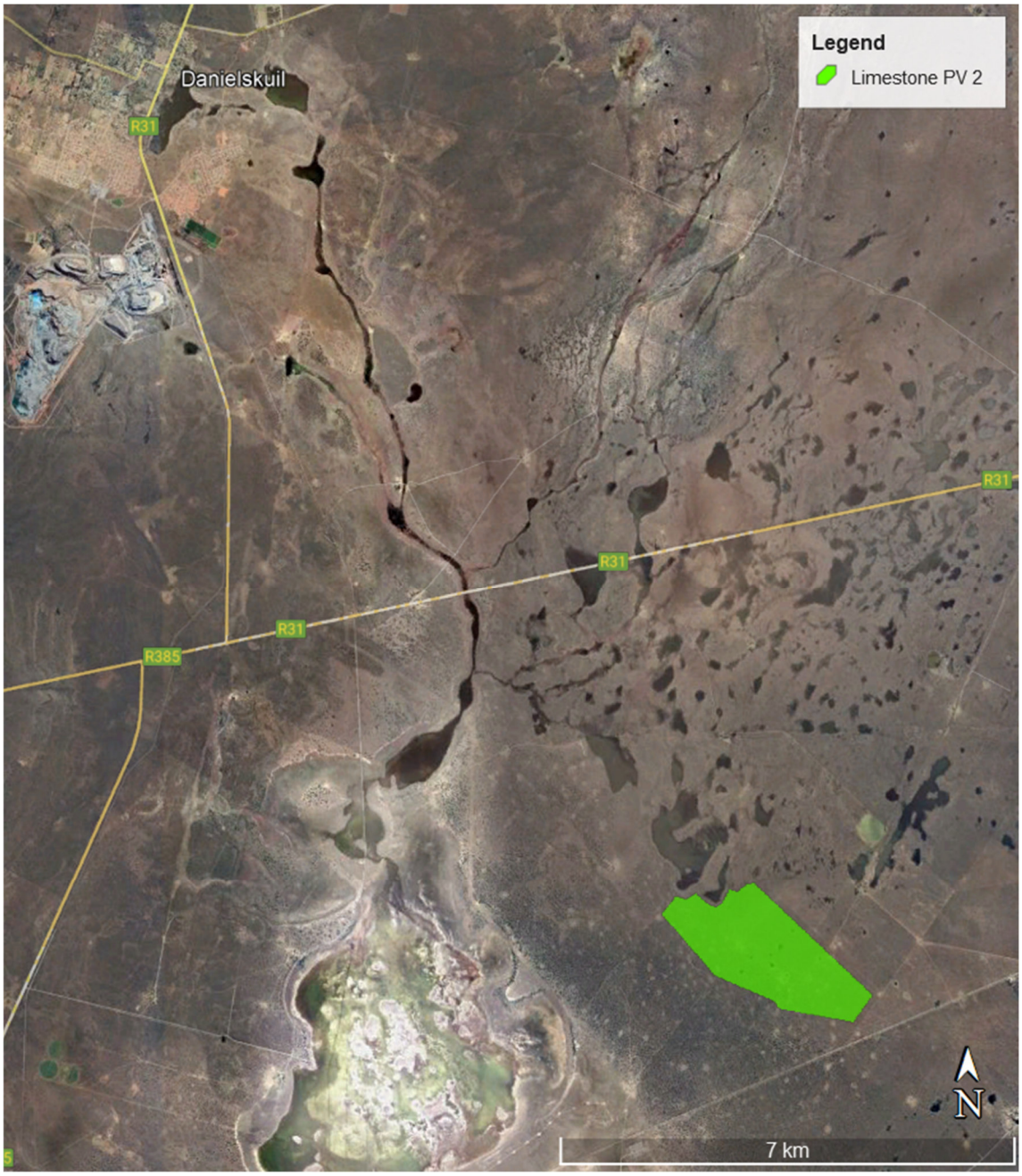

Figure 1-1: Aerial View of Location of proposed Limestone PV 2 project site

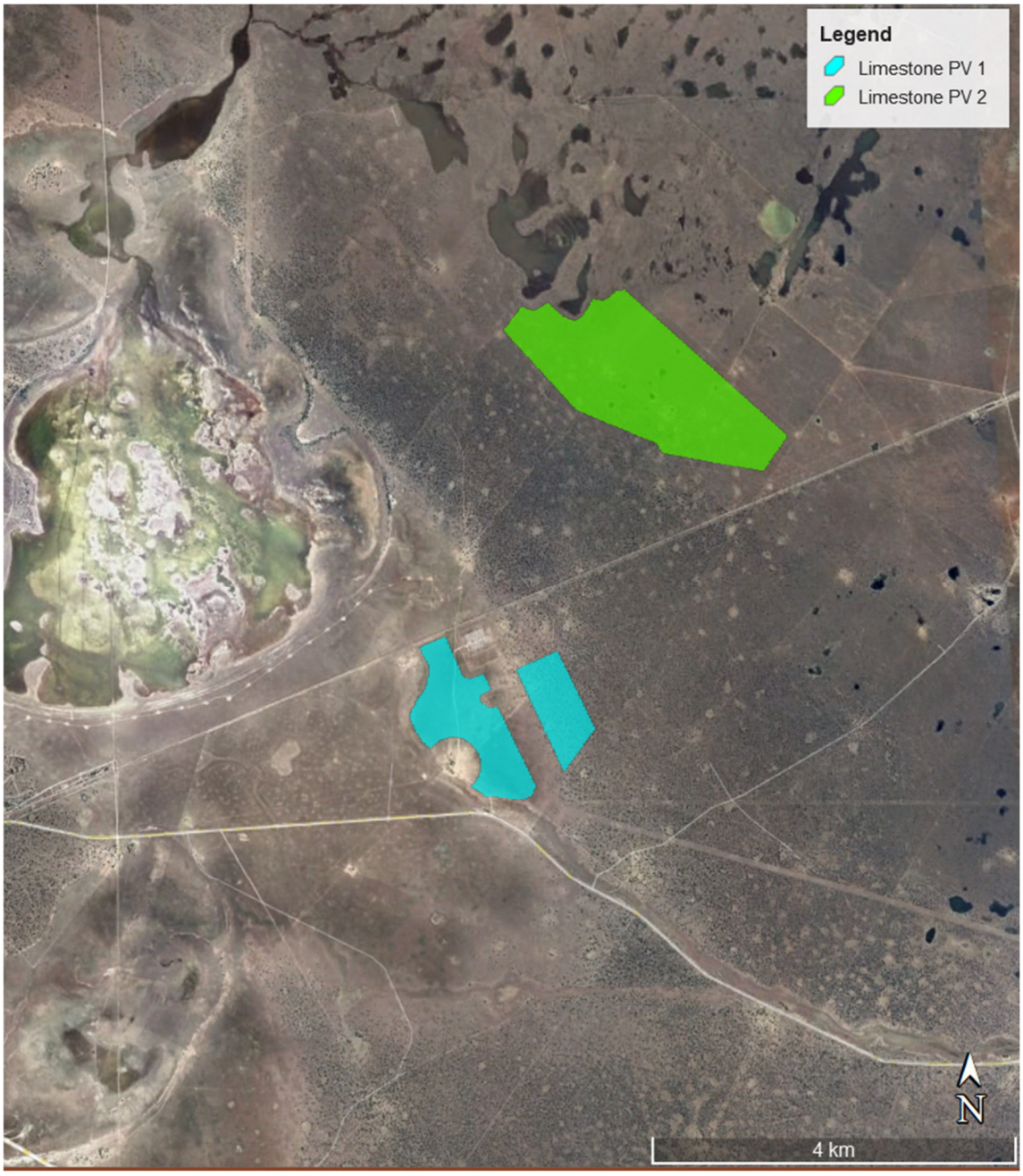

Figure 1-2: Aerial View of Limestone PV 1 and Limestone PV 2 project sites

The proposed projects details are summarized in **Table 1-1.**

Table 1-1:Project information

Facility Name:	Limestone PV 2
Applicant:	AGV Projects (Pty) Ltd
Municipality:	Kgatelopele Local Municipality ZF Mgcawu District Municipality
Affected Farms for the solar component:	Portion 4 of Farm Engeland 300
Extent:	Between 300 and 400 ha development footprint
Capacity:	Up to 150 MW Maximum Export Capacity
Number of panels:	Estimated 375 000 panels
Type of Technology:	Photovoltaic. Fixed-tilt and single-axis tracking.
Structure orientation:	It is expected that the panels will be fixed to a single-axis horizontal tracking structure where the orientation of the panel varies according to the time of the day, as the sun moves from east to west or tilted at a fixed angle towards North equivalent to the latitude at which the site is located in order to capture the most sun. The angle of the tilt will be optimised for cost and system performance.
BESS:	Generally, either Lithium Battery (such as Lithium Iron Phosphate or Lithium Nickel Manganese Cobalt oxides) or Vanadium Redox technology is considered for a project of this nature. The main components of the BESS include the batteries, power conversion system and transformer which is assumed to be stored in various rows of containers. Footprint of BESS: ~6 ha
Inverter:	Sections of the PV array will need to be wired to inverters. The inverter is a pulse width mode inverter that converts direct current (DC) electricity to alternating current (AC) electricity at grid frequency. Cabling will comprise communication, AC and DC cables. The cabling will be in underground trenches and operate at a voltage of up to 33 kV.
Operations and Maintenance (O&M) building footprint:	O&M area normally up to 1 ha, including security gate house, ablutions, workshops, storage and warehousing areas, site offices, Switch gear and relay room.
Batching plant (temporary):	It is expected that gravel and sand will be stored in separate heaps whilst the cement will be contained in a silo. Alternatively, ready mix trucks may be utilized.

Construction Camp and Laydown area:	A typical construction camp area is around 100 m x 50 m (~5 000 m^2). Typical laydown areas are 100 m x 200 m (~2 000m^2). Sewage - portable toilets and septic tanks. For this development, the footprint will be less than 2 ha.
Internal Roads:	Internal roads need to be provided to the site and between project components inclusive of stormwater infrastructure. As far as possible, internal roads will follow existing gravel roads and paths, of which some may require widening/upgrading. Further internal roads will need to be constructed with a minimum width of 5 m (preferred width of 6 m). The length of internal roads needs to be confirmed. Where required for turning circle/bypass areas, access or internal roads need to be up to 20 m wide to allow for larger component transport to navigate safely.
Fencing height:	Generally, approximately 3 m minimum height required.
Grid infrastructure / Substation:	Connecting the array to the electrical grid requires transformation of the voltage from 420V to 33kV to 132kV. The normal components and dimensions of a distribution rated electrical substation will be required. Output voltage from the inverter is 400V and this is fed into step up transformers to 33kV. A substation will be required to step the voltage up from 33 kV to 132kV, after which the power will be evacuated into the national grid via the selected point of the grid connection. This may be the Olien MTS located adjacent to the site. Approximate area occupied by the on-site substation: 0.5 – 0.75 ha.
Site access:	From R385 or/and R31

1.2 Scope and Objectives

The Transport Impact Assessment is aimed at determining the traffic impact of the proposed land development proposal and whether such development can be accommodated by the external transportation system.

The report deals with the items listed below and focuses on the surrounding road network in the vicinity of the site:

- The proposed development;
- The existing road network and any future road planning proposals;
- Trip generation for the proposed development during the construction, operation, and decommissioning phases of the facility;
- Anticipated traffic impact of the proposed development;

- Access requirements and feasibility of proposed access points;
- Determine a main route for the transportation of components to the proposed project site;
- Determine a preliminary transportation route for the transportation of materials, equipment and people to site;
- Recommend alternative or secondary routes, where possible and required;
- Assess Public Transport accessibility;
- Assess Non-motorised Transport availability; and
- Recommended high-level upgrades to the road network, if necessary.

1.3 Details of Specialist

Iris Sigrid Wink of iWink Consulting (Pty) Ltd. is the Traffic & Transportation Engineering Specialist appointed to provide a Transport Impact Assessment for the proposed Limestone PV 1 and Limestone PV 2 projects. Iris Wink is registered with the Engineering Council of South Africa (ECSA), with Registration Number 20110156. A curriculum vitae is included in **Appendix A** of this report.

A signed Specialist Statement of Independence is included in **Appendix B**.

1.4 Terms of Reference

There is no protocol relevant to traffic impact assessments and therefore the specialist study is undertaken according to Appendix 6 of the EIA Regulations (GNR 982, as amended). A transport specialist report should contain the following:

(a) details of-
  (i) the specialist who prepared the report; and
  (ii) the expertise of that specialist to compile a specialist report including a curriculum vitae;
(b) a declaration that the specialist is independent in a form as may be specified by the competent authority;
(c) an indication of the scope of, and the purpose for which, the report was prepared;
  (cA) an indication of the quality and age of base data used for the specialist report
  (cB) a description of existing impacts on the site, cumulative impacts of the proposed development and levels of acceptable change;
(d) the duration date and season of the site investigation and the relevance of the season to the outcome of the assessment;
(e) a description of the methodology adopted in preparing the report or carrying out the specialised process inclusive of equipment and modelling used;
(f) details of an assessment of the specific identified sensitivity of the site related to the proposed activity or activities and its associated structures and infrastructure, inclusive of a site plan identifying site alternatives;
(g) an identification of any areas to be avoided, including buffers;
(h) a map superimposing the activity including the associated structures and infrastructure on the environmental sensitivities of the site including areas to be avoided, including buffers;
(i) a description of any assumptions made and any uncertainties or gaps in knowledge;

(j) a description of the findings and potential implications of such findings on the impact of the proposed activity or activities;
(k) any mitigation measures for inclusion in the EMPr;
(l) any conditions for inclusion in the environmental authorisation;
(m) any monitoring requirements for inclusion in the EMPr or environmental authorisation;
(n) a reasoned opinion-
  (i) whether the proposed activity, activities or portions thereof should be authorised; and (considering impacts and expected cumulative impacts).
  (iA) regarding the acceptability of the proposed activity or activities, and
  (ii) if the opinion is that the proposed activity, activities or portions thereof should be authorised, any avoidance, management and mitigation measures that should be included in the EMPr, and where applicable, the closure plan;
(o) a description of any consultation process that was undertaken during the course of preparing the specialist report;
(p) a summary and copies of any comments received during any consultation process and where applicable all responses thereto; and
(q) any other information requested by the competent authority.

Specific:

- Extent of the transport study and study area;
- The proposed development;
- Trip generation for the facility during construction and operation;
- Traffic impact on external road network;
- Accessibility and turning requirements;
- National and local haulage routes;
- Assessment of internal roads and site access;
- Assessment of freight requirements and permitting needed for abnormal loads; and
- Traffic accommodation during construction**.**

2 APPROACH AND METHODOLOGY

The report deals with the traffic impact on the surrounding road network in the vicinity of the site during the:

- Construction phase;
- Operational phase; and
- Decommissioning phase.

This transport study includes the following tasks:

Project Assessment

- Communication with the project team to gain sound understanding of the projects.
- Overview of available project background information including, but not limited to, location maps, site development plans, anticipated vehicles to the site (vehicle type and volume), components to be transported and any resulting abnormal loads.
- Research of all available documentation and information relevant to the proposed facility.

Access and Internal Roads Assessment

- Assessment of the proposed access points including:
  - Feasible location of access points
  - Motorised and non-motorised access requirements
  - Queuing analysis and stacking requirements, if required
  - Access geometry
  - Sight distances and required access spacing
  - Comments on internal circulation requirements and observations

Haulage Route Assessment

- Determination of possible haulage routes to site regarding:
  - National routes
  - Local routes
  - Site access points
  - Road limitations due to abnormal loads

Traffic Estimation and Impact

- Construction, operational, and decommissioning phase vehicle trips
  - Generated vehicles trips
  - Abnormal load trips
  - Access requirements
- Investigation of the impact of the development traffic generated during construction, operation, and decommissioning.

Report (Documentation)

- Reporting on all findings and preparation of the report.

2.1 Information Sources

The following guidelines have been used to determine the extent of the traffic study:

- Project Information provided by the Client;
- Google Earth.kmz provided by the Client;
- Google Earth Pro Satellite Imagery;
- Road Traffic Act, 1996 (Act No. 93 of 1996)
- National Road Traffic Regulations, 2000
- SANS 10280/NRS 041-1:2008 - Overhead Power Lines for Conditions Prevailing in South Africa
- The Technical Recommendations for Highways (TRH 11): "Draft Guidelines for Granting of Exemption Permits for the Conveyance of Abnormal Loads and for other Events on Public Roads
- Manual for Traffic Impact Studies, Department of Transport, 1995;
- TRH26 South African Road Classification and Access Management Manual, COTO; and
- TMH 16 South African Traffic Impact and Site Traffic Assessment Manual (Vol 1/Vol2), COTO, August 2012.

2.2 Assumptions, Knowledge Gaps and Limitations

The following assumptions and limitations apply:

- This study is based on the project information provided by the client.
- According to the Eskom Specifications for Power Transformers (Eskom Power Series, Volume 5: Theory, Design, Maintenance and Life Management of Power Transformers), the following dimensional limitations need to be kept when transporting the transformer – total maximum height 5 000 mm, total maximum width 4 300 mm and total maximum length 10 500 mm.
  It is envisaged that for this project the inverter, transformer, and switchgear will be transported to site in containers on a low bed truck and trailer. The transport of a mobile crane and the transformer are the only abnormal loads envisaged. The crane will be utilised for offloading equipment, such as the transformer.
- Maximum vertical height clearances along the haulage route are 5.2 m for abnormal loads.
- If any elements are manufactured within South Africa, these will be transported from their respective manufacturing centres, which would be either in the greater Cape Town area, Johannesburg, or possibly in Pinetown/Durban.
- All haulage trips will occur on either surfaced national and provincial roads or existing gravel roads.
- Material for the construction of internal access roads will be sourced locally as far as possible.
- The final access points are to be determined during the detailed design stage. Only recommended access points at conceptual level can be given at this stage.
- Projects in the vicinity of the site to be considered as part of the cumulative impacts are listed in Table 6-3.
- An 18-months construction period is assumed with some of the construction period dedicated to site prep and civil works.

2.3 Consultation Processes Undertaken

The Transport Impact Assessment is based on available project information and consultation with the developer.

3 LEGISLATIVE AND PERMIT REQUIREMENTS

Key legal requirements pertaining to the transport requirements for the proposed project are:

- Abnormal load permits, (Section 81 of the National Road Traffic Act 93 of 1996 and National Road Traffic Regulations, 2000),
- Port permit (Guidelines for Agreements, Licenses and Permits in terms of the National Ports Act No. 12 of 2005), and
- Authorisation from Road Authorities to modify the road reserve to accommodate turning movements of abnormal loads at intersections.

4 DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT

4.1 General Description

The site for the proposed Limestone PV 2 facility is located approximately 16 km south of Danielskuil within the Kgatelopele Local Municipality and the ZF Mgcawu District Municipality in the Northern Cape Province on Portion 4 of Farm Engeland 300 (see **Figure 4-1**). The site environment is rural.

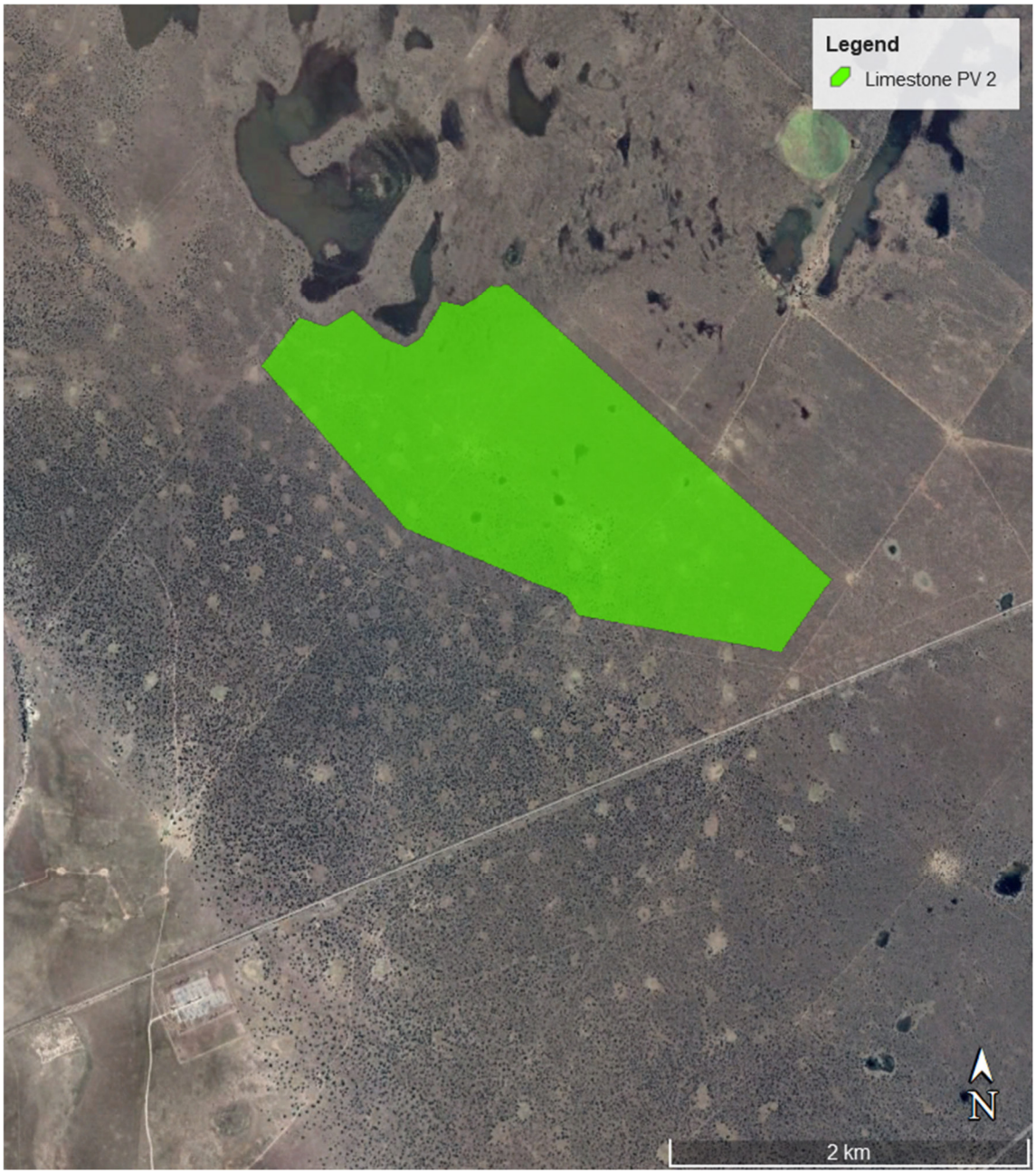

Figure 4-1: Aerial View of the proposed Limestone PV 2 site

The development footprint will contain the following infrastructure to enable the Limestone PV 2 facility to generate up to 150 MW Maximum Export Capacity:

- PV modules mounted on either a single axis tracking & fixed structure, dependent on optimisation, technology available and cost.
- Inverters and transformers.
- Low voltage cabling between the PV modules to the inverters.
- Fence around the project development area with security and access control.
- Camera surveillance.
- Internet connection.
- 33kV cabling between the project components and the facility substation.
- 33/132kV onsite facility substation.
- Battery Energy Storage System (BESS)
- Site offices, situated within a farmhouse, and maintenance buildings including workshop areas for maintenance and storage as well as parking for staff and visitors.
- Laydown/staging area on-site in front of mounting structures during installation. Temporary store area close to site entrance
- Access roads and internal distribution roads.
- Temporary concrete batching facility.
- Stormwater management infrastructure as required.

4.2 Alternatives

The Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism (DEAT) 2006 guidelines on 'assessment of alternatives and impacts' proposes the consideration of four types of alternatives, namely, the no-go, location, activity, and design alternatives. It is, however, important to note that the regulation and guidelines specifically state that only 'feasible' and 'reasonable' alternatives should be explored. It also recognizes that the consideration of alternatives is an iterative process of feedback between the developer and EAP, which in some instances culminates in a single preferred project proposal. An initial site assessment was conducted by the developer and the farm portion was found favorable due to its proximity to grid connections, solar radiation, site access and relative flat terrain. The greater area was considered based on these factors. However, environmentally sensitive and "no-go" areas, as identified by the Specialists, were avoided.

The following alternatives were considered in relation to the proposed activity:

Location Alternatives

The site selection process for a PV facility is almost always underpinned by a good solar resource. Other key considerations include environmental and social constraints, proximity to various planning units and strategic areas, terrain and availability of grid connection infrastructure.

Based on the above site-specific attributes, the study area is considered to be highly preferred in terms of the development of a solar PV facility. As such, no property / location alternatives will be considered.

BESS

As technological advances within battery energy storage systems (BESS) are frequent, two BESS technology alternatives are considered: Solid state battery electrolytes and Redox-flow technology. Solid state battery electrolytes, such as lithium-ion (Li-ion), zinc hybrid cathode, sodium ion, flow (e.g., zinc iron or zinc bromine), sodium sulphur (NaS), zinc air and lead acid batteries, can be used for grid applications. Compared to other battery options, Li-ion batteries are highly efficient, have a high energy density and are lightweight. As a result of the declining costs, Li-ion technology now accounts for more than 90% of battery storage additions globally (IRENA, 2019). Flow batteries use solid electrodes and liquid electrolytes. The most used flow battery is the Vanadium Redox Flow Battery (VRFB), which is a type of rechargeable flow battery that employs vanadium ions in different oxidative states to store chemical potential energy.

Design and layout alternatives

It is customary to develop the final/detailed construction layout of the solar PV facility only once an Independent Power Producer (IPP) is awarded a successful bid under the Renewable Energy Independent Power Producer Procurement Programme (REIPPPP) or an alternative programme, after which major contracts are negotiated and final equipment suppliers identified.

For the purpose of the application process, site layout alternatives will not be comparatively assessed, but rather a single layout will be refined as additional information becomes available throughout the EIA process (e.g., specialist input, additional site surveys, ongoing stakeholder engagement).

The development area has been selected as a practicable option for the facility, considering technical preference and constraints, as well as initial No-Go layers informed by specialist site surveys. Following further site screening by the specialists (scheduled to take place during the EIA phase), the development footprint will be finalised for impact assessment.

Technology alternatives: Solar panels

There are several types of semiconductor technologies currently available and in use for PV solar panels. Two, however, have become the most widely adopted, namely crystalline silicon (Mono-facial and Bi-facial) and thin film. The technology that (at this stage) proves more feasible and reasonable with respect to the proposed solar facility is crystalline silicon panels, due to it being non-reflective, more efficient, and with a higher durability.

Due to the rapid technological advances being made in the field of solar technology the exact type of technology to be used, such as bifacial panels, will only be confirmed at the onset of the project.

No-go alternative

This alternative considers the option of ‘do nothing’ and maintaining the status quo. The site is currently zoned for agricultural land uses. Should the proposed activity not proceed, the site will remain unchanged and will continue to be used for agricultural purposes. The potential opportunity costs in terms of alternative land use income through rental for energy facility and the supporting social and economic development in the area would be lost if the status quo persist.

4.2.1 Specialist comment regarding alternatives

From a transport engineering perspective, the alternatives listed above (i.e., electrical infrastructure location alternatives and the technology options for the BESS) are equally acceptable as it does have a nominal impact on the traffic on the surrounding road network.

4.3 Proposed Accesses

Two possible access routes have been assessed in this report (see **Figure 4-2**). Both access options can be shared with Limestone PV 1. These access routes follow mostly established routes, which are gravel surfaced. They have been assessed in line with access spacing requirements, required sight lines and road safety considerations.

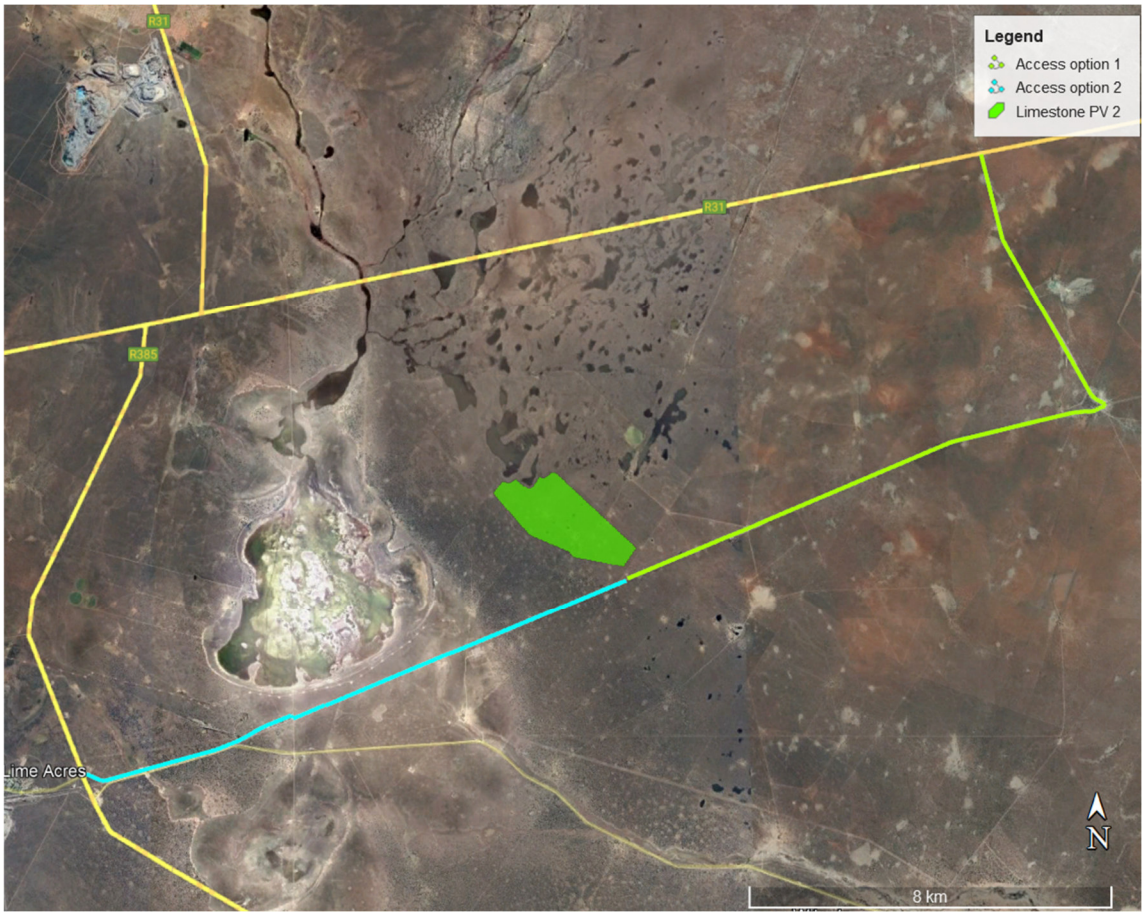

Figure 4-2: Aerial view of the two recommended access routes to Limestone PV 2

4.3.1 Access option 1

Access option 1 turns from the R31 onto a gravel farm road to the south and the travel distance to site would be around 22 km (see Figure 4-3 and **Figure 4-4**).

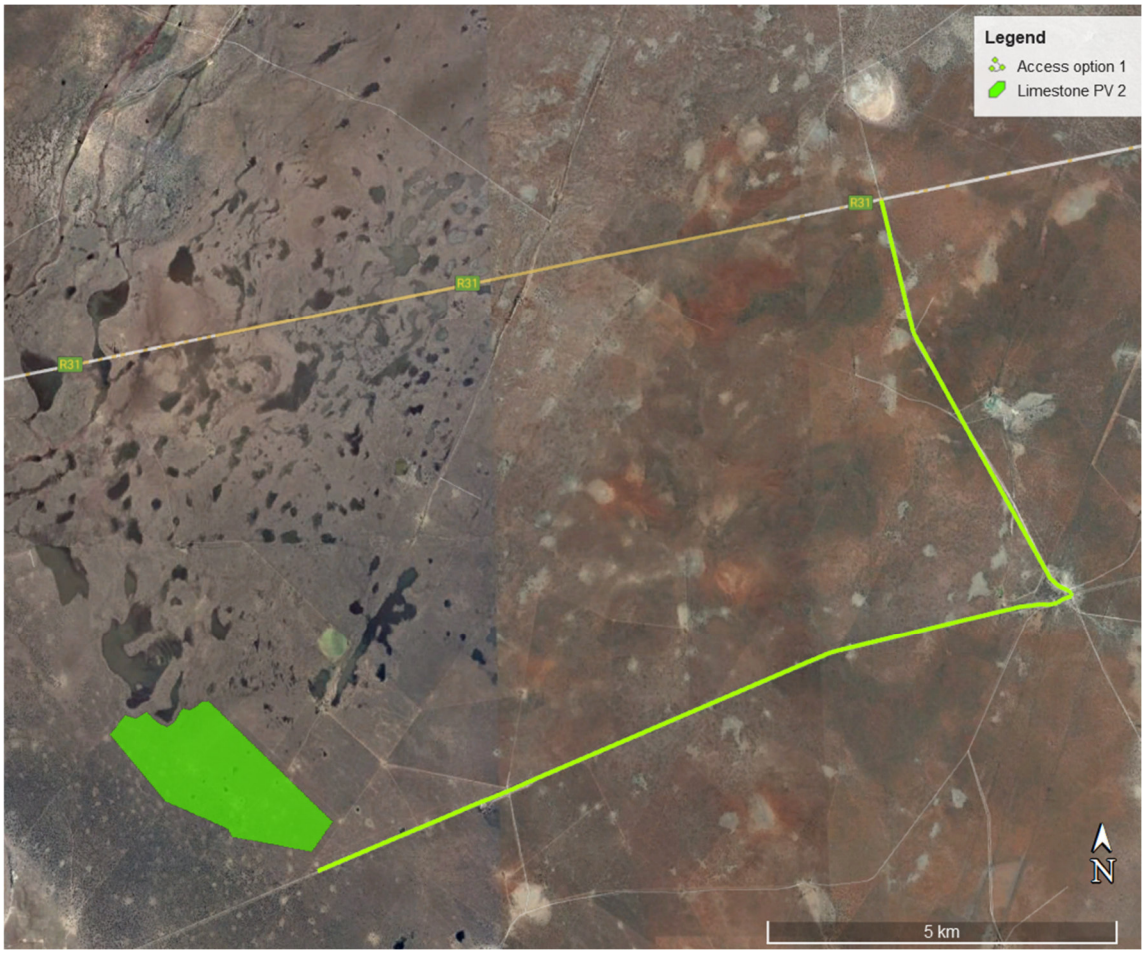

Figure 4-3: Aerial View of Access option 1

Figure 4-4: Existing gravel road from R31

In accordance with *Figure 2.5.5(a) of the TRH17 Guidelines for the Geometric Design of Rural Roads* (see **Figure 4-5**), the shoulder sight distance for a stop-controlled condition on a road with a speed limit of 100 km/h, needs to be a minimum of 420 m for the largest vehicle (5m set back from the intersecting road).

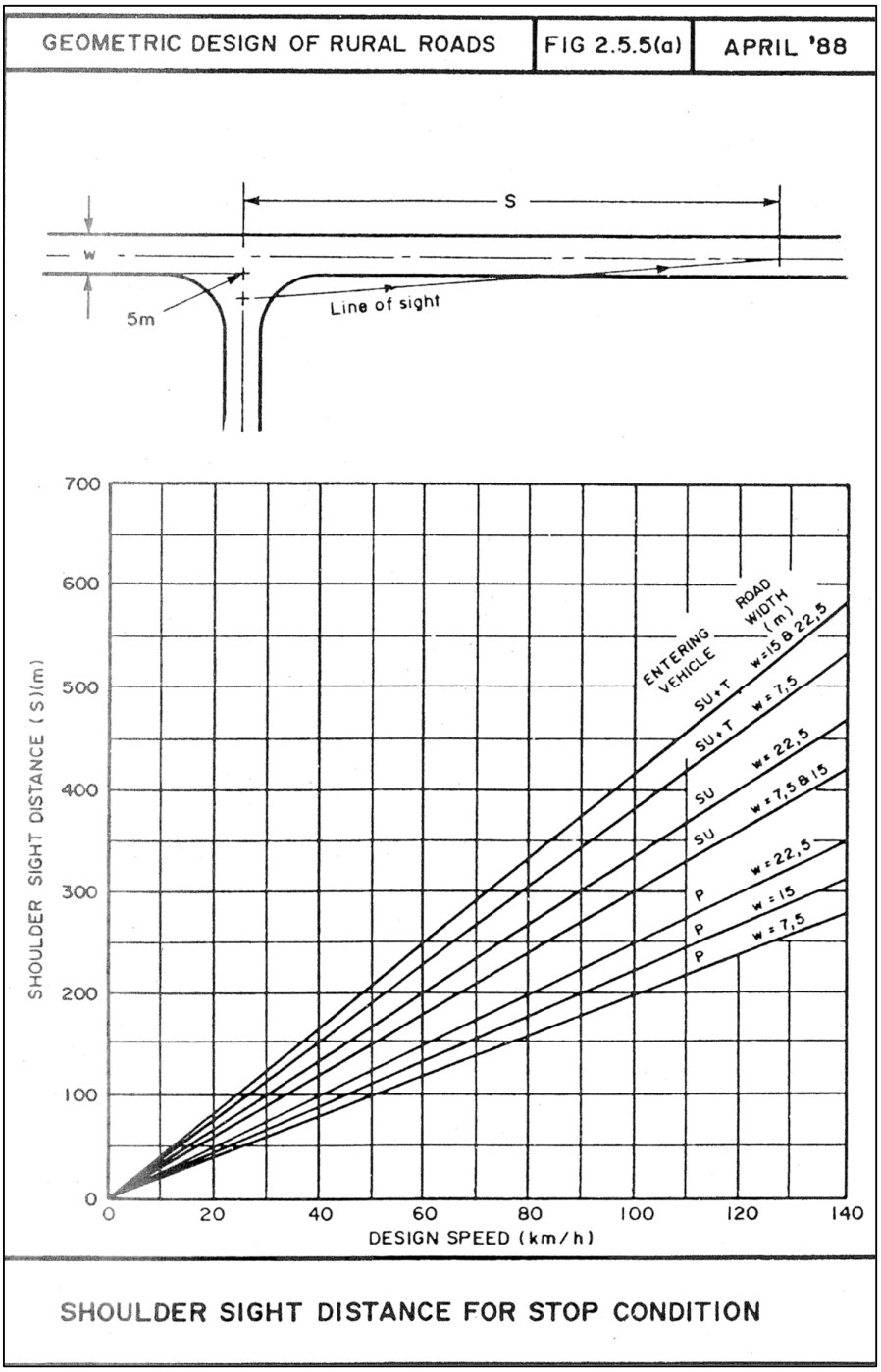

Figure 4-5: Shoulder sight distance (TRH17)

The required minimum shoulder sight distances are met in both directions on the R31 turning from the farm road into the R31 (see **Figure 4-6** to **Figure 4-8**).

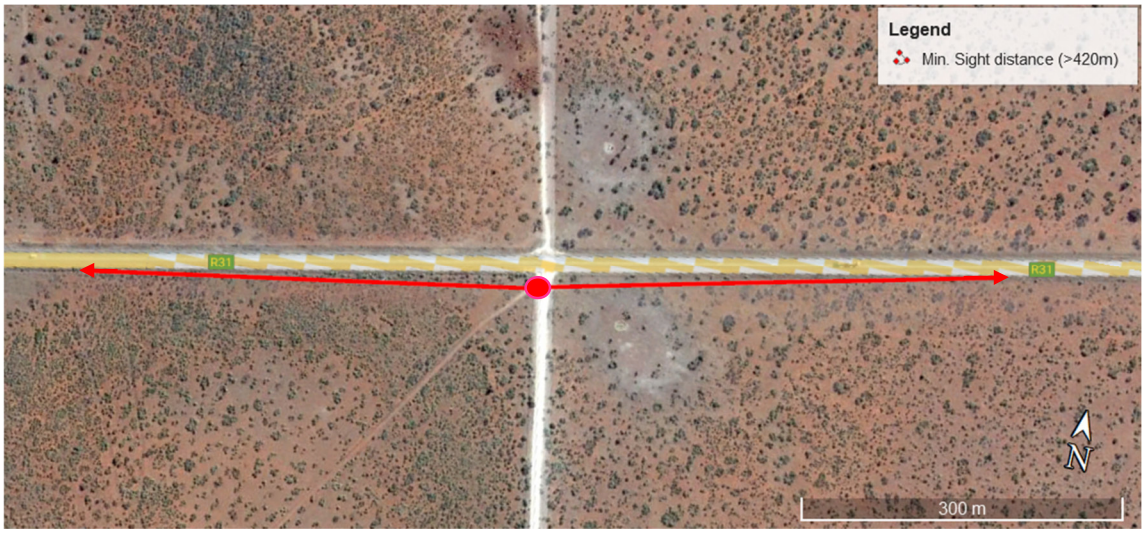

Figure 4-6: Required Sight distances at R31 / Gravel road

Figure 4-7: View in western direction on R31 from intersection with gravel road

Figure 4-8: View in eastern direction on R31 at intersection with gravel

4.3.2 Access option 2

This access route follows an existing gravel road parallel to the existing railway line for approximately 9 km (see **Figure 4-9**). Any obstructing vegetation needs to be maintained to meet the minimum road width required for large haulage vehicles and sight lines. Furthermore, this option will require some upgrading to ensure large haulage vehicles can safely travel along this road. The railway line has to be crossed twice choosing this route and it needs to be ensured that the height clearance of at least 5.1m between the ground and any overhead lines are met.

This access option could cater for both solar PV facilities – Limestone PV 1 and PV 2.

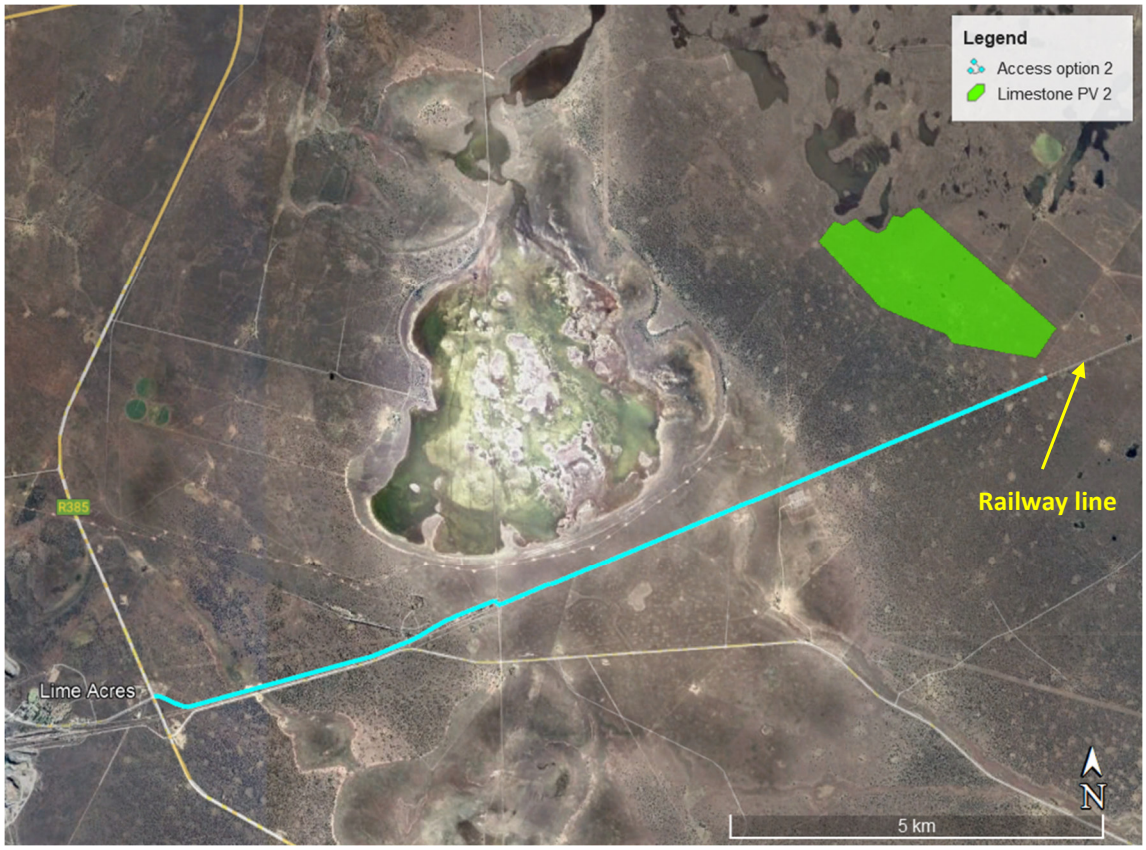

Figure 4-9: Aerial view of Access Option 2

The access turns off from the R385 onto an existing gravel road towards the site (see **Figure 4-10**).

Figure 4-10: Existing gravel road from R385

The shoulder sight distances are acceptable (see **Figure 4-11** to **Figure 4-13)**.

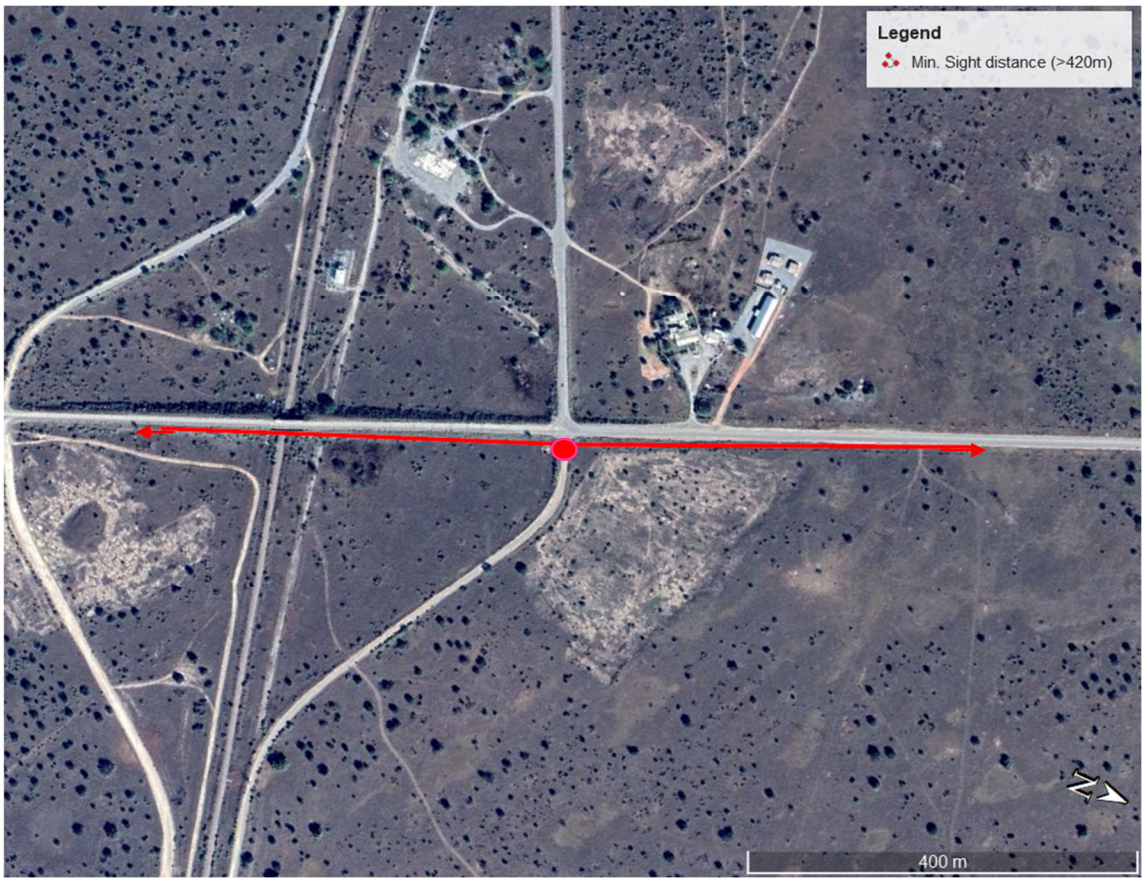

Figure 4-11: Required Sight distance at R385 / gravel road

Figure 4-12: View on R385 in a southern direction from the intersection with the gravel road

Figure 4-13: View on R385 in a northern direction at the intersection with the gravel road

4.3.3 General

The access roads leading from the surrounding road network towards the site need to be maintained if damaged by haulage vehicles. The radii at the accesses onto the site need to be large enough to allow for all construction vehicles to turn safely.

It is further recommended that the site access be security controlled during the construction phase and to allow for more multiple access routes to the project sites. This will reduce possible congestion of construction vehicles, should Limestone PV 1 and Limestone PV 2 be constructed in parallel.

During the construction phase, temporary road signage in line with *South African Road Signs Manual (SARTSM*) will need to be erected along the R385 and R31 to alert drivers of construction vehicles turning into and out of the road.

4.4 Internal Roads

The geometric design and layout for the internal roads from the recommended access points need to be established at detailed design stage. Existing structures and services, such as drainage structures, signage and pipelines will need to be evaluated if impacting on the roads. It needs to be ensured that the gravel sections remain in good condition and will need to be maintained during the additional loading of the construction phase and then reinstated after construction is completed.

The geometric design constraints encountered due to the terrain should be taken into consideration by the geometric designer. Preferably, the internal roads need to be designed with smooth, relatively flat gradients (recommended to be no more than 8%) to allow a larger transport load vehicle to ascend to the respective laydown areas.

4.4.1 Transportation of Materials, Plant and People to the proposed site

It is assumed that the materials, plant, and workers will be sourced from the surrounding towns as far as possible, such as from Danielskuil or Postmasburg.

4.4.2 Public Transport and Non-Motorised Transport

In terms of the National Land Transport Act (NLTA) (Act No.5 of 2009), the assessment of available public transport services is included in this report. The following comments are relevant in respect to the public transport availability for the proposed developments.

It is expected that minibus taxis travel along the R385 and R31 in the vicinity of the Limestone PV sites. The R31 is located approximately 9 km to the north and the R385 is approximately 8 km from Limestone PV 2. However, the developer or appointed contractor of a large-scale project, such as many renewable energy projects, will provide shuttle buses or similar for workers during the construction phase.

5 DESCRIPTION OF THE TRANSPORT ROUTES TO SITE

5.1 Port of Entry

As the proposed Limestone PV projects will be located in fairly similar distances to the four main ports of entry of South Africa (see **Figure 5-1**), all four have been taken into consideration:

- the Port of Richards Bay (KZN);
- the Port of Durban (KZN;
- the Port of Ngqura (EC); and
- the Port of Saldanha (WC).

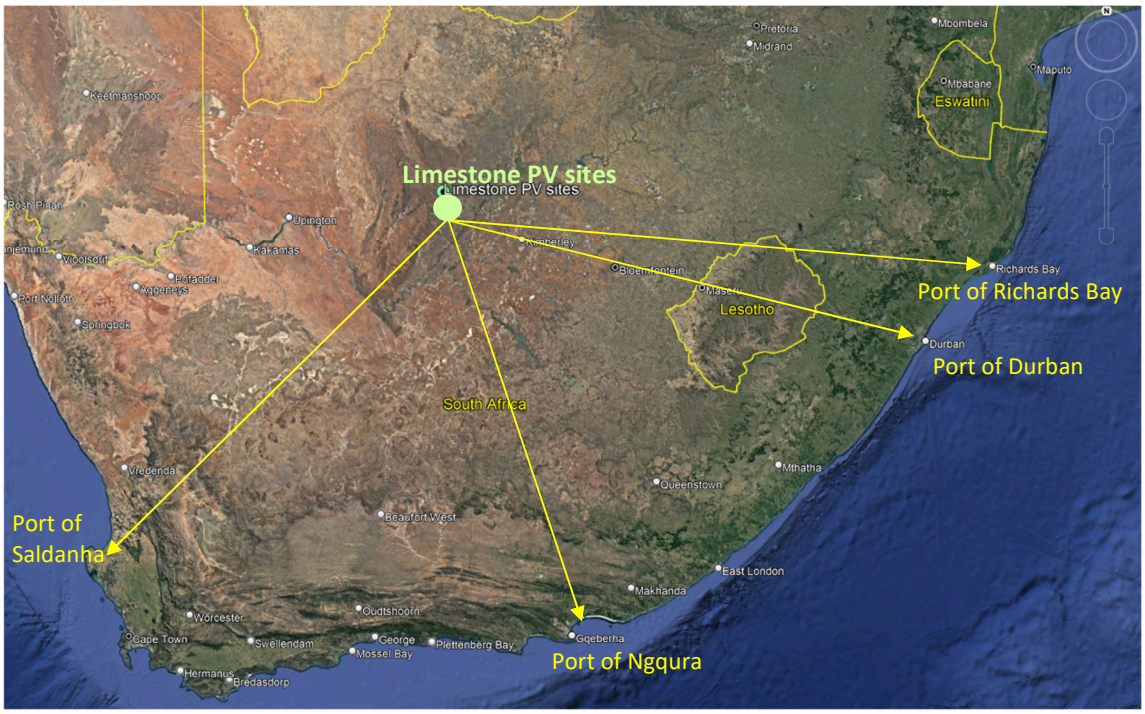

Figure 5-1: Possible Ports of Entry

5.1.1 Port of Richards Bay

The Port of Richards Bay is situated on the coast of KwaZulu-Natal and is a deep-sea water port boasting 13 berths. The terminal handles dry bulk ores, minerals and break-bulk consignments with a draft that easily accommodates Cape size and Panamax vessels. The Port is operated by Transnet National Ports Authority. The Port of Richards Bay is located approximately 1 100 kms from the proposed Limestone PV sites traveling via the N3 (see **Figure 5-2**).

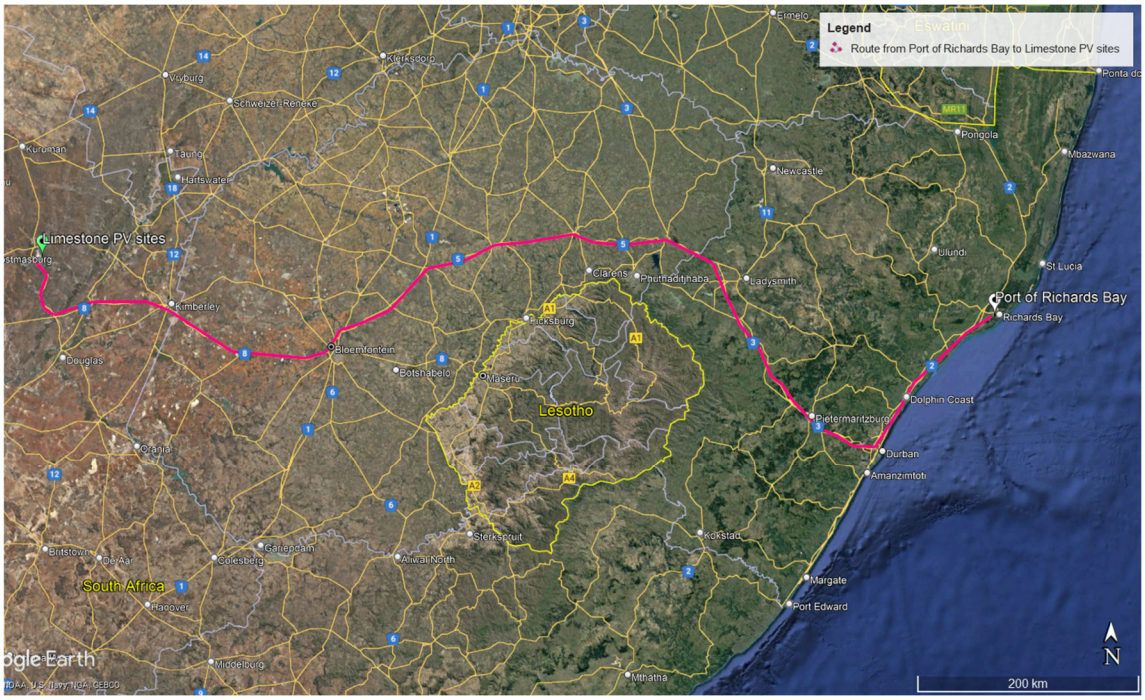

Figure 5-2: Route from Port of Richards Bay to proposed Limestone PV sites

5.1.2 The Port of Durban

The Durban container terminal is one of the largest container terminals in the African continent and operates as two terminals Pier 1 and Pier 2. It is ideally located to serve as a hub for containerized cargo from the Indian Ocean Islands, Middle East, Far East and Australia. Various capacity creation projects are currently underway, including deepening of berths and operational optimization. The terminal currently handles 65% of South Africa's container volumes. (Transnet Port Terminals, n.d).

The Port of Durban is located approximately 950 kms via the N3 from the proposed project site (**Figure 5-3**).

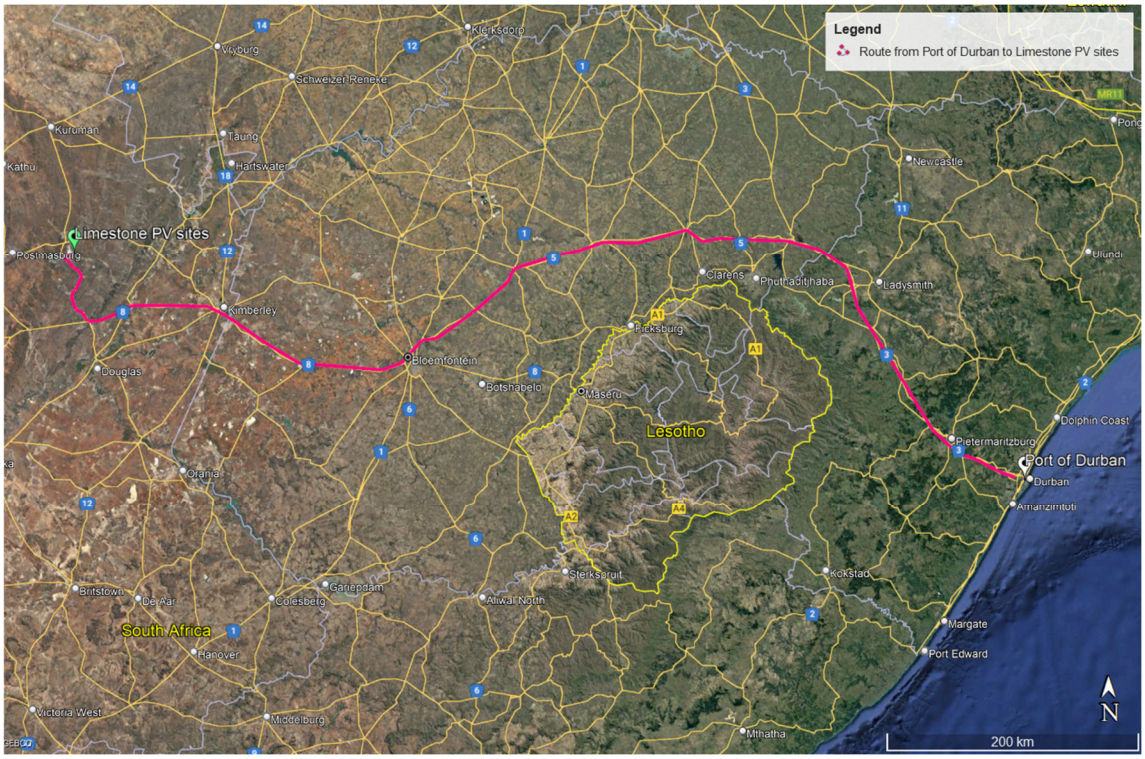

Figure 5-3: Route from Port of Durban to proposed Limestone PV sites

5.1.3 The Port of Ngqura

The Port of Ngqura is a world-class deep-water trans-shipment hub offering an integrated, efficient, and competitive port service for containers on transit. The Port forms part of the Coega Industrial Development Zone (CIDZ) and is operated by Transnet National Ports Authority.

The Port of Ngqura is located approximately 790 km from the Limestone PV sites travelling via the N10 (see **Figure 5-4**).

Figure 5-4: Route from Port of Ngqura to proposed Limestone PV sites

5.1.4 The Port of Saldanha

The Port of Saldanha, located approximately 1 000km travel distance to the site via the R27 and N8 (see **Figure 5-5**), is the largest and deepest natural port in the Southern Hemisphere and able to accommodate vessels with a draft of up to 21.5m.

Figure 5-5: Route from Port of Saldanha to Limestone PV sites

5.2 Transportation requirements

It is anticipated that the following vehicles will access the site during construction:

Solar PV:

- Conventional trucks within the freight limitations to transport building material to the site;
- 40ft container trucks transporting solar modules, frames, and the inverter, which are within freight limitations;
- Flatbed trucks transporting the solar modules and frames, which are within the freight limitations;
- Light Differential Vehicle (LDV) type vehicles transporting workers from surrounding areas to site;
- Drilling machines and other required construction machinery being transported by conventional trucks or via self-drive to site; and
- The transformers will be transported as abnormal loads.

5.3 Abnormal Load Considerations

Abnormal permits are required for vehicles exceeding the following permissible maximum dimensions on road freight transport in terms of the Road Traffic Act (Act No. 93 of 1996) and the National Road Traffic Regulations, 2000:

- Length: 22 m for an interlink, 18.5 m for truck and trailer and 13.5 m for a single unit truck

- Width: 2.6 m Height: 4.3m measured from the ground. Possible height of load – 2.7 m.
- Weight: Gross vehicle mass of 56t resulting in a payload of approximately 30t
- Axle unit limitations: 18t for dual and 24t for triple-axle units
- Axle load limitation: 7.7t on the front axle and 9t on the single or rear axles

Any dimension / mass outside the above will be classified as an Abnormal Load and will necessitate an application to the Department of Transport and Public Works for a permit that will give authorisation for the conveyance of said load. A permit is required for each Province that the haulage route traverses.

In addition to the above, the preferred routes for abnormal load travel should be surveyed prior to construction to identify any problem areas, e.g., intersections with limited turning radii and sections of the road with sharp horizontal curves or steep gradients, which may require modification. After the road modifications have been implemented, it is recommended to undertake a "dry-run" with the largest abnormal load vehicle, to ensure that the vehicle can travel without disruptions. It needs to be ensured that gravel sections (if any) of the haulage routes remain in good condition and will need to be maintained during the additional loading of the construction phase and reinstated after construction is completed.

There are bridges and culverts along the National and Provincial routes, which need to be confirmed for load bearing capacity and height clearances. However, there are alternative routes which can be investigated if the selected route or sections of the route should not be feasible.

Any low hanging overhead lines (lower than 5.1 m), e.g., Eskom and Telkom lines, along the proposed routes will have to be moved in agreement with the respective service provider to accommodate the abnormal load vehicles.

5.4 Further Guideline Documentation

The Technical Recommendations for Highways (TRH) 11: "Draft Guidelines for Granting of Exemption Permits for the Conveyance of Abnormal Loads and for other Events on Public Roads" outlines the rules and conditions that apply to the transport of abnormal loads and vehicles on public roads and the detailed procedures to be followed in applying for exemption permits are described and discussed. Legal axle load limits and the restrictions imposed on abnormally heavy loads are discussed in relation to the damaging effect on road pavements, bridges, and culverts.

The general conditions, limitations and escort requirements for abnormally dimensioned loads and vehicles are also discussed and reference is made to speed restrictions, power / mass ratio, mass distribution and general operating conditions for abnormal loads and vehicles. Provision is also made for the granting of permits for all other exemptions from the requirements of the Road Traffic Act and the relevant regulations.

5.5 Permitting – General Rules

In general, the limits recommended in TRH 11 are intended to serve as a guide to the Permit Issuing Authorities. It must be noted that each Administration has the right to refuse a permit application or to modify the conditions under which a permit is granted. It is understood that:

a) A permit is issued at the sole discretion of the Issuing Authority. The permit may be refused because of the condition of the road, the culverts and bridges, the nature of other traffic on the road, abnormally heavy traffic during certain periods or for any other reason.

b) A permit can be withdrawn if the vehicle upon inspection is found in any way not fit to be operated.
c) During certain periods, such as school holidays or long weekends an embargo may be placed on the issuing of permits. Embargo lists are compiled annually and are obtainable from the Issuing Authorities.

5.6 Load Limitations

The maximum load that a road vehicle or combination of vehicles will be allowed to carry legally under permit on a public road is limited by:

- the capacity of the vehicles as rated by the manufacturer,
- the load which may be carried by the tyres,
- the damaging effect on pavements,
- the structural capacity on bridges and culverts,
- the power of the prime mover(s),
- the load imposed by the driving axles, and
- the load imposed by the steering axles.

5.7 Dimensional Limitations

A load of abnormal dimensions may cause an obstruction and danger to other traffic. For this reason, all loads must, as far as possible, conform to the legal dimensions. Permits will only be considered for indivisible loads, i.e., loads that cannot, without disproportionate effort, expense, or risk of damage, be divided into two or more loads for the purpose of transport on public roads. For each of the characteristics below there is a legally permissible limit and what is allowed under permit:

- Width,
- Height,
- Length,
- Front Overhang,
- Rear Overhang,
- Front Load Projection,
- Rear Load Projection,
- Wheelbase,
- Turning Radius, and
- Stability of Loaded Vehicles.

5.7.1 Route for Components manufactured within South Africa

In South Africa, more than half (52%) of the manufacturing industry's national workforce resides in three metros - Johannesburg, Cape Town, and eThekwini. It is therefore anticipated that elements ,that can be manufactured within South Africa, will be transported to the site from the Cape Town, Johannesburg, or Pinetown/Durban areas. Components will be transported to site using appropriate National and Provincial routes. It is expected that the components will generally be transported to site with normal heavy load vehicles.

5.7.1.1 Route from Cape Town Area to Site – Locally sourced materials and equipment

Cape Town has a large manufacturing sector with twenty-six (26) industrial areas located throughout the metro. The proposed industrial hubs being considered to source the required materials and components is currently unknown. With quite an extensive and widespread industrial market, a specific

route to the site cannot be considered at this point in time, but it is expected that a majority of the route length will be similar to the routes considered for the haulage of imported materials and equipment. No road limitations are envisaged along the route for normal load freight. The estimated route with a travel distance of around 1 020 kms via the N1 and N12 is shown in **Figure 5-6**.

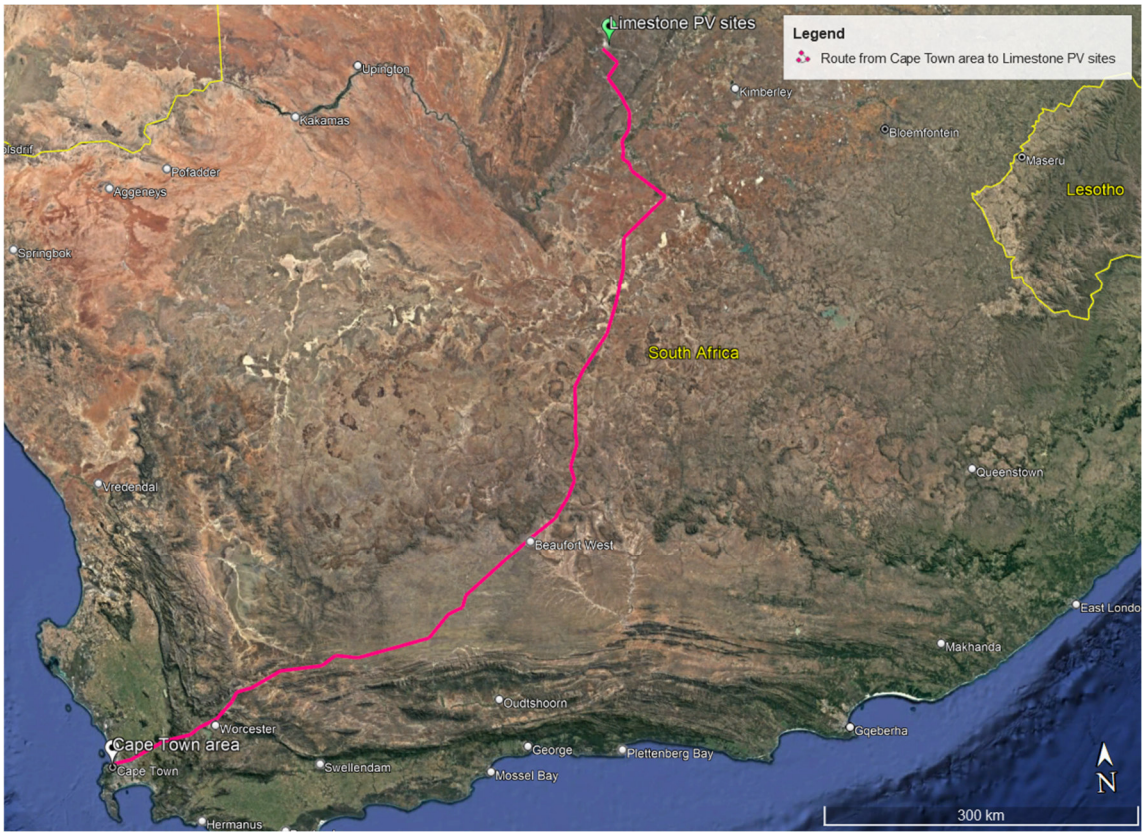

Figure 5-6: Route from Cape Town area to proposed Limestone PV sites

5.7.1.2 Route from Johannesburg Area to Site – Locally sourced materials and equipment

If components from Johannesburg are considered, normal loads from Johannesburg to the proposed site can be transported via the route as shown in **Figure 5-7** below. No road limitations are envisaged along the route for normal load freight. The distance from the Johannesburg area to the site is approximately 640 kms via the N14.

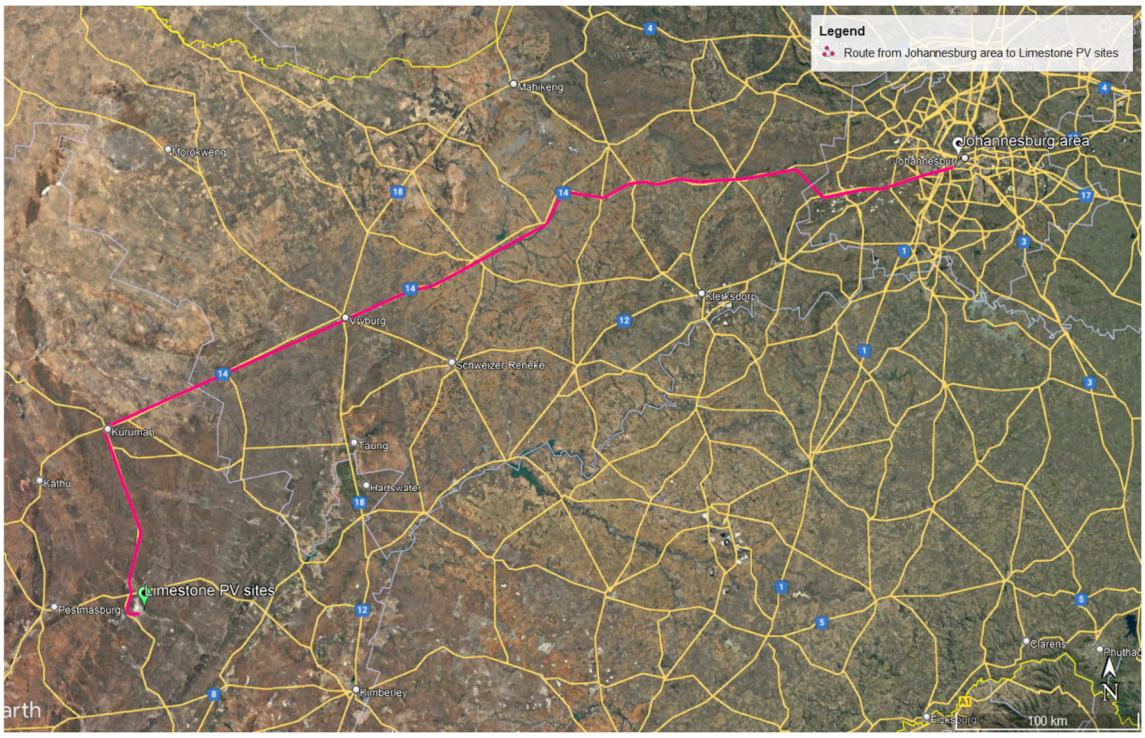

Figure 5-7: Route from Johannesburg area to proposed Limestone PV sites

5.7.1.3 Route from Pinetown / Durban to Site - Locally sourced materials and equipment

Normal loads can transport elements via two potential routes from Durban and Pinetown to the site. No road limitations are envisaged along the route for normal load freight. The shortest distance from Pinetown to the site is via the National Routes N3 and N5 with approximately 920 km as shown in **Figure 5-8**.

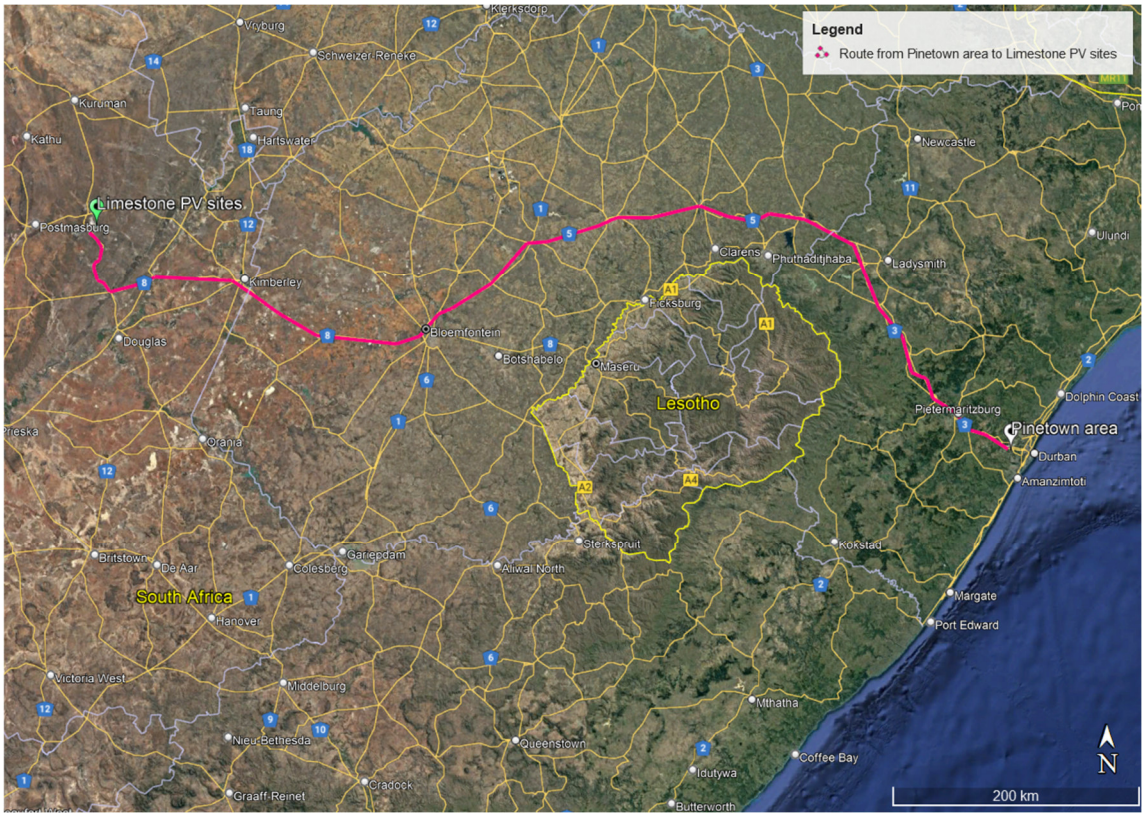

Figure 5-8: Route from Pinetown to the proposed site

5.7.2 Surrounding road network

The construction vehicles for the proposed Limestone PV 2 Facility will take access either via the R385 to the west of the site or via the R31 to the north of the site as described under 4.3.

According to the road classification of the surrounding road network as per the *Road Infrastructure Strategic Framework for South Africa (RISFSA)* and *COTO's TRH26 South African Road Classification and Access Management Manual*, the R385 and R31 can be classified as **Class 2 rural major arterials**, which typically carries inter-regional traffic between:

- Smaller cities and medium to large towns;
- Smaller border posts;
- Class 1 and Class 2 arterials; and
- Smaller centres when travel distances are very long (i.e., longer than 200 km).

6 ISSUES, RISKS AND IMPACTS

6.1 Identification of Potential Impacts/Risks

The potential impact on the surrounding environment is expected to be generated by the development traffic, of which traffic congestion and associated noise, dust, and exhaust pollution form part. It must be noted that the significance of the impact is expected to be higher during the construction and decommissioning phases because these phases generate the highest development traffic.

6.2 Construction phase

This phase includes the transportation of people, construction materials and equipment to the site. This phase also includes the construction of the solar power facility and associated infrastructure, including grid connections, construction of footings, roads, excavations, trenching, and ancillary construction works. This phase will temporarily generate the most development traffic.

6.2.1 Nature of impact

The nature of the impact expected to be generated at this phase would be traffic congestion and delays on the surrounding road network as well as the associated noise, dust, and exhaust pollution due to the increase in traffic.

6.2.2 Significance of impact without mitigation measures

Traffic generated by the construction of the solar facility will have a notable impact on the surrounding road network. The exact number of trips generated during construction can only be determined later in the project when the contractor and the haulage company are appointed and once more detail is available regarding the staff requirements and where equipment is sourced from. In the interim, an estimate will be made as follows for the purpose of this report.

6.2.3 Estimated peak hour traffic for the solar panel components

At present, solar panels for larger developments (i.e., more than 50MW) will not be solely manufactured in South Africa but would have to be partially imported and then packaged and packed into 40 ft containers to be loaded onto flatbed trucks.

For the purpose of this transport study and calculation of trips, it was assumed that all panels will be imported. Looking at a capacity of around 600 solar panels per 40tf container, the total number of trips will result in around 625 trips for the proposed development of up to 150 MW Maximum Export Capacity. Spacing the transport of the panels over a delivery period of one month (~22 work days), **the daily number of trips would result in 28**. Looking at a maximum of 40% of these trips occurring during the peak traffic periods, the number of trips for the delivery of the panels will be around 12 trips, which can be accommodated by the external road network.

6.2.4 Estimated staff trips

From experience with similar projects, around 200 workers are estimated to be active on-site during construction and **the resulting daily staff trips are then 31** (shown in **Table 6-1**).

Table 6-1: Estimation of daily staff trips

Vehicle Type	Number of vehicles	Max. Number of Employees
Car	12	12 (assuming 1 occupant)
Bakkie	12	18 (assuming 1.5 occupants)
Taxi – 15 seats	6	90
Bus – 80 seats	1	80
Total	***31***	***200***

6.2.5 Estimated material trips

The exact number of vehicle trips for the transportation of materials during the construction phase depends on the type of vehicles, planning of the construction, source/location of construction material, etc. However, for the purpose of this study, it was estimated that at the peak of construction, **approximately 100 construction vehicle trips will access the site per day**.

The total estimated daily site trips, at the peak of construction, are shown in **Table 6-2** below.

Table 6-2: Estimation of daily site trips

Activity	Number of daily trips
Solar panel component delivery	28
Staff transport	31
Material delivery	100
Total	**159**

With the recommended mitigations in this report, the impact on the surrounding road network and the general traffic is deemed acceptable, as the 159 trips will be distributed over a 9-hour workday. The majority of the trips will occur outside the peak hours.

It must also be noted that vehicle trips from material delivery vary depending on the construction task/program, fuel supply arrangements, as well as distance from the material source to the site. Project planning can be used to reduce material delivery during peak hours.

The development traffic impact during the construction phase can be assessed as manageable, considering that the construction phase is temporary in nature and mitigation measures, mentioned in this report, are adhered to and keep the impact level low.

6.3 Operational Phase

This phase includes the operation and maintenance of the Limestone PV 2 Facility throughout its life span.

6.3.1 Nature of impact:

The nature of the impact expected to be generated at this phase would be traffic and the associated noise, dust and exhaust pollution due to the operational traffic trips.

6.3.2 Estimated peak hour traffic generated during operation

The exact number of permanent staff expected for the operational phase is still unknown. Based on similar studies, it can be estimated that approximately 25 full-time employees will be stationed on site. Assuming a worst-case scenario of 40% of the trips occurring during peak traffic periods, approximately 10 peak hour trips are estimated for the operational phase, which will have a nominal impact on the external road network.

It is assumed that the solar modules would need to be cleaned twice a year. No further information on which cleaning method and technology will be used is available at this point in time. The following assumptions have been made to estimate the resulting trips generated from transporting water to the site:

- 5 000-liter water bowsers to be used for transporting the water;
- Approximately 5 litres of water needed per panel;
- Assuming that a maximum of 375 000 panels are used, this would amount to approximately 375 vehicle trips; and
- Solar modules will be cleaned twice a year.

To limit any traffic impact on the surrounding road network, it is recommended to schedule these trips outside of peak traffic periods and to clean the solar modules over the course of a few days i.e., spread the trips over a 5-day work week, which would reduce the daily trips to 35 and the peak hour trips to max 14 (i.e. ~40%). Additionally, the provision of rainwater tanks on site or borehole water would decrease the number of trips.

6.3.3 Proposed general mitigation measures

The following are general mitigation measures to reduce the impact that the additional traffic will have on the road network and the environment:

- The delivery of components to the site can be staggered and trips can be scheduled to occur outside of peak traffic periods.
- Dust suppression of gravel roads located within the site boundary, including the main access road to the site and the site access roads, during the construction phase, if required.
- Regular maintenance of gravel roads located within the site boundary, including the access roads to the site, by the Contractor during the construction phase and by the Owner/Facility Manager during the operational phase, if required.
- The use of mobile batch plants and quarries near the site would decrease the traffic impact on the surrounding road network, if available and feasible.
- Staff and general trips should occur outside of peak traffic periods as far as possible.
- The Contractor is to ensure that all drivers entering the site adhere to the traffic laws.
- Vehicular movements within the site boundary are the responsibility of the respective Contractor and the Contractor must ensure that all construction road traffic signs and road markings (where applicable) are in place. It should be noted that traffic violations on public roads are the responsibility of Law Enforcement, and the public should report all transgressions to Law Enforcement and the Contractor.
- If required, low hanging overhead lines (lower than 5.1m) e.g., Eskom and Telkom lines, along the proposed routes will have to be moved (to be arranged by the haulage company and communicated beforehand with the service provider of the OHL) to accommodate the

abnormal load vehicles. The Contractor and the Developer are to ensure that the haulage company is aware of this requirement.

- The haulage company is to provide evidence to the Contractor and the Developer that any affected overhead lines have been moved or raised.
- The preferred route should be surveyed by the developer to identify problem areas (e.g., intersections with limited turning radii and sections of the road with sharp horizontal curves or steep gradients, which may require modification). After the road modifications have been implemented, it is recommended to undertake a "dry-run" with the largest abnormal load vehicle, prior to the transportation of any components, to ensure that delivery will occur without disruptions. This process is to be undertaken by the haulage company transporting the components and the contractor, who will modify the road and intersections to accommodate abnormal vehicles. The "dry-run" should be undertaken within the same month that components are expected to arrive. The haulage company is to provide evidence that the route has been surveyed and deemed acceptable for the transportation of the abnormal load.
- The Contractor needs to ensure that the gravel sections of the haulage routes (i.e., the site access road and the main access road to the site) remain in good condition and will need to be maintained during the additional loading of the construction phase and reinstated after construction is completed.
- Design and maintenance of internal roads. The internal gravel roads will require grading with a grader to obtain a camber of between 3% and 4% (to facilitate drainage) and regular maintenance blading will also be required. The geometric design of these gravel roads needs to be confirmed at detailed design stage. This process is to be undertaken by a civil engineering consultant or a geometric design professional.

6.3.4 Significance of impact with mitigation measures

It should be noted that the construction phase is temporary and short term in nature and the associated impacts can be mitigated to an acceptable level.

The proposed mitigation measures for the construction traffic will result in a reduction of the impact on the surrounding road network and the impact on the local traffic will be low as the existing traffic volumes are deemed to be low. Dust suppression will result in significantly reducing the impact.

6.3.5 Decommissioning phase

This phase will have similar impacts and generated trips as the Construction Phase.

6.3.6 Cumulative Impacts

To assess a cumulative impact, it is generally assumed that all currently approved and authorized projects within a 30 km radius would be constructed at the same time (see **Figure 6-1**).

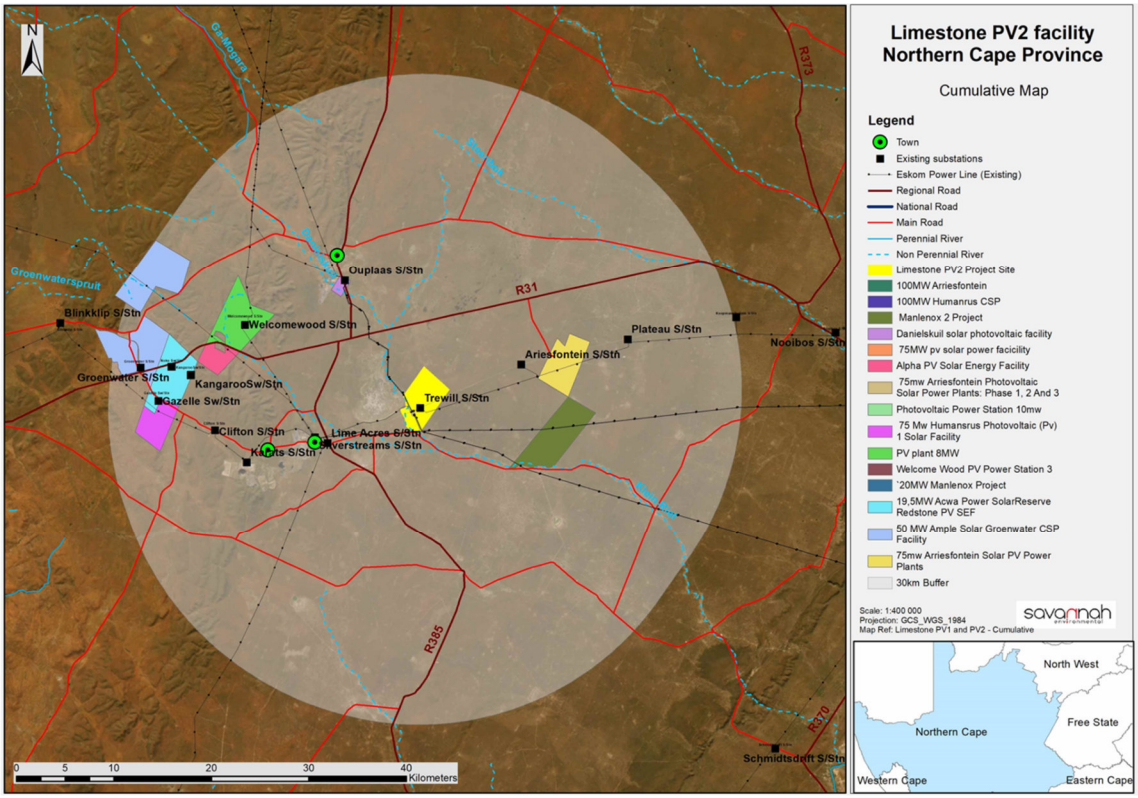

Figure 6-1: Geographic area showing 30 km radius around the proposed Limestone PV 2 project

This is a precautionary approach as in reality, these projects would be subject to a highly competitive bidding process and not all the projects may be selected to enter into a Power Purchase Agreement. Even if all the facilities are constructed and/or decommissioned at the same time, the roads authority will consider all applications for abnormal loads and work with all project companies to ensure that loads on the public roads are staggered and staged to ensure that the impact will be acceptable.

The construction and decommissioning phases of a renewable energy project are the only significant traffic generators. The duration of these phases is short term, i.e., the potential impact of the traffic generated during the construction and decommissioning phases on the surrounding road network is temporary and solar projects, when operational, do not add any significant traffic to the road network.

At the time of preparing this report, the projects shown in **Table 6-3** were considered.

Table 6-3: Projects in a 30 km radius of the proposed Limestone PV 2 site

Project Name	Project Status
Humansrus Photovoltaic (PV) 1 Solar Facility (12/12/20/1903)	Authorised
Photovoltaic Power Station At Ovaal Substation (12/12/20/1944)	Authorised
Ample Solar Groenwater (Concentrated Solar Power) Facility (12/12/20/2252/1)	Authorised
Humanrus 100MW concentrated solar power plant(12/12/20/2316/AM8)	Authorised
Welcome Wood PV Power Station 3 (12/12/20/2613)	Authorised
Arriesfontein 100MW concentrated solar power (CSP) (12/12/20/2646)	Authorised
Arriesfontein 3x Photovoltaic Solar Power Plants (12/12/20/2647/AM3)	Authorised
Arriesfontein Solar PV Power Plants: Phase 3 (12/12/20/2648)	Authorised
Welcome Wood substation PV power plant cluster 2 (12/12/20/2675)	Authorised
Danielskuil solar photovoltaic facility (14/12/16/3/3/1/1751)	Authorised
Acwa Power Solar Reserve Redstone PV SEF (14/12/16/3/3/1/1916)	Authorised
PV solar power facility within Kgatelopele Local Municipality (14/12/16/3/3/2/453)	Authorised
Alpha PV Solar Energy Facility (14/12/16/3/3/2/671)	In Progress
120MW Manlenox Renewable Energy Generation Project (14/12/16/3/3/2/929)	Authorised
Manlenox 2 Renewable Energy Generation Project (14/12/16/3/3/2/930)	Authorised

The above project would generate an estimated 2 000 development trips if constructed at the same time. It is noted that it is unlikely that all above developments will be constructed at the same time. However, for the event that the developments have similar construction periods, it is recommended to agree on a delivery schedule between the projects to reduce development trips and consequently the impact on the external road network.

7 IMPACT ASSESSMENT

7.1 Potential Impact during the Construction Phase

The construction phase will generate traffic including transportation of people, construction materials, water, and equipment (abnormal trucks transporting the transformers). The exact number of trips generated will be determined at a later stage. Based on the high-level screening of impacts, a negative low impact rating can be expected during the construction phase with mitigation measures (see **Table 7-2**).

Nature of the impact

- Temporary increase in traffic, noise and dust pollution associated with potential traffic.

The impact methodology as used by the Environmental consulting company was considered. The Significance was calculated with the formular: S=(E+D+M)P (see **Annexure C**).

7.2 Potential Impact (Operational Phase)

Nature of the impact

- Noise and dust pollution associated with potential traffic.

The traffic generated during this phase will have a nominal impact on the surrounding road network. The impact evaluation is shown in **Table 7-3** . The following items need to be clarified:

- The number of permanent employees
- Water source to be clarified – borehole or transported to site
- Size of water tankers if water is to be delivered on site

7.3 Potential Impacts during the Decommissioning Phase

This phase will have a similar impact as the construction phase (i.e., traffic congestion, air pollution and noise pollution) as similar trips/movements and associated noise and pollution are expected (see **Table 7-2**).

7.4 Cumulative Impacts during the Construction Phase

For the cumulative impact during the construction phase, the projects as per Table 6-3 have been considered. However, it is unlikely that these developments and the proposed Limestone PV 2 development will exactly overlap with their construction period but for the purpose of this assessment, please see Error! Reference source not found..

7.5 Impact Assessment Summary

The overall impact significance findings, following the implementation of the proposed mitigation measures, are shown in **Table 7-1** below.

Table 7-1: Summary of overall Impact Significance

Limestone PV 2	Overall Impact Rating
Construction (Pre-mitigation measures)	Medium Negative
Operational (Pre-mitigation measures)	Low Negative
Construction (Post-mitigation measures)	Low Negative
Operational (Post-mitigation measures)	Low Negative

Table 7-2: Impact Table – Construction Phase / Decommissioning Phase

Nature: Temporary increase of development trips on the external road network; increase in construction related noise and dust pollution			
Impact description: Increase of construction vehicles on the roads will occur, which may have an impact on communities and general traffic; increase of noise and dust pollution			
	Rating		**Significance (S)**
Prior to Mitigation			
Duration (D)	Medium-term	2	**Medium negative (36)**
Extent (E)	Provincial	4	
Magnitude (M)	Moderate	6	
Probability (P)	Probable	3	
Status (positive or negative)	Negative		
Reversibility	Yes		
Irreplaceable loss of resources	No		
Mitigation Measures			
Mitigation: ▪ Stagger component delivery to site ▪ Reduce the construction period where possible ▪ Stagger the construction phase ▪ The use of mobile batch plants and quarries in close proximity to the site would decrease the impact on the surrounding road network. ▪ Staff and general trips should occur outside of peak traffic periods as much as possible ▪ Maintenance of haulage routes ▪ Design and maintenance of internal roads			
Post-mitigation			
Duration (D)	Medium-term	2	**Low negative (20)**
Extent (E)	Provincial	4	
Magnitude (M)	Low	4	

Probability (P)	Improbable	2	
Status (positive or negative)	Negative		
Reversibility	Yes		
Irreplaceable loss of resources	No		
Residual Risk: *Increase in development trips may still result in some impact on the road network.*			

Table 7-3: Impact Table – Operational Phase

Nature: Slight increase in trips for permanent and periodically maintenance staff			
Impact description: Slight increase of vehicle trips due to permanent staff traveling to site, periodically (bi-annual) trips to site for transport of water and irregular maintenance trips			
	Rating		**Significance (S)**
Prior to Mitigation			
Duration (D)	Long-term	4	**Low negative (24)**
Extent (E)	Local	2	
Magnitude (M)	Low	2	
Probability (P)	Probable	3	
Status (positive or negative)	Negative		
Reversibility	Yes		
Irreplaceable loss of resources	No		
Mitigation Measures			
Mitigation: ▪ Source on-site water supply if possible. ▪ Utilise cleaning systems for the panels needing less vehicle trips. ▪ Schedule trips for the provision of water for the cleaning of panels outside peak. traffic times as much as possible.			

Post-mitigation			
Duration (D)	Long-term	2	**Low negative (15)**
Extent (E)	Local	2	
Magnitude (M)	Low	2	
Probability (P)	Improbable	2	
Status (positive or negative)	Negative		
Reversibility	Yes		
Irreplaceable loss of resources	No		
Residual Risk: *Nominal increase in trips due to permanent staff travelling to site and irregular maintenance trips.*			

Table 7-4: Impact Table – Cumulative (Construction /Decommssioning Phase)

Nature: Further temporary increase of development trips on the external road network; increase in construction related noise and dust pollution, should all planned developments go ahead at the same time (unlikely event).			
Impact description: Further increase of construction vehicles on the roads will occur, which may have an added impact on communities and general traffic; increase of noise and dust pollution			
	Rating		**Significance (S)**
Prior to Mitigation			
Duration (D)	Medium-term	2	**Medium negative (42)**
Extent (E)	Provincial	4	
Magnitude (M)	High	8	
Probability (P)	Probable	3	
Status (positive or negative)	Negative		
Reversibility	Yes		

Irreplaceable loss of resources	No	
Mitigation Measures		
Mitigation: ▪ Same mitigation measures as Table 7-2. ▪ It is noted that it is unlikely that all developments will be constructed at the same time. However, for the event that the developments have similar construction periods, it is recommended to agree on a delivery schedule between the respective projects.		
Post-mitigation		
Duration (D)	Medium-term	2
Extent (E)	Provincial	4
Magnitude (M)	Low	6
Probability (P)	Improbable	3
Status (positive or negative)	Negative	
Reversibility?	Yes	
Irreplaceable loss of resources?	No	
Residual Risk: *Increase in development trips may still result in some impact on the road network*		

Table 7-5: Impact Table – Cumulative (Operational Phase)

Nature: Slight increase in trips for permanent and periodically maintenance staff			
Impact description: Slight increase of vehicle trips due to permanent staff traveling to site, periodically (bi-annual) trips to site for transport of water and irregular maintenance trips			
	Rating		**Significance (S)**
Prior to Mitigation			
Duration (D)	Long-term	4	**Medium negative (30)**
Extent (E)	Local	2	

Magnitude (M)	Low	4	
Probability (P)	Probable	3	
Status (positive or negative)	Negative		
Reversibility	Yes		
Irreplaceable loss of resources	No		
Mitigation Measures			
Mitigation: ▪ Source on-site water supply if possible. ▪ Utilise cleaning systems for the panels needing less vehicle trips. ▪ Schedule trips for the provision of water for the cleaning of panels outside peak. traffic times as much as possible. ▪ It is noted that it is unlikely that all developments will be services at the same time. However, to ensure limiting the traffic impact, it is recommended to agree on a maintenance schedule between the respective projects.			
Post-mitigation			
Duration (D)	Long-term	2	**Low negative (16)**
Extent (E)	Local	2	
Magnitude (M)	Low	2	
Probability (P)	Improbable	2	
Status (positive or negative)	Negative		
Reversibility	Yes		
Irreplaceable loss of resources	No		
Residual Risk: *Nominal increase in trips due to permanent staff travelling to site and irregular maintenance trips.*			

8 NO-GO ALTERNATIVE

The no-go alternative implies that the proposed Limestone PV 2 project as well as the associated infrastructure do not proceed. This would mean that there will be no negative environmental impacts and no traffic impact on the surrounding network during the construction and decommissioning phases. However, this would also mean that there would be no socio-economic benefits to the surrounding communities, and it will not assist government in meeting its targets for renewable energy. Hence, the no-go alternative is not a preferred alternative.

9 CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The potential traffic and transport related impacts for the construction, operation and decommissioning phases of the proposed Limestone PV 2 project were identified and assessed.

- The main impact on the external road network will be during the construction phase. This phase is temporary in comparison to the operational period. The number of abnormal loads vehicles was estimated and to be found to be able to be accommodated by the road network including the recommended mitigation measures.
- During operation, it is expected that maintenance and security staff will periodically visit the facility and water be transported to site possibly twice a year for the cleaning of panels. The generated trips can be accommodated by the external road network and the impacts are rated **low negative**.
- The traffic generated during the construction phase, although significant, will be temporary and impacts are considered to be of medium negative impact. However, after mitigation a rating of **low negative** impact can be given.
- The traffic generated during the decommissioning phase will be similar to or even less than the construction phase traffic and the impact on the surrounding road network will also be considered to be of **low negative** impact after mitigation.
- For the cumulative impact, it was assumed that all listed developments in a radius of 30 km from the site will be developed at the same time (which will in reality be unlikely), which would result in a high negative impact. After mitigation, a rating of a **medium negative** impact is given.

The potential mitigation measures mentioned in the construction and decommissioning phases are:

- Dust suppression of internal gravel roads and the access roads.
- Component delivery to/ removal from the site can be staggered and trips can be scheduled to occur outside of peak traffic periods.
- The use of mobile batching plants and quarries near the site would decrease the impact on the surrounding road network, if available and feasible.
- Staff and general trips should occur outside of peak traffic periods.
- A “dry run” of the preferred route by the haulage company. Should the haulage company be familiar with the route, evidence is to be provided to the Client and the Contractor.
- Design and maintenance of the internal gravel roads and maintenance of the access roads.
- If required, any low hanging overhead lines (lower than 5.1m) e.g., Eskom and Telkom lines, along the proposed routes will have to be moved (to be arranged by haulage company and agreed on with the service provider of the OHL) or raised to accommodate the abnormal load vehicles.

The construction and decommissioning phases of a solar power facility are the only significant traffic generators and therefore noise and dust pollution will be higher during these phases. The duration of these phases is of temporary nature, i.e., the impact of the solar power facility on the external traffic on the surrounding road network is temporary and solar facilities, when operational, do not add any significant traffic to the road network.

The proposed development of the Limestone PV 2 project is supported from a traffic engineering perspective provided that the recommended mitigation measures are adhere to.

10 REFERENCES

- Road Traffic Act, 1996 (Act No. 93 of 1996)
- National Road Traffic Regulations, 2000
- SANS 10280/NRS 041-1:2008 - Overhead Power Lines for Conditions Prevailing in South Africa
- Transnetportterminals.net. n.d. *Transnet Port Terminals*. [online] Available at: <https://www.transnetportterminals.net/Ports/Pages/default.aspx>
- The Technical Recommendations for Highways (TRH 11): “Draft Guidelines for Granting of Exemption Permits for the Conveyance of Abnormal Loads and for other Events on Public Roads

Annexure A: Specialist Expertise

SUMMARY OF EXPERIENCE

Iris is a Professional Engineer registered with ECSA (20110156) and obtained her Master of Science degree in Civil Engineering in Germany in 2003. She has more than 20 years of experience in a wide field of traffic and transport engineering projects.

Iris left Germany in 2003 and has gained work experience as a traffic and transport engineer in South Africa and Germany. She has technical and professional skills in traffic impact studies, public transport planning, non- motorised transport planning and design, design and development of transport systems, project planning and implementation for residential, commercial, and industrial projects.

Her passions are the renewable energies and road safety, and she is highly experiences in providing traffic and transport engineering advise.

Iris is registered with the International Road Federation as a Global Road Safety Audit Team Leader and is a regular speaker at conferences, seminars and similar.

PROFESSIONAL REGISTRATIONS & INSTITUTE MEMBERSHIPS

PrEng	Registered with the Engineering Council of South Africa No. 20110156 Registered Mentor with ECSA
MSAICE	Member of the South African Institution of Civil Engineers
ITSSA	Member of ITS SA (Intelligent Transport Systems South Africa)
SAWEA	Member of the South African Wind Energy Association
SARF	South African Road Federation: Committee Member of Council
SARF WR	South African Road Federation Western Region – Chair
SARF RSC	South African Road Federation National Road Safety Committee
IRF	Registered as International Road Safety Audit Team Leader

EDUCATION

1996 – Matric (Abitur)	Carl Friedrich Gauss Schule, Hemmingen, Germany
1998 - Diploma (Draughtsperson)	Lower Saxonian State Office for Road Engineering
2002 – BSc Eng (Civil)	Leibniz Technical University of Hannover, Germany
2003 - MSc Eng (Civil & Transpt)	Leibniz Technical University of Hanover, Germany

Master Thesis on the Investigation of the allocation of access rights *to the European rail network infrastructure - Research of the feasibility of the different bidding processes to allocate access rights of railway operators in the European railway market. Client: Technical University of Berlin and German Railway Company.*

SUMMARY OF EXPERIENCE

iWink Consulting (Pty) Ltd – Independent Consultant

2022 – present
Position: Independent Consultant – working as an independent Specialist in the field of Traffic & Transport Engineering, Renewable Energies and Road Safety.

JG Afrika (Pty) Ltd (Previously Jeffares & Green (Pty) Ltd)

2016 – 2022
Position: Associate / Division Head: Traffic & Transport Engineering

Jeffares & Green (Pty) Ltd

2012 – 2016
Position: Senior Traffic & Transport Engineer

Arup (Pty) Ltd

2010 - 2012
Position – Senior Traffic & Transport Engineer

Arup (Pty) Ltd

2004 - 2010
Position – Traffic & Transport Engineer

Schmidt Ingenieursbüro, Hannover, Germany

2000
Position – Engineering Assistant

Leibniz University of Hannover, Germany

2000 - 2003
Position – Engineering Researcher - Institute for Road & Railway Engineering

SELECTION OF PROJECTS

Please note: The below lists show only a *selection* of projects that Iris has been involved in over the last 20 years. More information and a complete Schedule of Experience can be made available on request.

RENEWABLE ENERGY PROJECTS

Transport Impact Assessments /Traffic Management Plans for:

- Mayogi Solar PV Project
- AGV Red Sands Solar Project
- Cradock – Kaladokhwe WEFs
- Britstown WEFs
- Highveld Solar Cluster
- Dealsville & Bloemfontein Solar PV
- Great Karroo Wind and Solar Cluster
- Ummbila Emoyeni Solar Project
- Poortjie Wind&Solar
- Hydra B Solar Cluster
- Choje Windfarm, Eastern Cape
- Richards Bay Gas to Power Project
- Oya Black Mountain Solar Project
- De Aar Solar Project
- Euronotus Wind & Solar Cluster
- Pienaarspoort Wind Energy Project
- Karreebosch Wind Energy Project
- Dyasonsklip Solar Project
- Kuruman Windfarm
- Bloemsmond Solar Farms
- Hendrina Wind Energy Project
- Orkney Solar Project
- Bulskop Solar Project
- Hyperion Solar & Thermal Project
- Gromis & Komas Wind Energy Projects
- Kudusberg & Rondekop Wind Energy Projects
- Bayview Windfarm
- Coega West Windfarm
- Suikerbekkie Solar Project
- Poortjie Solar Project
- Northam Solar Project

- Sibanye Solar Project
- Du Plessis Dam Solar Project
- Mercury Solar Project
- Aberdeen Wind Energy Project
- Saldanha Wind and Solar Projects
- Ummbila Emoyeni Wind Energy Project
- Springhaas Solar Project

Clients:

- G7 Energies
- ABO Wind Renewable Energies
- Atlantic Renewable Energy Partners
- Mulilo
- Acciona
- Enel
- Engie
- DNV GL
- Enertrag
- Scatec Solar
- Red Rocket Energies
- Windlab
- Mainstream
- Africoast
- Genesis

FURTHER PROJECTS

Traffic Impact Studies & Site Development Plan Input:

- Nooiensfontein Housing Development, City of Cape Town
- Belhar Housing Development, City of Cape Town
- Baredale Phase 7, City of Cape Town
- Beau Constantia Wine Farm
- Constantia Glen Wine Farm
- Eagles Nest Wine Farm
- Groenvallei Parking Audit, City of Cape Town
- Kosovo Housing Development, Western Cape Government
- Enkanini Housing Development, Stellenbosch
- Delft Housing Development, City of Cape Town
- Secunda Sasol, Free State
- Marula Platinum Mine
- InnerCity Transport Plan, City of Cape Town
- Stellenbosch Road Master Plan
- Nyanga Public Transport Interchange
- Crawford Campus Cape Town
- Durban RoRo Car Terminal, Transnet

- Durban Farewell Container Site
- Msunduzi Waterfront Housing Development
- Transnet Park Site – Traffic Management and Evacuation Plans
- UWC Bellville Medical Campus
- Bloekombos District Hospital
- Malabar Extension 3, Port Elizabeth

Traffic Engineering for Roads Projects:

- Ekhurhuleni Bus Stops and Intersection Safety Assessments
- Namibia Noordoewer to Rosh Pina, Road Agency Namibia
- N2 Section 19 Mthatha – NMT Studies
- R63 Alice to Fort Beaufort – NMT, Road Link and Intersection Studies
- N2 Kangela to Pongola Upgrade
- Cofimvaba Eastern Cape – NMT, Road and Intersection Upgrades
- Stellenbosch R44 Traffic Signals
- Secunda Traffic Signals
- Fezile Dabi District Gravel Roads Upgrade, Free State Province
- Zambia RD Rehabilitation Project
- R61 Eastern Cape – NMT Studies, SANRAL

CONTINUED PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT (CPD)

*Last five years*full CPD list available*

2023 – International Traffic Safety Conference, Doha – Speaker

2022 – 7th Regional Conference for Africa & PIARC International Seminar on Rural Roads and Road Safety - Speaker

2022 – Non-motorised Transport Seminar (SARF) – Co-Organizer / Speaker

2021 – SARF KZN Road Safety Considerations (SARF) – Guest Speaker

2021 – Road Safety Audit Course (IRF) – Guest Speaker

2021 – Legal Obligations / Road Safety Act (SARF) – Presenter

2020 – Understanding Road Accidents (SARF)

2020 – Road Safety Auditor Course (SARF) – Co-Lecturer

2018 – African Road Conference (IRF/SARF/PIARC)

2018 – Road Safety in Engineering (SARF) – Presenter

2016 - SATC Road Safety Audit Workshop Pretoria (SARF)

2015 - Non-motorised Transport Planning (SARF

Annexure B: Specialist Statement of Independence

I, Iris Sigrid Wink, declare that –

- I act as the independent specialist in this application;
- I will perform the work relating to the application in an objective manner, even if this results in views and findings that are not favourable to the applicant;
- I declare that there are no circumstances that may compromise my objectivity in performing such work;
- I have expertise in conducting the specialist report relevant to this application, including knowledge of the Act, Regulations and any guidelines that have relevance to the proposed activity;
- I will comply with the Act, Regulations, and all other applicable legislation;
- I have no, and will not engage in, conflicting interests in the undertaking of the activity;
- I undertake to disclose to the applicant and the competent authority all material information in my possession that reasonably has or may have the potential of influencing - any decision to be taken with respect to the application by the competent authority; and - the objectivity of any report, plan, or document to be prepared by myself for submission to the competent authority;
- all the particulars furnished by me in this form are true and correct; and
- I realise that a false declaration is an offence in terms of regulation 48 and is punishable in terms of section 24F of the Act.

Signature of the Specialist: _____

Name of Company: iWink Consulting (Pty) Ltd

Date: 10-05-2023

Annexure C: Impact Rating Methodology

EIA Report Requirements

The EIA report should be in line with the EIA Regulations of 2014, as amended on 07 April 2017 and Savannah Environmental's requirements. Where relevant the report must be in line with the gazetted protocols.

The EIA report must consider the latest layout provided and should include:

- a description of the environment that may be affected by the activity and the manner in which the environment may be affected by the proposed project
- a description and evaluation of environmental issues and potential impacts (including direct, indirect, cumulative impacts and residual risks) that have been identified
- Direct, indirect, cumulative impacts and residual risks of the identified issues must be evaluated within the EIA Report in terms of the following criteria:
  - the nature, which shall include a description of what causes the effect, what will be affected and how it will be affected;
- a statement regarding the potential significance of the identified issues based on the evaluation of the issues/impacts
- a comparative evaluation of the identified feasible alternatives, and **nomination of a preferred alternative**
- Any aspects which are conditional to the findings of the assessment which are to be included as conditions of the Environmental Authorisation
- This must also include any gaps in knowledge at this point of the study. Consideration of areas that would constitute "acceptable and defendable loss" should be included in this discussion.
- A reasoned opinion as to whether the proposed project should be authorised.
- Summary of the positive and negative impacts and risks of the proposed project and identified alternatives.
- Mitigation measures and management recommendations to be included in the Environmental Management Programme to be submitted with the FEIR

Assessment of Impacts

Direct, indirect and cumulative impacts of the issues identified through the scoping study, as well as all other issues identified in the EIA phase must be assessed in terms of the following criteria:

- The **nature**, which shall include a description of what causes the effect, what will be affected and how it will be affected.
- The **extent**, wherein it will be indicated whether the impact will be local (limited to the immediate area or site of development) or regional, and a value between 1 and 5 will be assigned as appropriate (with 1 being low and 5 being high):
- The **duration**, wherein it will be indicated whether:
  - the lifetime of the impact will be of a very short duration (0–1 years) – assigned a score of 1;
  - the lifetime of the impact will be of a short duration (2-5 years) - assigned a score of 2;
  - medium-term (5–15 years) – assigned a score of 3;
  - long term (> 15 years) - assigned a score of 4; or
  - permanent - assigned a score of 5;
- The **magnitude**, quantified on a scale from 0-10, where a score is assigned:
  - 0 is small and will have no effect on the environment
  - 2 is minor and will not result in an impact on processes
  - 4 is low and will cause a slight impact on processes
  - 6 is moderate and will result in processes continuing but in a modified way
  - 8 is high (processes are altered to the extent that they temporarily cease)

- 10 is very high and results in complete destruction of patterns and permanent cessation of processes

» The **probability** *of occurrence*, which shall describe the likelihood of the impact actually occurring. Probability will be estimated on a scale of 1–5, where 1 is very improbable (probably will not happen), 2 is improbable (some possibility, but low likelihood), 3 is probable (distinct possibility), 4 is highly probable (most likely) and 5 is definite (impact will occur regardless of any prevention measures).
» the **significance**, which shall be determined through a synthesis of the characteristics described above and can be assessed as low, medium or high; and
» the **status**, which will be described as either positive, negative or neutral.
» the degree to which the impact can be reversed.
» the degree to which the impact may cause irreplaceable loss of resources.
» the *degree* to which the impact can be *mitigated*.

The **significance** is calculated by combining the criteria in the following formula:
S=(E+D+M)P
S = Significance weighting
E = Extent
D = Duration
M = Magnitude
P = Probability

The **significance weightings** for each potential impact are as follows:

» < 30 points: Low (i.e. where this impact would not have a direct influence on the decision to develop in the area),
» 30-60 points: Medium (i.e. where the impact could influence the decision to develop in the area unless it is effectively mitigated),
» > 60 points: High (i.e. where the impact must have an influence on the decision process to develop in the area).

Assessment of impacts must be summarised in the following table format. The rating values as per the above criteria must also be included. Complete a table and associated ratings for **each** impact identified during the assessment.

***Example* of Impact table summarising the significance of impacts (with and without mitigation)**

Nature: **[Outline and describe fully the impact anticipated as per the assessment undertaken]**			
Impact description: The impact will occur due to added pressure on the availability of housing located in the local community. This may contribute to increased levels of competition in the temporary housing market.			
	Rating	**Motivation**	**Significance**
Prior to Mitigation			
Duration	Short-term (1)	The construction period will last for less than one year	**Low Negative (18)**
Extent	Local (1)	Pressure will only be added on the local municipality to provide housing for outsourced construction workers	
Magnitude	Low (4)	The increase in demand for affordable accommodation should not be extensive as workers will primarily be sourced from the local communities.	

Probability	Probable (3)	The possibility of the impact on the provision of affordable accommodation is very low	
Mitigation/Enhancement Measures			
Mitigation: "Mitigation", means to anticipate and prevent negative impacts and risks, then to minimise them, rehabilitate or repair impacts to the extent feasible. • Provide a description of how these mitigation measures will be undertaken keeping the above definition in mind.			
Post Mitigation/Enhancement Measures			
Duration	Short-term (1)	Pressure will only be added on the local municipality to provide housing for outsourced construction workers.	**Low Positive (8)**
Extent	Local (1)	The increase in demand for affordable accommodation should be mitigated if external construction crews are provided with onsite accommodation.	
Magnitude	Minor (2)	The possibility of the impact on the provision of affordable accommodation is very low.	
Probability	Improbable (2)	A reduced amount of pressure will be added on the local municipality to provide housing for outsourced construction workers.	
Cumulative impacts: "Cumulative Impact", in relation to an activity, means the past, current and reasonably foreseeable future impact of an activity, considered together with the impact of activities associated with that activity, that in itself may not be significant, but may become significant when added to existing and reasonably foreseeable impacts eventuating from similar or diverse activities.			
Residual Risks: "Residual Risk", means the risk that will remain after all the recommended measures have been undertaken to mitigate the impact associated with the activity (Green Leaves III, 2014).			

Assessment of Cumulative Impacts

As per requirements of the EIA Regulations, specialists are required to assess the cumulative impacts. In this regard, please refer to the methodology below that will need to be used for the assessment of Cumulative Impacts.

"Cumulative Impact", in relation to an activity, means the past, current and reasonably foreseeable future impact of an activity, considered together with the impact of activities associated with that activity, that in itself may not be significant, but may become significant when added to existing and reasonably foreseeable impacts eventuating from similar or diverse activities[1].

The role of the cumulative assessment is to test if such impacts are relevant to the proposed project in the proposed location (i.e. whether the addition of the proposed project in the area will increase the impact). This section should address whether the construction of the proposed development will result in:

» Unacceptable risk

[1] Unless otherwise stated, all definitions are from the 2014 EIA Regulations, as amended, GNR 326

» Unacceptable loss
» Complete or whole-scale changes to the environment or sense of place
» Unacceptable increase in impact

The specialist is required to conclude if the proposed development will result in any unacceptable loss or impact considering all the projects proposed in the area.

Example of a cumulative impact table:

Nature: Complete or whole-scale changes to the environment or sense of place (example)

Nature: **[Outline and describe fully the impact anticipated as per the assessment undertaken]**		
	Overall impact of the proposed project considered in isolation	**Cumulative impact of the project and other projects in the area**
Extent	Low (1)	Low (1)
Duration	Medium-term (3)	Long-term (4)
Magnitude	Minor (2)	Low (4)
Probability	Improbable (2)	Probable (3)
Significance	**Low (12)**	**Low (27)**
Status (positive or negative)	Negative	Negative
Reversibility	High	Low
Irreplaceable loss of resources?	Yes	Yes
Can impacts be mitigated?	Yes	Yes
Confidence in findings: High.		
Mitigation: "Mitigation", means to anticipate and prevent negative impacts and risks, then to minimise them, rehabilitate or repair impacts to the extent feasible. Provide a description of how these mitigation measures will be undertaken keeping the above definition in mind.		

<u>Environmental Management Plan Table format</u>

Measures for inclusion in the draft Environmental Management Programme must be laid out as detailed below:

OBJECTIVE: Description of the objective, which is necessary in order to meet the overall goals; these take into account the findings of the environmental impact assessment specialist studies

Project component/s	List of project components affecting the objective
Potential Impact	Brief description of potential environmental impact if objective is not met
Activity/risk source	Description of activities which could impact on achieving objective
Mitigation: Target/Objective	Description of the target; include quantitative measures and/or dates of completion

Mitigation: Action/control	**Responsibility**	**Timeframe**
List specific action(s) required to meet the mitigation target/objective described above	Who is responsible for the measures	Time periods for implementation of measures

Performance Indicator	Description of key indicator(s) that track progress/indicate the effectiveness of the

	management plan.
Monitoring	Mechanisms for monitoring compliance; the key monitoring actions required to check whether the objectives are being achieved, taking into consideration responsibility, frequency, methods and reporting