

***NATURA VIVA cc***  
***Palaeontological Impact Assessments & Heritage Management,***  
***Natural History Education, Tourism, Research***

**Attn: Mr Dale Holder**  
**Cape EA Prac**  
**17 Progress Street**  
**George 6530, RSA**

**Date: 20 August 2020**

**Palaeontological Heritage Resources Comment:**

**PROPOSED BATTERY ENERGY STORAGE SYSTEM FOR THE AUTHORIZED  
 BLOEMSMOND SOLAR 3 FACILITY ON PORTIONS 5 AND 14 OF THE FARM  
 BLOEMSMOND 455 NEAR UPINGTON, SIYANDA DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY,  
 NORTHERN CAPE**

A palaeontological heritage assessment (PIA) of the Bloemsmond Solar 3 Facility near Upington was submitted by the author (Almond 2019) and concluded that, given the low palaeontological sensitivity of the project area (1) the proposed development was unlikely to have a significant impact on local fossil heritage resources and (2) pending the potential discovery of significant new fossils remains before or during construction, exemption from further specialist palaeontological studies and mitigation should be granted for this development.

The Bloemsmond Solar 3 Facility has subsequently been granted Environmental Authorization (EA) (DEA Ref. No: 14/12/16/3/3/1/2042, dated 8 November 2019).

The applicant now intends to apply for an Amendment to the EA to make provision for a Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) within the authorized footprint and adjacent to the on-site sub-station (yellow polygon in Figure 1). The footprint of the BESS will be approximately 4.2 hectares.

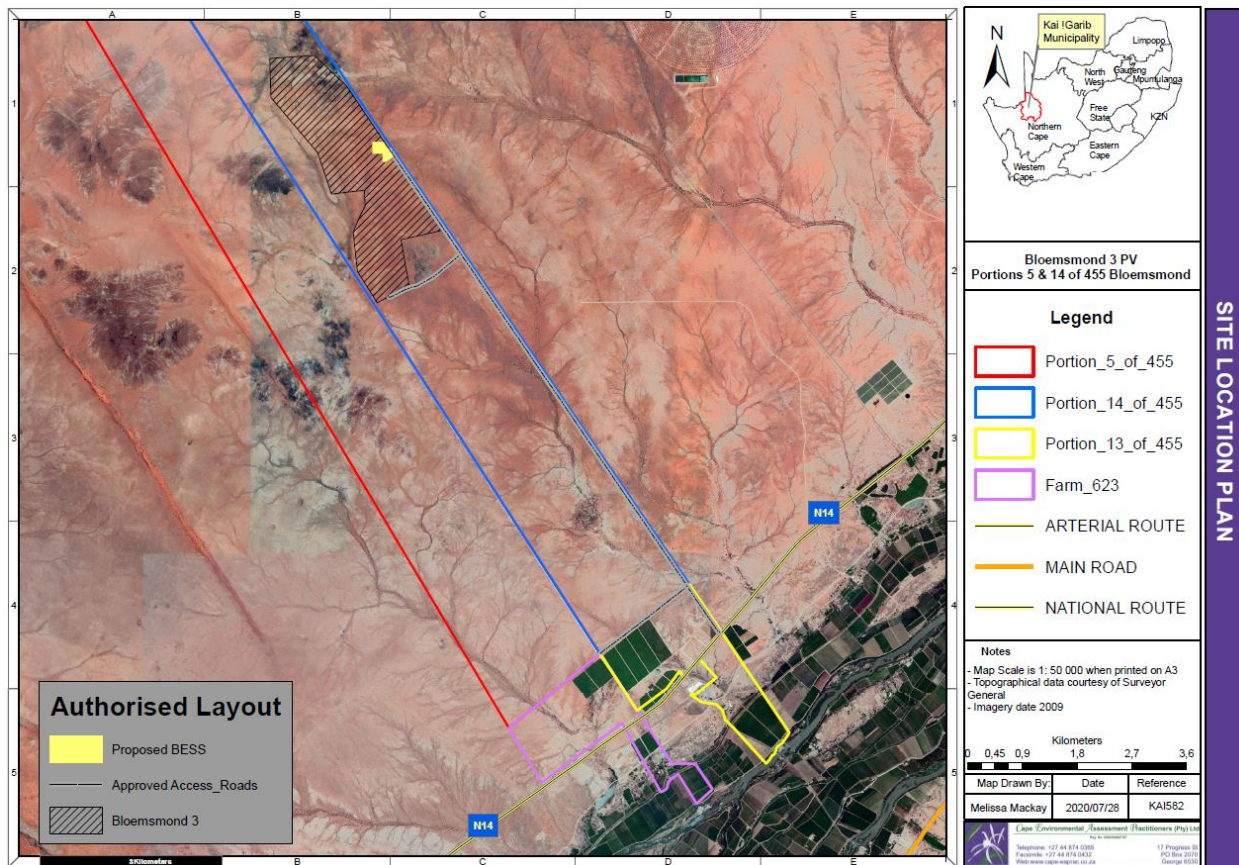
Given the generally low to very low palaeontological sensitivity of the Bloemsmond Solar 3 project area, it is concluded that:

- the inclusion of a BESS adjacent to the on-site substation will not change the nature or significance any of the impacts assessed in the original PIA study;
- the proposed BESS is unlikely to result in any additional impacts that were not previously assessed; and
- there are no additional management outcomes or mitigation measures in terms of palaeontological heritage that would be applicable to the proposed BESS.

There are no objections on palaeontological heritage grounds to the proposed amendment of the EA for this solar facility.

*John E. Almond*

**Dr John E. Almond (palaeontologist)**



**Figure 1: Map showing the location and layout of the authorized Bloemsmond Solar 3 Facility near Upington, Northern Cape including the proposed site for the associated BESS (yellow polygon) (Image provided by Cape EAPrac).**

## REFERENCES

ALMOND, J.E. 2019. Proposed Bloemsmond Solar 3, Bloemsmond Solar 4 & Bloemsmond Solar 5 PV Facilities on the portions 5 & 14 of the farm Bloemsmond 455 near Upington, Siyanda District Municipality, Northern Cape. Recommended exemption from further palaeontological studies, 6 pp. Natura Viva cc, Cape Town.