

## BASIC ASSESSMENT REPORT

(For official use only)

File Reference Number:

NEAS Number:

Date Received:


**Basic assessment report in terms of the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations, 2014 as amended, promulgated in terms of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998(Act No. 107 of 1998), as amended.**

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### Kindly note that:

1. This **basic assessment report** is a standard report that may be required by a competent authority in terms of the EIA Regulations, 2014 as amended and is meant to streamline applications. Please make sure that it is the report used by the particular competent authority for the activity that is being applied for.
2. The report must be typed within the spaces provided in the form. The size of the spaces provided is not necessarily indicative of the amount of information to be provided. The report is in the form of a table that can extend itself as each space is filled with typing.
3. Where applicable **tick** the boxes that are applicable or **black out** the boxes that are not applicable in the report.
4. An incomplete report may be returned to the applicant for revision.
5. The use of "not applicable" in the report must be done with circumspection because if it is used in respect of material information that is required by the competent authority for assessing the application, it may result in the rejection of the application as provided for in the regulations.
6. This report must be handed in at offices of the relevant competent authority as determined by each authority **unless indicated otherwise by the Department.**
7. No faxed or e-mailed reports will be accepted **unless indicated otherwise by the Department.**
8. The report must be compiled by an independent environmental assessment practitioner (EAP).
9. Unless protected by law, all information in the report will become public information on receipt by the competent authority. Any interested and affected party should be provided with the information contained in this report on request, during any stage of the application process.

10. A competent authority may require that for specified types of activities in defined situations only parts of this report need to be completed.

# SECTION A: ACTIVITY INFORMATION

Has a specialist been consulted to assist with the completion of this section?

YES	NO
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If YES, please complete form XX for each specialist thus appointed:

Any specialist reports must be contained in Appendix D.

## 1. ACTIVITY DESCRIPTION

Describe the activity, which is being applied for, in detail

A telecommunications mast, including associated infrastructure, is proposed on Portion 62 of Farm Klipheuvcl No. 291, Louterwater. The base station will have total developmental footprint size of approximately 110m<sup>2</sup> and will include a 35m high Lattice Mast, service provider equipment containers and generator. The site will be enclosed by fencing for security reasons.

The site is located off a dirt road to the south of Louterwater. Site co-ordinates: 33°47' 38.26"S, 23°37'29.29"E.



Figure 1: Google Earth image of the proposed site. The proposed site is indicated by the red dot.

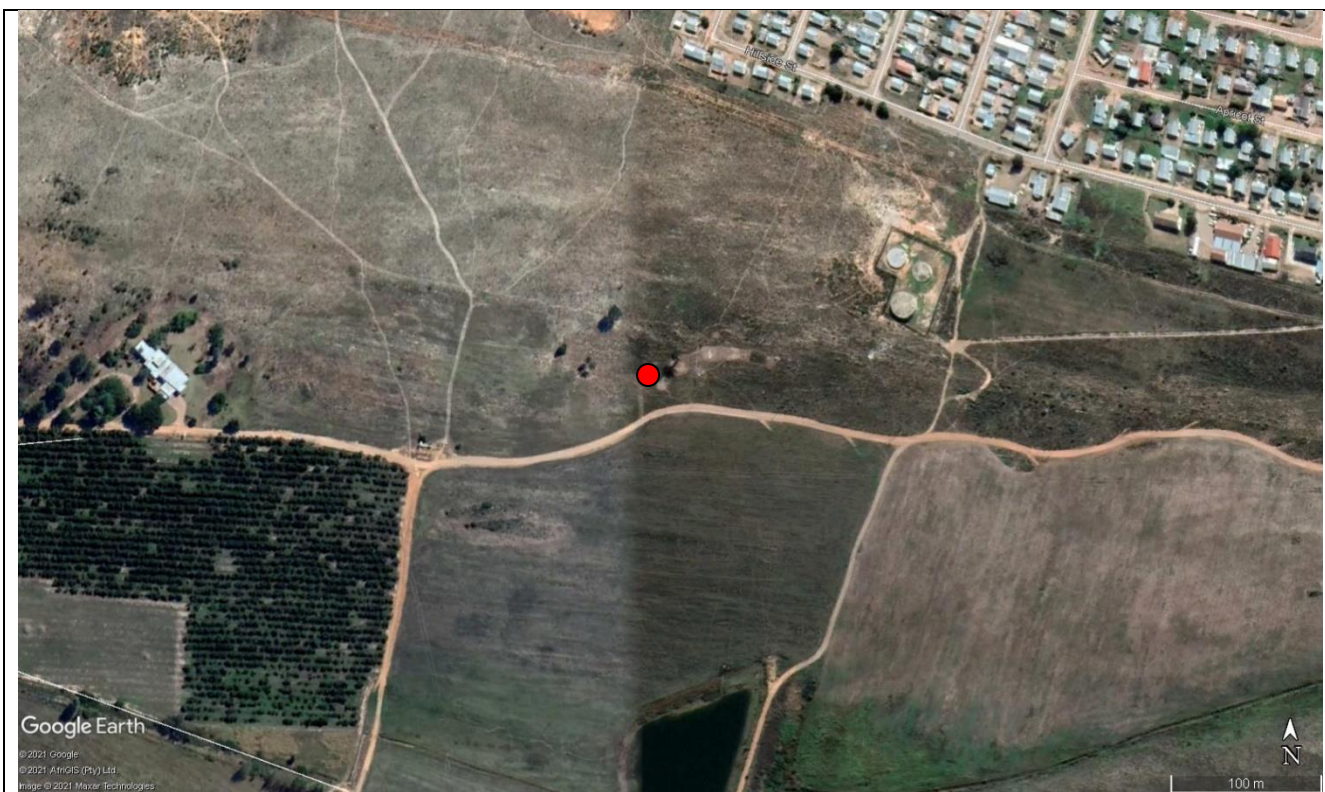


Figure 2: Google Earth image of the proposed site. The proposed site is indicated by the red dot.

## 2. FEASIBLE AND REASONABLE ALTERNATIVES

**“alternatives”**, in relation to a proposed activity, means different means of meeting the general purpose and requirements of the activity, which may include alternatives to—

- (a) the property on which or location where it is proposed to undertake the activity;
- (b) the type of activity to be undertaken;
- (c) the design or layout of the activity;
- (d) the technology to be used in the activity;
- (e) the operational aspects of the activity; and
- (f) the option of not implementing the activity.

Describe alternatives that are considered in this application. Alternatives should include a consideration of all possible means by which the purpose and need of the proposed activity could be accomplished in the specific instance taking account of the interest of the applicant in the activity. The no-go alternative must in all cases be included in the assessment phase as the baseline against which the impacts of the other alternatives are assessed. The determination of whether site or activity (including different processes etc.) or both is appropriate needs to be informed by the specific circumstances of the activity and its environment. After receipt of this report the competent authority may also request the applicant to assess additional alternatives that could possibly accomplish the purpose and need of the proposed activity if it is clear that realistic alternatives have not been considered to a reasonable extent.

- Site Alternatives

Please note that no viable alternative site locations were considered at this stage. The proposed site has a willing property owner, and will provide additional coverage for the area.

- Design Alternatives

Various design alternatives were considered besides the preferred design of a lattice mast, including a monopole mast and a tree mast design. A height of 35m was required to provide sufficient coverage and to accommodate more service providers (thereby requiring less masts in the area).

**Lattice mast** – A lattice mast is the preferred design for the applicant, as it can generally hold more equipment than a monopole mast and tree mast, and is also less expensive to construct than a monopole mast or tree mast.

A lattice mast also tends to have a smaller visual impact than a monopole mast, especially at a distance and when on a higher elevation where it blends into the sky and/or mountainous background.

In summary:

A lattice mast was considered the preferred alternative option for the following reasons:

- It will be able to hold more equipment if required by other service providers.
- Achieve the required height of 35m.
- Less expensive to construct.
- Lower visual impact, especially compared to a monopole mast.

**Monopole** – This mast design would be also able to provide sufficient height and be able to accommodate the service providers, however, it is more expensive to construct than a lattice mast, and its visual impact would also be higher than a tree mast or lattice mast. It is therefore not the preferred mast design.

**Tree Mast** - This mast design would be also able to provide sufficient height and be able to accommodate the service providers, however, it is more expensive to construct than a lattice mast and monopole. Its visual impact would also less than a monopole design, but is expected to be higher than a lattice mast.

Paragraph 3 – 13 would therefore be the same for all the various design alternatives. Site locations were not assessed as these were not viable (as described above).

**Paragraphs 3 – 13 below should be completed for each alternative.**

### 3. ACTIVITY POSITION

Indicate the position of the activity using the latitude and longitude of the centre point of the site for each alternative site. The co-ordinates should be in degrees and decimal minutes. The minutes should have at least three decimals to ensure adequate accuracy. The projection that must be used in all cases is the WGS84 spheroid in a national or local projection.

List alternative sites if applicable.

**Alternative:**

Alternative S1<sup>1</sup> (preferred or only site alternative)

Alternative S2 (if any)

Alternative S3 (if any)

**Latitude (S):**

**Longitude (E):**

33°	47.638'	23°	37.488'
0	'	0	'
0	'	0	'

**In the case of linear activities:**

**Alternative:**

Alternative S1 (preferred or only route alternative)

- Starting point of the activity

- Middle point of the activity

- End point of the activity

**Latitude (S):**

**Longitude (E):**

0	'	0	'
0	'	0	'
0	'	0	'

Alternative S2 (if any)

- Starting point of the activity

- Middle point of the activity

- End point of the activity

0	'	0	'
0	'	0	'
0	'	0	'

Alternative S3 (if any)

- Starting point of the activity

- Middle point of the activity

- End point of the activity

0	'	0	'
0	'	0	'
0	'	0	'

For route alternatives that are longer than 500m, please provide an addendum with co-ordinates taken every 250 meters along the route for each alternative alignment.

### 4. PHYSICAL SIZE OF THE ACTIVITY

Indicate the physical size of the preferred activity/technology as well as alternative activities/technologies (footprints):

**Alternative:**

Alternative A1<sup>2</sup> (preferred activity alternative)

**Size of the activity:**

110m <sup>2</sup>
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<sup>1</sup> "Alternative S.." refer to site alternatives.

<sup>2</sup> "Alternative A.." refer to activity, process, technology or other alternatives.

Alternative A2 (if any)

m<sup>2</sup>

Alternative A3 (if any)

m<sup>2</sup>

or, for linear activities:

**Alternative:**

**Length of the activity:**

Alternative A1 (preferred activity alternative)

m

Alternative A2 (if any)

m

Alternative A3 (if any)

m

Indicate the size of the alternative sites or servitudes (within which the above footprints will occur):

**Alternative:**

**Size of the site/servitude:**

Alternative A1 (preferred activity alternative)

m<sup>2</sup>

Alternative A2 (if any)

m<sup>2</sup>

Alternative A3 (if any)

m<sup>2</sup>

**5. SITE ACCESS**

Does ready access to the site exist?

YES NO

If NO, what is the distance over which a new access road will be built

m

Describe the type of access road planned:

No access road planned. Existing farm roads and access roads to be used.

Include the position of the access road on the site plan and required map, as well as an indication of the road in relation to the site.

**6. SITE OR ROUTE PLAN**

A detailed site or route plan(s) must be prepared for each alternative site or alternative activity. It must be attached as Appendix A to this document.

The site or route plans must indicate the following:

- 6.1 the scale of the plan which must be at least a scale of 1:500;
- 6.2 the property boundaries and numbers of all the properties within 50 metres of the site;
- 6.3 the current land use as well as the land use zoning of each of the properties adjoining the site or sites;
- 6.4 the exact position of each element of the application as well as any other structures on the site;
- 6.5 the position of services, including electricity supply cables (indicate above or underground), water supply pipelines, boreholes, street lights, sewage pipelines, storm water infrastructure and telecommunication infrastructure;
- 6.6 all trees and shrubs taller than 1.8 metres;
- 6.7 walls and fencing including details of the height and construction material;
- 6.8 servitudes indicating the purpose of the servitude;

6.9 sensitive environmental elements within 100 metres of the site or sites including (but not limited thereto):

- rivers;
- the 1:100 year flood line (where available or where it is required by DWA);
- ridges;
- cultural and historical features;
- areas with indigenous vegetation (even if it is degraded or invested with alien species);

6.9 for gentle slopes the 1 metre contour intervals must be indicated on the plan and whenever the slope of the site exceeds 1:10, the 500mm contours must be indicated on the plan; and

6.10 the positions from where photographs of the site were taken.

## 7. SITE PHOTOGRAPHS

Colour photographs from the centre of the site must be taken in at least the eight major compass directions with a description of each photograph. Photographs must be attached under Appendix B to this form. It must be supplemented with additional photographs of relevant features on the site, if applicable.

## 8. FACILITY ILLUSTRATION

A detailed illustration of the activity must be provided at a scale of 1:200 as Appendix C for activities that include structures. The illustrations must be to scale and must represent a realistic image of the planned activity. The illustration must give a representative view of the activity.

## 9. ACTIVITY MOTIVATION

### 9(a) Socio-economic value of the activity

What is the expected capital value of the activity on completion?

R1 500 000
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What is the expected yearly income that will be generated by or as a result of the activity?

R750 000
----------

Will the activity contribute to service infrastructure?

YES	<del>NO</del>
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Is the activity a public amenity?

<del>YES</del>	NO
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How many new employment opportunities will be created in the development phase of the activity?

25
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What is the expected value of the employment opportunities during the development phase?

R 100 000
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What percentage of this will accrue to previously disadvantaged individuals?

100%
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How many permanent new employment opportunities will be created during the operational phase of the activity?

3

What is the expected current value of the employment opportunities during the first 10 years?

R 1 200 000

What percentage of this will accrue to previously disadvantaged individuals?

100%

### 9(b) Need and desirability of the activity

Motivate and explain the need and desirability of the activity (including demand for the activity):

Modern advances in telecommunication technology (LTE/4G) provide reliable internet connections to an increased number of users which alleviates the pressure on the various base stations, however their operational range are limited in comparison to older technologies. A single old generation GSM voice based base station could cover an area within a radius of 1.0 km. Modern LTE/4G base stations have a significantly smaller operational range, sometimes as little as 200m.

There is the challenge of having to provide coverage in residential areas in order to satisfy both the increase in usage and the smaller operational range of modern telecommunication technology.

Locations for telecommunication infrastructure are primarily chosen within areas where a need exists for coverage. If a need for coverage does not exist in a specific area, no company would invest capital to build a telecommunication base station in said area. The fact that there are no other telecommunication base stations within 1km of the site, supports the statement that there is a clear need for coverage in the area. The need for coverage is however not the only determining factor when identifying a possible position for a telecommunication base station. Other determining factors include altitude, zoning and the visual impact of the proposed base station.

According to the Cellular Radio Planning Report (**Appendix G1**), there doesn't appear to be any sites within 1km of the proposed site, and there is a possibility that there is speech coverage but, there will not be high speed data coverage in the area.

This location will need at least one additional site to provide adequate coverage as the settlement is quite sprawling over the terrain. There seems to be a fair density of subscribers in the area that would not have had any coverage until the proposed infrastructure has been built. This will be new coverage. The radio predictions are based on the SA Broadband requirements and are biased to 5G coverage.

This area appears to be suburban to rural. The coverage area of the new site will expand the data footprint to subscribers that have had weak or no high speed data coverage before. The new structure will expand the network to provide high speed data, improve the quality of the speech offering and improve the overall coverage by filling in the weak areas, providing homes and businesses with good inbuilding new coverage and high speed data within the footprint of the proposed infrastructure. The requirement for the 5G incoming technology needs to have the sites much closer together than ever before.

As noted in the Planning Report, while the new site will greatly improve the coverage footprint of all operators that use the Insite Towers Infrastructure, data levels will still only be compliant to 2016 requirements. The existing sites are too far apart to adequately satisfy the SA Broadband requirements. As a result, there are areas of good coverage bounded by areas of poor to inconsistent coverage. This area will need more sites to comply with the Broadband requirements.

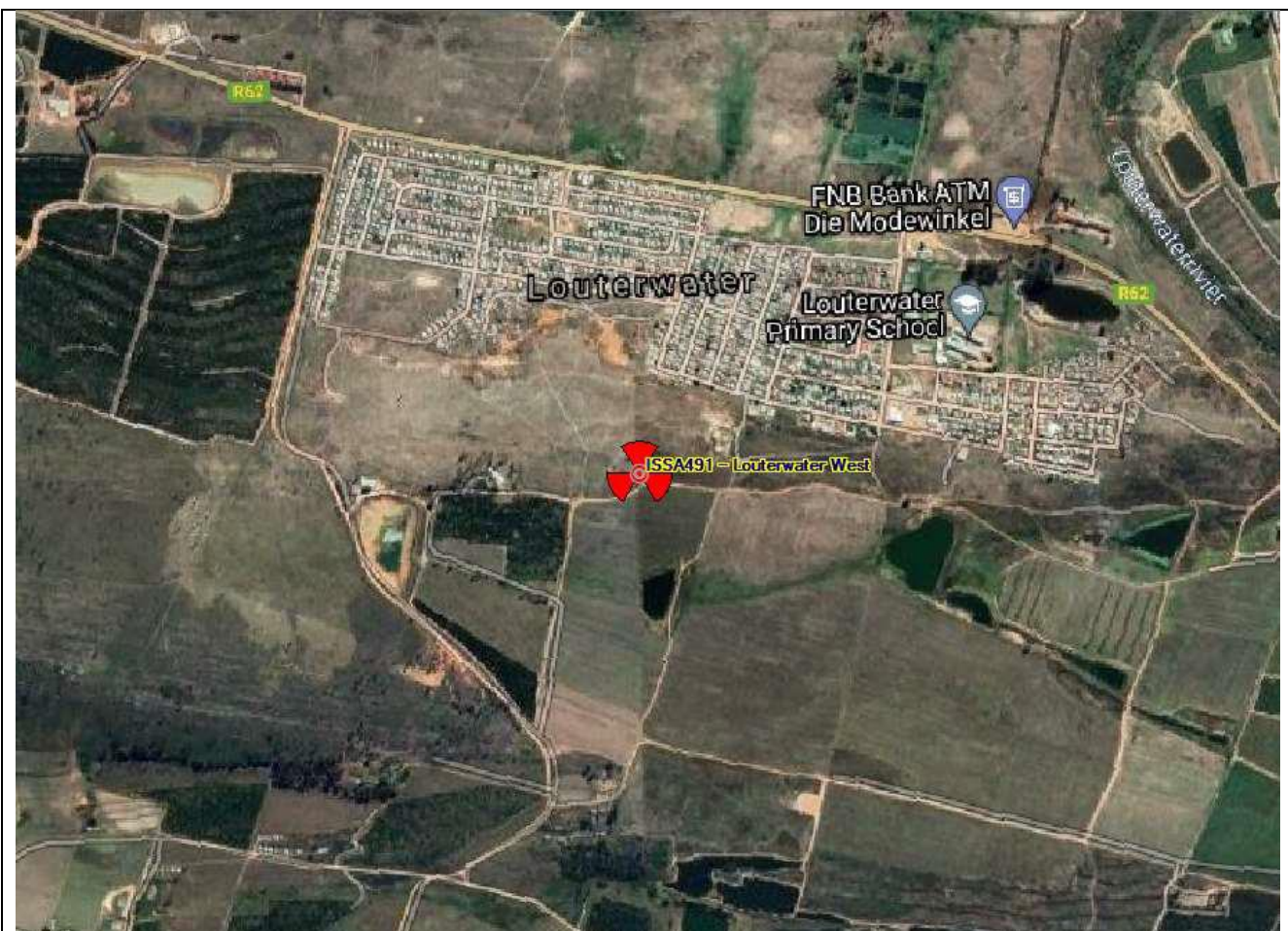


Figure 3: Current coverage map

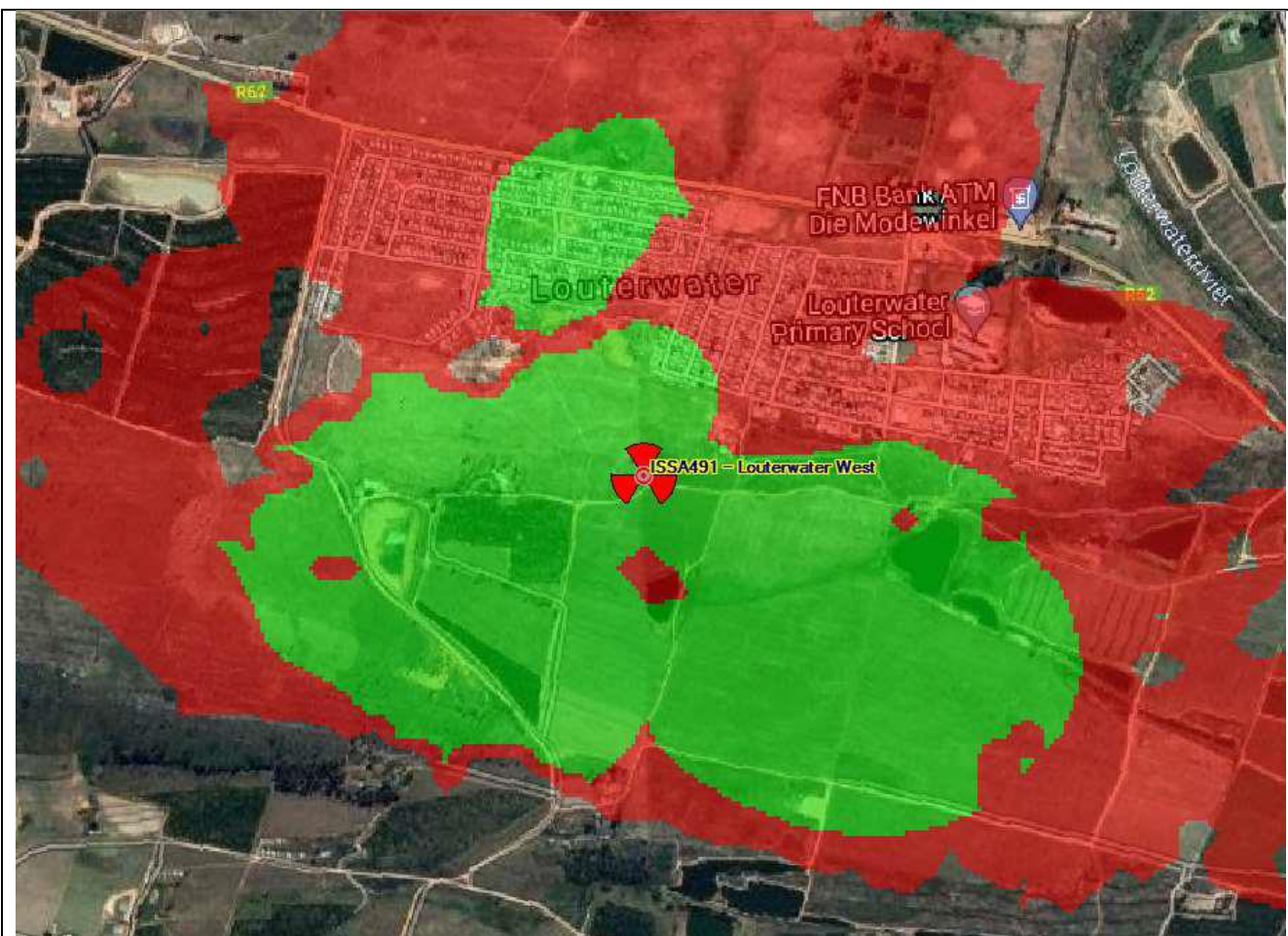


Figure 4: Predicted new Coverage after the installation of the new structure:

- Green – Good to excellent network coverage
- Red – Limited to no coverage – in some areas only 2G will be available (voice)
- Where no colour is shown, the signal is outside of the prediction radius and has not been drawn.

Indicate any benefits that the activity will have for society in general:

This application is for the construction of a telecommunications mast, which is considered as part of the essential services for the greater community. The benefits of telecommunications services in modern society are potentially limitless. The proposed activity will increase the coverage of these telecommunications services, including providing a more reliable and wider coverage. Please see above.

The increase in network strength brought by the proposed mast will aid the local businesses and can unlock growth potential which will have a positive economic impact. Residents, businesses and commuters will have a more secure connection to emergency services and armed response which will have a huge social impact.

Indicate any benefits that the activity will have for the local communities where the activity will be located:

See above.

The proposed activity will also provide employment opportunities during the construction phase, as well as a permanent employment opportunity during the operational phase.

**10. APPLICABLE LEGISLATION, POLICIES AND/OR GUIDELINES**

List all legislation, policies and/or guidelines of any sphere of government that are applicable to the application as contemplated in the EIA regulations, if applicable:

Title of legislation, policy or guideline:	Administering authority:	Date:
Spatial Planning and Land Use Management Act, 2013 - Consent use.	Local Municipality	

**11. WASTE, EFFLUENT, EMISSION AND NOISE MANAGEMENT**

**11(a) Solid waste management**

Will the activity produce solid construction waste during the construction/initiation phase?

YES	NO
m <sup>3</sup> Unknown, but minimum amounts of waste are expected	

If yes, what estimated quantity will be produced per month?

How will the construction solid waste be disposed of (describe)?

Waste is mostly expected to be general waste, with minimal amounts of construction waste. Waste is to be consolidated and disposed of at the nearest municipal waste site.

Where will the construction solid waste be disposed of (describe)?

Waste is to be consolidated and disposed of at the nearest municipal waste site.

Will the activity produce solid waste during its operational phase?

YES	NO
m <sup>3</sup>	

If yes, what estimated quantity will be produced per month?

How will the solid waste be disposed of (describe)?

N/A

Where will the solid waste be disposed if it does not feed into a municipal waste stream (describe)?

N/A

If the solid waste (construction or operational phases) will not be disposed of in a registered landfill site or be taken up in a municipal waste stream, then the applicant should consult with the competent authority to determine whether it is necessary to change to an application for scoping and EIA.

Can any part of the solid waste be classified as hazardous in terms of the relevant legislation?

YES	NO
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If yes, inform the competent authority and request a change to an application for scoping and EIA.

Is the activity that is being applied for a solid waste handling or treatment facility?

YES	NO
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If yes, then the applicant should consult with the competent authority to determine whether it is necessary to change to an application for scoping and EIA.

**11(b) Liquid effluent**

Will the activity produce effluent, other than normal sewage, that will be disposed of in a municipal sewage system?

YES	NO
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If yes, what estimated quantity will be produced per month?

m <sup>3</sup>
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Will the activity produce any effluent that will be treated and/or disposed of on site?

Yes	NO
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If yes, the applicant should consult with the competent authority to determine whether it is necessary to change to an application for scoping and EIA.

Will the activity produce effluent that will be treated and/or disposed of at another facility?

YES	NO
-----	----

If yes, provide the particulars of the facility:

Facility name:

--

Contact person:

--

Postal address:

--

Postal code:

--

Telephone:

--

Cell:

--

E-mail:

--

Fax:

--

Describe the measures that will be taken to ensure the optimal reuse or recycling of waste water, if any:

N/A

**11(c) Emissions into the atmosphere**

Will the activity release emissions into the atmosphere?

YES	NO
YES	NO

If yes, is it controlled by any legislation of any sphere of government?

If yes, the applicant should consult with the competent authority to determine whether it is necessary to change to an application for scoping and EIA.

If no, describe the emissions in terms of type and concentration:

N/A
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**11(d) Generation of noise**

Will the activity generate noise?

YES	NO
YES	NO

If yes, is it controlled by any legislation of any sphere of government?

If yes, the applicant should consult with the competent authority to determine whether it is necessary to change to an application for scoping and EIA.

If no, describe the noise in terms of type and level:

N/A
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**12. WATER USE**

Please indicate the source(s) of water that will be used for the activity by ticking the appropriate box(es)

<input type="checkbox"/> municipal	<input type="checkbox"/> water board	<input type="checkbox"/> groundwater	<input type="checkbox"/> river, stream, dam or lake	<input type="checkbox"/> other	<input type="checkbox"/> the activity will not use water
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If water is to be extracted from groundwater, river, stream, dam, lake or any other natural feature, please indicate

the volume that will be extracted per month:

litres
YES NO

Does the activity require a water use permit from the Department of Water Affairs?

If yes, please submit the necessary application to the Department of Water Affairs and attach proof thereof to this application if it has been submitted.

**13. ENERGY EFFICIENCY**

Describe the design measures, if any, that have been taken to ensure that the activity is energy efficient:

Telecommunications base-stations require minimal amounts of power.

Describe how alternative energy sources have been taken into account or been built into the design of the activity, if any:

**SECTION B: SITE/AREA/PROPERTY DESCRIPTION**

**Important notes:**

- For linear activities (pipelines, etc) as well as activities that cover very large sites, it may be necessary to complete this section for each part of the site that has a significantly different environment. In such cases please complete copies of Section C and indicate the area, which is covered by each copy No. on the Site Plan.

Section C Copy No. (e.g. A):

- Paragraphs 1 - 6 below must be completed for each alternative.

- Has a specialist been consulted to assist with the completion of this section?

YES	NO

If YES, please complete form XX for each specialist thus appointed:

All specialist reports must be contained in Appendix D.

**1. GRADIENT OF THE SITE**

Indicate the general gradient of the site.

**Alternative S1:**

Flat	1:50 – 1:20	<del>1:20 – 1:15</del>	<del>1:15 – 1:10</del>	<del>1:10 – 1:7,5</del>	<del>1:7,5 – 1:5</del>	Steeper than 1:5
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**Alternative S2 (if any):**

Flat	1:50 – 1:20	1:20 – 1:15	1:15 – 1:10	1:10 – 1:7,5	1:7,5 – 1:5	Steeper than 1:5
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**Alternative S3 (if any):**

Flat	1:50 – 1:20	1:20 – 1:15	1:15 – 1:10	1:10 – 1:7,5	1:7,5 – 1:5	Steeper than 1:5
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**2. LOCATION IN LANDSCAPE**

Indicate the landform(s) that best describes the site:

2.1 Ridgeline – the site is located on ridgeline above Louterwater

~~2.2 Plateau~~

~~2.3 Side slope of hill/mountain~~

~~2.4 Closed valley~~

~~2.5 Open valley~~

~~2.6 Plain~~

~~2.7 Undulating plain / low hills~~

~~2.8 Dune~~

~~2.9 Seafront~~

**3. GROUNDWATER, SOIL AND GEOLOGICAL STABILITY OF THE SITE**

Is the site(s) located on any of the following (tick the appropriate boxes)?

**Alternative S1:**

**Alternative S2 (if any):**

**Alternative S3 (if any):**

	Alternative S1:		Alternative S2 (if any):		Alternative S3 (if any):	
	YES	NO	YES	NO	YES	NO
Shallow water table (less than 1.5m deep)						
Dolomite, sinkhole or doline areas						
Seasonally wet soils (often close to water bodies)						
Unstable rocky slopes or steep slopes with loose soil						
Dispersive soils (soils that dissolve in water)						
Soils with high clay content (clay fraction more than 40%)						
Any other unstable soil or geological feature						



An area sensitive to erosion

YES	NO
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YES	NO
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YES	NO
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If you are unsure about any of the above or if you are concerned that any of the above aspects may be an issue of concern in the application, an appropriate specialist should be appointed to assist in the completion of this section. (Information in respect of the above will often be available as part of the project information or at the planning sections of local authorities. Where it exists, the 1:50 000 scale Regional Geotechnical Maps prepared by the Council for Geo Science may also be consulted).

#### 4. GROUND COVER

Indicate the types of groundcover present on the site:

- ~~4.1 Natural veld — good condition<sup>E</sup>~~
- ~~4.2 Natural veld — scattered aliens<sup>E</sup>~~
- ~~4.3 Natural veld with heavy alien infestation<sup>E</sup>~~
- ~~4.4 Veld dominated by alien species<sup>E</sup>~~
- 4.5 Gardens
- 4.6 Sport field
- 4.7 Cultivated land
- 4.8 Paved surface
- 4.9 Building or other structure
- 4.10 Bare soil

The location of all identified rare or endangered species or other elements should be accurately indicated on the site plan(s).

<del>Natural veld — good condition<sup>E</sup></del>	<del>Natural veld with scattered aliens<sup>E</sup></del>	<del>Natural veld with heavy alien infestation<sup>E</sup></del>	<del>Veld dominated by alien species<sup>E</sup></del>	Gardens
Sport field	Cultivated land	Paved surface	Building or other structure	Bare soil

If any of the boxes marked with an “<sup>E</sup>” is ticked, please consult an appropriate specialist to assist in the completion of this section if the environmental assessment practitioner doesn’t have the necessary expertise.



Figure 5: General view of the proposed site. The proposed site is on an already disturbed piece of land, with little to no natural vegetation cover.

## 5. LAND USE CHARACTER OF SURROUNDING AREA

Indicate land uses and/or prominent features that currently occur within a 500m radius of the site and give description of how this influences the application or may be impacted upon by the application:

- 5.1 Natural area
- 5.2 Low density residential
- 5.3 Medium density residential
- 5.4 High density residential
- 5.5 Informal residential
- 5.6 Retail commercial & warehousing
- 5.7 Light industrial
- 5.8 Medium industrial<sup>AN</sup>
- 5.9 Heavy industrial<sup>AN</sup>
- 5.10 Power station
- 5.11 Office/consulting room
- 5.12 Military or police base/station/compound
- 5.13 Spoil heap or slimes dam<sup>A</sup>
- 5.14 Quarry, sand or borrow pit
- 5.15 Dam or reservoir
- 5.16 Hospital/medical centre
- 5.17 School
- 5.18 Tertiary education facility
- 5.19 Church
- 5.20 Old age home
- 5.21 Sewage treatment plant<sup>A</sup>
- 5.22 Train station or shunting yard<sup>N</sup>
- 5.23 Railway line<sup>N</sup>
- 5.24 Major road (4 lanes or more)<sup>N</sup>

- 5.25 Airport<sup>N</sup>
- 5.26 Harbour
- 5.27 Sport facilities
- 5.28 Golf course
- 5.29 Polo fields
- 5.30 Filling station<sup>H</sup>
- 5.31 Landfill or waste treatment site
- 5.32 Plantation
- 5.33 Agriculture
- 5.34 River, stream or wetland
- 5.35 Nature conservation area
- 5.36 Mountain, koppie or ridge
- 5.37 Museum
- 5.38 Historical building
- 5.39 Protected Area
- 5.40 Graveyard
- 5.41 Archaeological site
- 5.42 Other land uses (describe)

If any of the boxes marked with an "N" are ticked, how will this impact / be impacted upon by the proposed activity.

If any of the boxes marked with an "An" are ticked, how will this impact / be impacted upon by the proposed activity.

If YES, specify and explain:

If YES, specify:

|

If any of the boxes marked with an "H" are ticked, how will this impact / be impacted upon by the proposed activity.

If YES, specify and explain:

If YES, specify:

|

|

**6. CULTURAL/HISTORICAL FEATURES**

Are there any signs of culturally or historically significant elements, as defined in section 2 of the National Heritage Resources Act, 1999, (Act No. 25 of 1999), including Archaeological or palaeontological sites, on or close (within 20m) to the site?

YES	NO
Uncertain	

If YES, explain:

--

If uncertain, conduct a specialist investigation by a recognised specialist in the field to establish whether there is such a feature(s) present on or close to the site.

Briefly explain the findings of the specialist:

According to the Archaeological Letter of Exemption (Appendix D1), given the highly degraded footprint area, and surrounding transformed agricultural land, the impact of the proposed development of a 35m high telecommunication on Farm 291/61 Louerwater, is rated as being very low to negligible. It is considered highly unlikely that any archaeological remains will be encountered in the small, 100m<sup>2</sup> footprint area.

According to the Palaeontological Letter of Exemption (Appendix D2), no palaeoenvironmental work is required. The rocks underlying the site are sandstones of the Cape Supergroup, which are about 400 million years old and not known to be fossiliferous. Trace fossils may occur (common), but these rocks are not known for body fossils.

However, a Chance Find Protocol must be included in the EMPr. This has been included in the EMPr (Appendix F).

Will any building or structure older than 60 years be affected in any way? Is it necessary to apply for a permit in terms of the National Heritage Resources Act, 1999 (Act 25 of 1999)?

YES	NO
YES	NO

If yes, please submit or, make sure that the applicant or a specialist submits the necessary application to SAHRA or the relevant provincial heritage agency and attach proof thereof to this application if such application has been made.

## SECTION C: PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

### 1. ADVERTISEMENT

The person conducting a public participation process must take into account any guidelines applicable to public participation as contemplated in section 24J of the Act and must give notice to all potential interested and affected parties of the application which is subjected to public participation by—

- (a) fixing a notice board (of a size at least 60cm by 42cm; and must display the required information in lettering and in a format as may be determined by the competent authority) at a place conspicuous to the public at the boundary or on the fence of—
  - (i) the site where the activity to which the application relates is or is to be undertaken; and
  - (ii) any alternative site mentioned in the application;
- (b) giving written notice to—
  - (i) the owner or person in control of that land if the applicant is not the owner or person in control of the land;
  - (ii) the occupiers of the site where the activity is or is to be undertaken or to any alternative site where the activity is to be undertaken;
  - (iii) owners and occupiers of land adjacent to the site where the activity is or is to be undertaken or to any alternative site where the activity is to be undertaken;
  - (iv) the municipal councillor of the ward in which the site or alternative site is situated and any organisation of ratepayers that represent the community in the area;
  - (v) the municipality which has jurisdiction in the area;
  - (vi) any organ of state having jurisdiction in respect of any aspect of the activity; and
  - (vii) any other party as required by the competent authority;
- (c) placing an advertisement in—
  - (i) one local newspaper; or
  - (ii) any official *Gazette* that is published specifically for the purpose of providing public notice of applications or other submissions made in terms of these Regulations;
- (d) placing an advertisement in at least one provincial newspaper or national newspaper, if the activity has or may have an impact that extends beyond the boundaries of the metropolitan or local municipality in which it is or will be undertaken: Provided that this paragraph need not be complied with if an advertisement has been placed in an official *Gazette* referred to in subregulation 54(c)(ii); and
- (e) using reasonable alternative methods, as agreed to by the competent authority, in those instances where a person is desiring of but unable to participate in the process due to—
  - (i) illiteracy;
  - (ii) disability; or
  - (iii) any other disadvantage.

### 2. CONTENT OF ADVERTISEMENTS AND NOTICES

A notice board, advertisement or notices must:

- (a) indicate the details of the application which is subjected to public participation; and
- (b) state—
  - (i) that the application has been submitted to the competent authority in terms of these Regulations, as the case may be;

- (ii) whether basic assessment or scoping procedures are being applied to the application, in the case of an application for environmental authorisation;
- (iii) the nature and location of the activity to which the application relates;
- (iv) where further information on the application or activity can be obtained; and
- (iv) the manner in which and the person to whom representations in respect of the application may be made.

### **3. PLACEMENT OF ADVERTISEMENTS AND NOTICES**

Where the proposed activity may have impacts that extend beyond the municipal area where it is located, a notice must be placed in at least one provincial newspaper or national newspaper, indicating that an application will be submitted to the competent authority in terms of these regulations, the nature and location of the activity, where further information on the proposed activity can be obtained and the manner in which representations in respect of the application can be made, unless a notice has been placed in any *Gazette* that is published specifically for the purpose of providing notice to the public of applications made in terms of the EIA regulations.

Advertisements and notices must make provision for all alternatives.

### **4. DETERMINATION OF APPROPRIATE MEASURES**

The practitioner must ensure that the public participation is adequate and must determine whether a public meeting or any other additional measure is appropriate or not based on the particular nature of each case. Special attention should be given to the involvement of local community structures such as Ward Committees, ratepayers associations and traditional authorities where appropriate. Please note that public concerns that emerge at a later stage that should have been addressed may cause the competent authority to withdraw any authorisation it may have issued if it becomes apparent that the public participation process was inadequate.

### **5. COMMENTS AND RESPONSE REPORT**

The practitioner must record all comments and respond to each comment of the public before the application is submitted. The comments and responses must be captured in a comments and response report as prescribed in the EIA regulations and be attached to this application. The comments and response report must be attached under Appendix E.

### **6. AUTHORITY PARTICIPATION**

Authorities are key interested and affected parties in each application and no decision on any application will be made before the relevant local authority is provided with the opportunity to give input. The planning and the environmental sections of the local authority must be informed of the application at least 30 (thirty) calendar days before the submission of the application.

List of authorities informed:

- SANParks
- Eastern Cape Parks and Tourism Agency
- Department of Health
- Department of Rural Development and Agrarian Reform
- Department of Water and Sanitation

List of authorities from whom comments have been received:

No comments received to date.

**7. CONSULTATION WITH OTHER STAKEHOLDERS**

Note that, for linear activities, or where deviation from the public participation requirements may be appropriate, the person conducting the public participation process may deviate from the requirements of that subregulation to the extent and in the manner as may be agreed to by the competent authority.

Any stakeholder that has a direct interest in the site or property, such as servitude holders and service providers, should be informed of the application at least 30 (thirty) calendar days before the submission of the application and be provided with the opportunity to comment.

Has any comment been received from stakeholders?

YES	NO
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If "YES", briefly describe the feedback below (also attach copies of any correspondence to and from the stakeholders to this application):

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## SECTION D: IMPACT ASSESSMENT

The assessment of impacts must adhere to the minimum requirements in the EIA Regulations, 2014 as amended, and should take applicable official guidelines into account. The issues raised by interested and affected parties should also be addressed in the assessment of impacts.

### 1. ISSUES RAISED BY INTERESTED AND AFFECTED PARTIES

List the main issues raised by interested and affected parties.

The following comment was received from an Interested and Affected Party:

- 1) Map or photo indicating on what property and owner the proposed site is on and what access roads you will be using to deliver and construct the mast structure.
- 2) Potential impact of your trucks and other activities outside the 110m some (~10,5x10,5m) proposed lattice tower site.
- 3) In my humble opinion your activity will be wider than the small baren soil end one \*pine tree (you will hopefully cut down or remove) in your photos. Incan virtually guarantee you amongst the grass and other vegetation your activities may be trampling are small unnoticed herbal or floristic plants.

Response from the practitioner to the issues raised by the interested and affected parties (A full response must be given in the Comments and Response Report that must be attached to this report):

- 1) Property owner – Oudrif Estate, Farm Klipheuvell No. 291, Portion 62  
Access will be from the R62 along the access road to the property
- 2) Trucks will stop on the access road, and works area and laydown limited to the existing disturbed areas of the site and on the opposite side of the road. These works areas will be demarcated in consultation with the ECO. Access to the disturbed areas from the road will be limited to a 5m wide access throughfare, meaning no more than 25m<sup>2</sup> vegetation outside of the existing disturbed area is expected to be disturbed. This area is to be rehabilitated after construction. This will be included in the EMP.
- 3) See above

### 2. IMPACTS THAT MAY RESULT FROM THE PLANNING AND DESIGN, CONSTRUCTION, OPERATIONAL, DECOMMISSIONING AND CLOSURE PHASES AS WELL AS PROPOSED MANAGEMENT OF IDENTIFIED IMPACTS AND PROPOSED MITIGATION MEASURES

List the potential direct, indirect and cumulative property/activity/design/technology/operational alternative related impacts (as appropriate) that are likely to occur as a result of the planning and design phase, construction phase, operational phase, decommissioning and closure phase, including impacts relating to the choice of site/activity/technology alternatives as well as the mitigation measures that may eliminate or reduce the potential impacts listed.

**Alternative (preferred alternative)**

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**Construction phase.**

Freshwater Resources – **Very Low – Negligible (Negative)**  
Biological aspects – **Very Low (Negative)**  
Job creation – **Low (Positive)**  
Loss of cultural or historic aspects – **Very Low – Negligible (Negative)**  
Dust impact - **Very Low (Negative)**  
Noise impact - **Low (Negative)**  
Visual impact – **Low (Negative)**  
Traffic impact - **Very Low (Negative)**

**Operational Phase**

Freshwater Resources – **Negligible**  
Botanical aspects - **Very Low – Negligible (Negative)**  
Increased coverage of telecommunications services and its associated benefits – **Medium (Positive)**  
Loss of cultural or historic aspects – **The activity is not expected to have any impact on cultural or historic aspects on the site**  
Noise impact – **The activity is not expected to have noise impacts during the operational phase.**  
Visual impacts – **Medium -Low - (Negative)**  
Cumulative Visual impacts - **Low (Positive)**

**Decommissioning**

The project as proposed does not require 'decommissioning' or 'closure', as such the potential impacts thereof is considered irrelevant.

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**3. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT**

Taking the assessment of potential impacts into account, please provide an environmental impact statement that summarises the impact that the proposed activity and its alternatives may have on the environment after the management and mitigation of impacts have been taken into account, with specific reference to types of impact, duration of impacts, likelihood of potential impacts actually occurring and the significance of impacts.

**See Appendix G2**

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**Alternative A (preferred alternative)**

**See Appendix G2**

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**No-go alternative (compulsory)**

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This is the option of not installing the proposed mast, and its associated infrastructure.

Although this option would result in no potential negative environmental or social impacts, the social benefits from implementing the activity would not be achieved. A more efficient telecommunications service, considered as essential for the business sector and private/social communication, would therefore not be achieved.

Additional cellular coverage will not be achieved in Louterwater. The coverage area will not be expanded to subscribers that have had weak or no high speed data coverage before. There will be no expansion of the network to provide high speed data, improved quality of the speech offering and improvement of the overall coverage, providing homes and businesses with good inbuilding new coverage and high speed data.

## SECTION E. RECOMMENDATIONS OF PRACTITIONER

Is the information contained in this report and the documentation attached hereto sufficient to make a decision in respect of the activity applied for (in the view of the environmental assessment practitioner)?

YES	NO
YES	NO

Is an EMPr attached?

The EMPr must be attached as Appendix F.

If "NO", indicate the aspects that should be assessed further as part of a Scoping and EIA process before a decision can be made (list the aspects that require further assessment):

If "YES", please list any recommended conditions, including mitigation measures that should be considered for inclusion in any authorisation that may be granted by the competent authority in respect of the application:

Compliance with the EMP and appointment of an ECO during the construction phase.

## **SECTION F: APPENDICES**

The following appendixes must be attached as appropriate:

Appendix A: Site plan(s)

Appendix B: Photographs

Appendix C: Facility illustration(s)

Appendix D: Specialist reports

Appendix E: Comments and responses report

Appendix F: Environmental Management Programme (EMPr)

Appendix G: Other information

