



ENVIRONMENTAL MOTIVATION REPORT

For

EXTENSION OF EA VALIDITY PERIOD FOR THE AEP BLOEMSMOND SOLAR 1

On

Portion 5 and 14 of the Farm Bloemsmond 455
Northern Cape Province.

In terms of the

National Environmental Management Act (Act No. 107 of 1998, as
amended) & 2014 Environmental Impact Regulations

**Prepared for Holder of EA: AEP Bloemsmond Solar
1 (Pty) Ltd**

Date: 19 June 2026

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PURPOSE OF THIS REPORT:

Stakeholder Review and Comment

HOLDER OF EA:

AEP Bloemsmond Solar 1 (Pty) Ltd

CAPE EAPRAC REFERENCE NO:

KAI582c/02

SUBMISSION DATE

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& Environmental Impact Regulations 2014

AEP Bloemsmond Solar 1

Portion 5 and 14 of the Farm Bloemsmond 455 Northern Cape Province

Submitted for:

Stakeholder Review & Comment

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ENVIRONMENTAL MOTIVATION REPORT

1. INTRODUCTION & BACKGROUND

AEP Bloemsmond Solar 1 (Pty) Ltd, hereafter referred to as the Holder of the EA, has applied for an amendment of their valid Environmental Authorisation (EA) (DFFE Reference: 14/12/16/3/3/2/815/AM4) for the Authorised AEP Bloemsmond Solar 1 Photovoltaic Facility (PV) with a Battery Energy Storage System (BESS).

The Facility has an existing EA, dated 26 April 2016. Several amendments to this EA have been granted by the DFFE as depicted in the Table below:

Table 1: EA Amendments affected for the AEP Bloemsmond Solar 1 .

Amendment Ref#	Date	Purpose
14/12/16/3/3/2/815/AM1	13 March 2020	• Amendment of Activity Description; • Amendment of Activity Location; • Amendment of EA Holder details; • Amendment of details of listed activities to reflect amended activity description; • Amendment of co-ordinates of the site; • Amendment to technical table and export capacity; and • Amendment to Condition 1 of the EA to reflect amended activity description.
14/12/16/3/3/2/815/AM2	10 February 2021	• Amendment of Activity Description for the inclusion of a Battery Energy Storage System; • Amendment of Condition 1 of the EA to reflect amended activity description; • Amendment of technical table to include the Battery Energy Storage System details; • Amendment of co-ordinates table to reflect the Battery Energy Storage System details; • Amendment to include the approval of the amended EMPr that includes the Battery Energy Storage System details; • Amendment to include the approval of the amended Site Development

		Plan that includes the Battery Energy Storage System details; and Extension of Validity of the EA by additional five (05) years from 26 April 2021 to 26 April 2026.
14/12/16/3/3/2/815/AM3	25 March 2021	Amendment to correct South East Coordinates of a Battery Energy Storage System.

This EA (as amended) authorised the following:

- Mounting structures to support PV panels;
- On-site inverters to step up the power and a substation to facilitate the connection between the solar facility and the Eskom electricity grid;
- A new 132kV powerline between the on-site substation and the Dyasons Klip Substation (located on the Farm Dyasons Klip RE/454);
- Cabling between the project components, to be laid underground where practical;
- Offices and workshop areas for maintenance and storage;
- Temporary laydown areas;
- Internal access roads and fencing around the development area; and
- A Battery Energy Storage System of up to 500MWh.

The Holder of the EA has applied for an additional amendment to the EA (this application) to update the physical and postal address of the Holder of the EA and further extend the Validity period. To affect this further extension, the following amendments to the EA (as amended) have been applied for:

Table 2: Amendments applied for the AEP Bloemsmond Solar 1.

Amendment 1 (change of physical and postal address of Holder of EA)
Amendment is requested to the physical and postal address on Page 2 of the Environmental Authorisation (as amended in 14/12/16/3/3/2/815/AM1 on 13 March 2020). From: Mr David Peinke AEP Bloemsmond Solar 1 (Pty) Ltd 101, Block A, West Quay Building 7 West Quay Road, Waterfront Cape Town 8001 Amend To: Mr David Peinke AEP Bloemsmond Solar 1 (Pty) Ltd 01 Osborne Road, 5th Floor

Claremont
Cape Town
7708

Amendment 2 (an additional ten (10) years for commencement of activities is required)

Amendment is requested for Condition 7 on Page 7 of the Environmental Authorisation (as amended in 14/12/16/3/3/2/815/AM2 on 10 February 2021).

From: This activity must commence within a period of ten (10) years from the date of issue of this environmental authorisation (i.e. the authorisation lapses on 26 April 2026). If commencement of the activity does not occur within that period, the authorisation lapses and a new application for environmental authorisation must be made in order for the activity to be undertaken.

Amend To: This activity must commence within a period of 10 years from the date of the lapsing of the EA issued on 26 April 2016, as amended (i.e. the EA lapses on 26 April 2036). If commencement of the activity does not occur within that period, the authorisation lapses and a new application for environmental authorisation must be made in order for the activity to be undertaken.

An application for the above amendments was submitted to the competent authority on 16 April 2026. The competent authority acknowledged receipt of the application on 24 April 2026 and confirmed that the application falls within the ambit of amendments to be applied for in terms of Part 1 of Chapter 5 of the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations, 2014, as amended. This application is therefore being undertaken in terms of Regulation 30 of the EIA Regulations, 2014 as amended.

Further to the acknowledgement, the competent authority requested additional information in support of this application. Please refer to the table below for the additional information requested by the competent authority as well as details as to how this information has been included in this report.

Table 3: Additional Information requested by the competent authority.

Information Requested	Details
A detailed motivation as to why the Department should extend the commencement period of the authorised development, including the advantages and disadvantages associated with the approval or refusal to the request for extension;	✓Please refer to section 2 of this report below.
The status (baseline) of the environment (social and biophysical) that was assessed during the initial assessment (by the relative specialist, if applicable);	✓Please refer to section 3 of this report below.

Information Requested	Details
The current status of the assessed environment (social and biophysical) (by the relative specialist, if applicable);	✓As detailed in section 3 below a number of additional specialists were appointed to undertake site investigations and review the previous studies to determine whether there are any changes to the receiving environment, any changes to the impacts assessed and whether the mitigation measures previously outlined remain valid. Input from the following specialists is included in this motivation report: 1. Terrestrial Biodiversity; 2. Avifauna; 3. Aquatic Biodiversity; and 4. Agriculture. Copies of the specialist findings are attached in Appendices D1 – D4.
A review of all specialist studies undertaken, and a detailed assessment, including a site verification report providing an indication of the status of the receiving environment (by the relative specialist, if applicable);	✓Please refer to section 3 below. Terrestrial Biodiversity, Avifaunal, Aquatic Biodiversity and Agricultural specialists undertook site inspections in May 2026 in order to verify the status of the receiving environment since the original studies were undertaken in 2015.
The terms of reference for the specialist reports and declaration of interest of each specialist must be provided;	✓The terms of reference for the current specialist input was to: 1. Review all previous specialist studies; 2. Undertake a site inspection and provide confirmation of the status of the receiving environment compared to that at the time of the original assessments done in 2015; 3. Provide a reasoned confirmation as to whether the impact rating as provided in the original assessments remains valid; 4. Provide a reasoned confirmation whether the mitigation measures provided in the original assessments are still applicable; 5. Provide confirmation whether there are any new mitigation measures which need to be included into the EA, should the request to extend the

Information Requested	Details
	commencement period be granted by the DFFE; 6. Provide an indication as to whether there are any new assessments/guidelines which are now relevant to the authorised development which were not undertaken as part of the initial assessment, must be taken into consideration and addressed in the report; 7. Provide a description and an assessment of any changes to the biophysical environment that has occurred since the initial EA was issued; 8. Provide a description and an assessment of the surrounding environment, in relation to new developments or changes in land use which might impact on the authorised project; and 9. Identify cumulative impacts, and where possible the size of the identified impact must be quantified and indicated, i.e., hectares of cumulatively transformed land.
The report mentioned above, must indicate if the impact rating as provided in the initial assessment remains valid; if the mitigation measures provided in the initial assessment are still applicable; or if there are any new mitigation measures which need to be included into the EA, should the request to extend the commencement period be granted by the Department;	✓Please refer to section 4 below, along with the specialist input attached in appendices D1 – D4. The findings of the new specialists as well as that of the EAP are that there are no increases to the level or nature of impacts previously assessed, nor are there any additional mitigation measures that need to be implemented to ensure that the originally assessed level of impacts remains.
An indication if there are any new assessments/guidelines which are now relevant to the authorised development which were not undertaken as part of the initial assessment, must be taken into consideration and addressed in the report;	✓Please refer to the legislative and policy framework discussion that is included in section 5 of this motivation report.
A description and an assessment of any changes to the environment (social and	✓Please refer to section 3 of this report read in conjunction with the specialist input

Information Requested	Details
biophysical) that has occurred since the initial EA was issued;	attached in appendices D1 – D4. The outcome of the site inspections undertaken by the EAP and relevant specialists have confirmed that the receiving environment has remained unchanged since the original assessments were undertaken in 2015.
A description and an assessment of the surrounding environment, in relation to new developments or changes in land use which might impact on the authorised project, the assessment must consider the following: • similar developments within a 30km radius; • Identified cumulative impacts must be clearly defined, and where possible the size of the identified impact must be quantified and indicated, i.e., hectares of cumulatively transformed land. • Detailed process flow and proof must be provided, to indicate how the specialist's recommendations, mitigation measures and conclusions from the various similar developments in the area were taken into consideration in the assessment of cumulative impacts and when the conclusion and mitigation measures were drafted for this project. • The cumulative impacts significance rating must also inform the need and desirability of the proposed development. • A cumulative impact environmental statement on whether the proposed development must proceed.	✓Please refer to section 4.7 below as well as the cumulative assessments included as part of the specialist input attached in appendices D1 – D4. The participating specialists have confirmed that the Cumulative Impact associated with the facility remain low and that the following mitigation measures identified in the original study remain valid: • Minimise the development footprint as far as possible and allow the retention of some natural vegetation between the rows of panels or trackers. • The facility should be fenced off in a manner which allows fauna to pass by the facility as easily as possible. This implies not fencing-in large areas of intact vegetation into the facility and only the developed area should be fenced.
Consent from all affected landowners (where applicable);	✓Landowner consent was included as part of the application to amend the EA. This Landowner Consent is also attached to Appendix F of this motivation report.

Information Requested	Details
The Public Participation Process must be conducted in terms of Chapter 6 of the EIA Regulations, 2014 as amended.	✓Please refer to section 6 of this motivation report. Proof of public participation will be included in the final motivation report that will be submitted to the competent authority on completion of the public participation process.
A comments and response report.	✓A comments and responses report will be included in the final Motivation Report on completion of the Public Participation Process.

2. MOTIVATION FOR AMENDMENT

Amendment 1 as outlined in Table 2 above is required to update the physical and postal address of the holder of the EA (AEP Bloemsmond Solar 1 (Pty) Ltd). There are no environmental or social advantages or disadvantages associated with this amendment. The Holder of the Environmental Authorisation has changed office location and therefore requires a change to the physical and postal address details in the Environmental Authorisation.

In relation to Amendment 2 (extension of the validity period of the EA), the proposed AEP Bloemsmond Solar 1 was unsuccessful in the previous rounds of the Renewable Energy Independent Power Producers Procurement Programme (REIPPPP). The applicant wishes to extend the validity period of the EA, in order to participate in upcoming rounds of the REIPPPP.

It must be noted that the proposed amendments do not include application for any physical changes to the facility as previously authorised. The advantages and disadvantages of the proposed amendments are therefore limited to extension of the validity period and no other aspects, as these were dealt with as part of the original Environmental Impact Assessment Process and subsequent amendments.

The advantages of extending the validity period are as follows:

- **Strategic Environmental benefits:** The project will contribute to South Africa's renewable energy goals, reducing reliance on fossil fuels and lowering greenhouse gas emissions.
- **Social and Economic benefits:** The project will create job opportunities during both the construction and operational phases, stimulating local economic growth. The LED projects associated with the project will furthermore significantly benefit the local economy
- **Energy Security:** By extending the validity period of the project, it has the potential of increasing the share of renewable energy in the national grid, the project will enhance energy security and stability.
- **Technological Advancements:** The extension of the EA allows for the incorporation of the latest solar PV technologies, improving efficiency and reducing costs.
- **Opportunity to participate in further procurement processes:** The extension of the EA will allow for the project to participate in upcoming rounds of the REIPPPP (or other procurement programme). This aligns with the objectives of Government's Integrated Resource Plan.

These advantages collectively support sustainable development and the transition to cleaner energy sources, which is a key objective of National Government. Should the department refuse to extend the validity period of the EA, these environmental and social benefits would not be realised.

The EAP is of the view that there are no disadvantages of the proposed extension of the EA. The details regarding the proposed extension of the EA are being subjected to a public participation process in terms of Chapter 6 of the 2014 EIA regulations (as amended). Any concerns from the general public, State Departments or Organs of State will be highlighted through this consultative process and the results thereof will be provided to the competent authority to inform the decision making on the application to extend the EA validity period.

3. BIOPHYSICAL AND SOCIAL ATTRIBUTES OF THE SITE

During the Environmental Impact Assessment (2015) the attributes of the biophysical and social environment were described in detail with input from the participating specialists at the time. As part of this application for amendment, additional specialist input was obtained from relevant specialists¹ and additional review was undertaken by the EAP to determine whether any changes to the biophysical and social environment had occurred since the original assessment was undertaken.

Please see the sections below for the summary of the Biophysical and Social Attributes of the site at the time of the original EIA along with details as to whether these are still relevant.

3.1. Terrestrial Biodiversity Context

During the original EIA Process, Simon Todd Consulting undertook the initial fauna, flora and avifaunal specialist impact assessment for the project in 2015 (9th and the 26th of May). The faunal and floral baseline environment is summarised as follows in the 2015 assessment:

Six habitat types were identified within the study area by Todd (2015): Shrubby Grassland, Rocky Hills, Quartz Outcrops, Plains Washes, Ephemeral Drainage Courses, and Pans.

The current specialist has confirmed that the site remains broadly homogenous, with some variation due to differences in soil depth and slope position. Overall, the habitat is best described as “low open grassland,” with predominantly shallow, stony soils, exposed calcrete in some areas, and loose surface stones in others. Where soils are deeper, taller and larger woody shrubs occur, but the vegetation is primarily dominated by grass species.

No terrestrial fauna Species of Conservation Concern (SCC) were observed on the site. The protected plant species *Hoodia gordonii*, *Boscia foetida*, *Dinteranthus wilmotianus*, *Vachellia erioloba* (Camel Thorn), and *Aloe claviflora* were recorded within the proposed Bloemsmond Solar project footprint area. *Hoodia gordonii*, which was previously recorded, was not observed during the most recent survey conducted by The Biodiversity Company in 2026.

While there is a high likelihood of additional protected species occurring in the project area of influence, none besides those listed were observed during either the initial (2015) or the second survey (2026).

¹ It must be noted that the specialists who undertook the original assessments were not available to provide input into this current amendment process. Relevant SACNASP registered specialists in each of these disciplines were consulted for input into this amendment.

The habitat was previously assigned by Todd, 2025 as having low and medium - Low sensitivity areas.

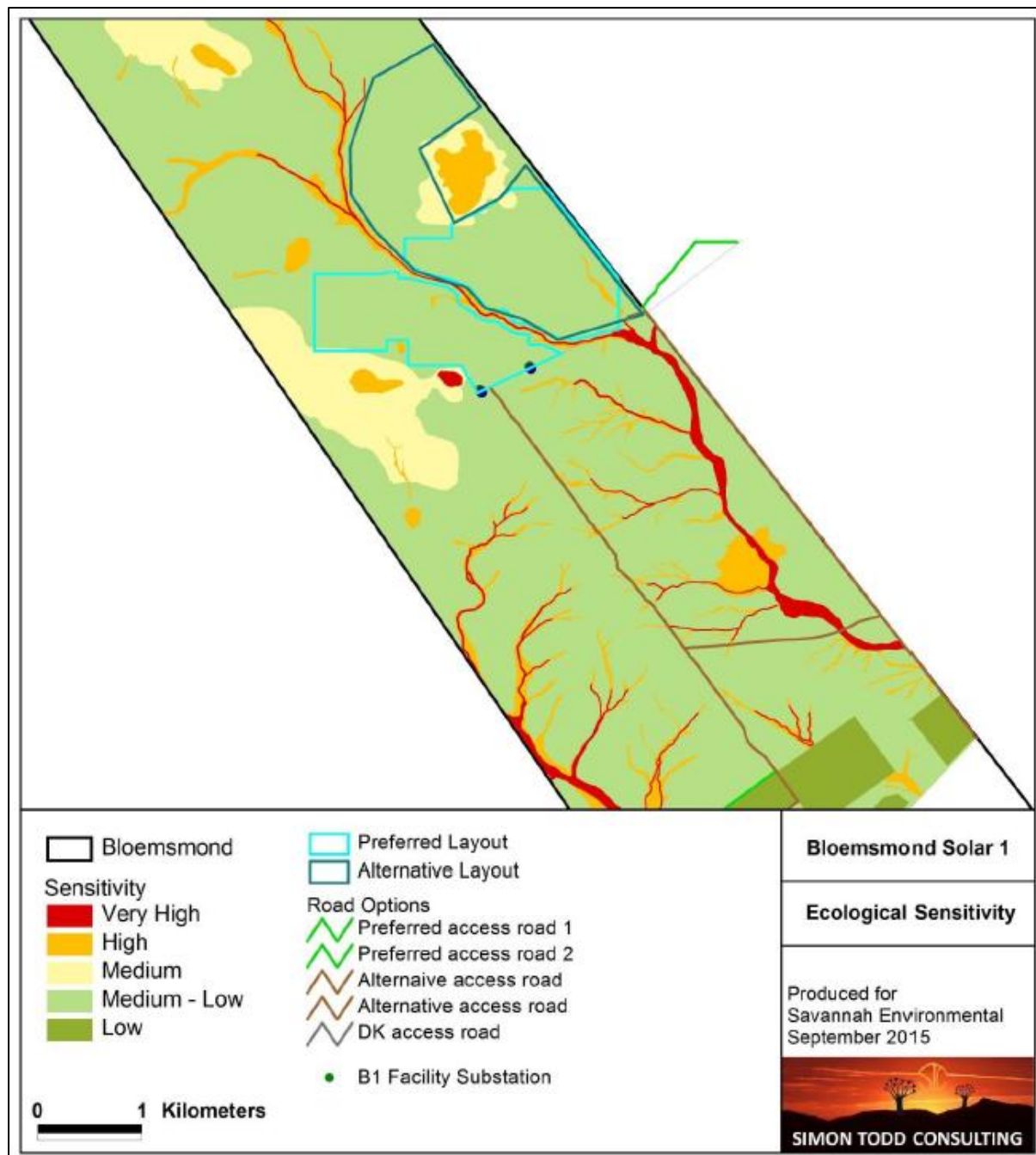


Figure 1: Terrestrial sensitivity of Bloemsmond Solar PV 1 as described by Simon Todd (2015).

The site sensitivities determined by Todd, 2015, were confirmed by the current specialist, The Biodiversity Company 2026.



Figure 2: Typical vegetation on the Study Site in 2026 (Photograph: The Biodiversity Company, 2026).

It is concluded with input from the current specialist (The Biodiversity Company, 2026) that the Terrestrial Biodiversity habitats and sensitivities as described as part of the original EIA process remain unchanged.

3.2. Avifaunal Context

During the original EIA process (2015), an avifaunal assessment was undertaken by Afzelia Environmental Consultants. In order to provide input into this application for extension of the EA, an Avifaunal Specialist (The Biodiversity Company, 2026) were appointed to review the findings of the original Ecological Assessment (Afzelia, 2015) and undertake an additional site verification to confirm the likely avifaunal species present on the site.

The original Avifaunal Assessment Afzelia, 2015 included the following key findings with regards to Avifaunal sensitivity.

- The dominant avifaunal habitat identified on site was described as sparsely vegetated rocky soils with grass patches and was named Bushmanland Arid Grassland. This habitat would attract mostly ground-dwelling avian species, with many of these being nomadic when food and water are available. These birds would include the Kori Bustard and Ludwig's Bustard. The main impacts that would be caused by the development associated with this habitat include habitat loss, disturbance and collisions with powerlines. This habitat was assigned a low sensitivity due to its homogenous nature.
- The rocky-hill slopes and elevated platforms were assigned a medium sensitivity due to the uniqueness of the habitat and its ability to provide unique breeding and foraging habitats to some local avifauna species, including Lanner Falcons.
- The ephemeral drainage areas were assigned a high sensitivity as these areas are ecologically significant for the avifaunal community and attracts a high number of species, therefore important to conserve these areas. These areas only hold water periodically during good rains but can provide suitable foraging areas for important bird species including Kori Bustard and Secretarybirds. The main impacts the

development can impose on this habitat includes habitat loss, disturbance and collisions with powerlines.

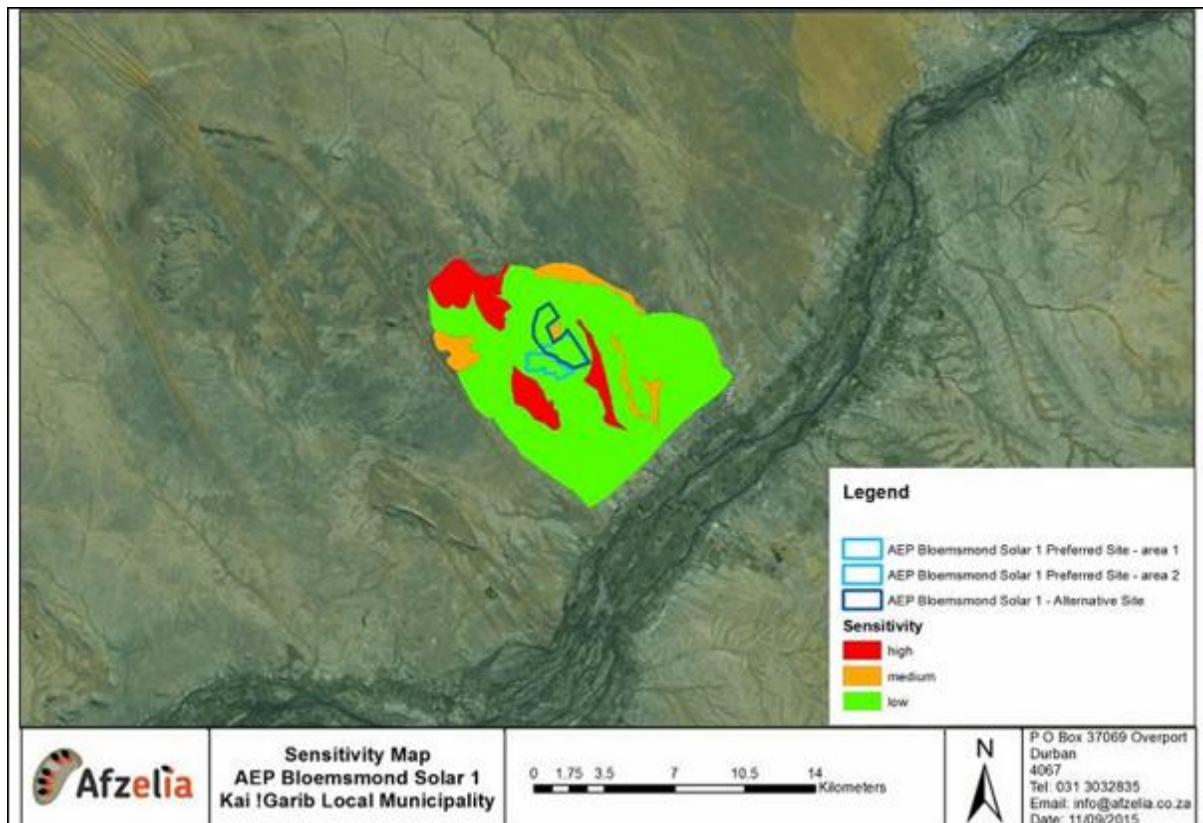


Figure 3: Avifaunal Sensitivity as determined in the original Avifaunal Assessment undertaken by Afzelia Environmental Consultants in 2015.

The current Avifaunal Specialist (The Biodiversity Company, 2025) has confirmed that the sensitivity of the habitats partially aligns with the Afzelia 2015 findings. Water Resources are still classified as high sensitivity habitats. However, the Arid Grassland habitat is deemed a medium sensitivity habitat, and modified habitats (access roads and other infrastructure) are classified as very low.²

It is concluded with input from the current specialist that the Avifaunal habitats as described as part of the original EIA process remain unchanged, albeit with updated sensitivity ratings as a result of various guidelines that have since come into effect.

3.3. Aquatic Biodiversity Context

During the original EIA process, Aquatic Biodiversity was considered as part of the Ecological Impact Assessment (Todd, 2015) as well as part of a Water Resources Assessment compiled by Scherman Colloty & Associates, 2015.

Todd, 2015 confirmed that Ephemeral drainage lines were noted within the site and were considered sensitive due to their hydrological and ecological importance. He furthermore

² The data from the 2015 Bloemsmond PV 1 avifaunal report did not report avifaunal Species of Conservation Concern (SCC). However, at the time, this report predates the implementation of the 2015 Eskom Red Data Book. From the observed list of avifauna species, the Karoo Korhaan (*Eupodotis vigorsii*) is now considered a SCC.

confirmed that one larger drainage line crosses the solar field area (however it is poorly developed near the development footprint).

Todd furthermore identified a number of pans within the study area. These were however excluded from the development footprint

The Water Resources Assessment, Scherman Colloty & Associates, 2015 confirmed that the site occurs within an arid landscape associated with the Lower Gariep River system. Aquatic features identified on or near the site comprise primarily dry alluvial watercourses, minor drainage lines and several endorheic pans.

Both freshwater systems delineated in the Water Resources assessment were assigned a Moderate Ecological Importance and Sensitivity (EIS) due to their susceptibility to increased runoff, erosion and downstream sedimentation if disturbed.

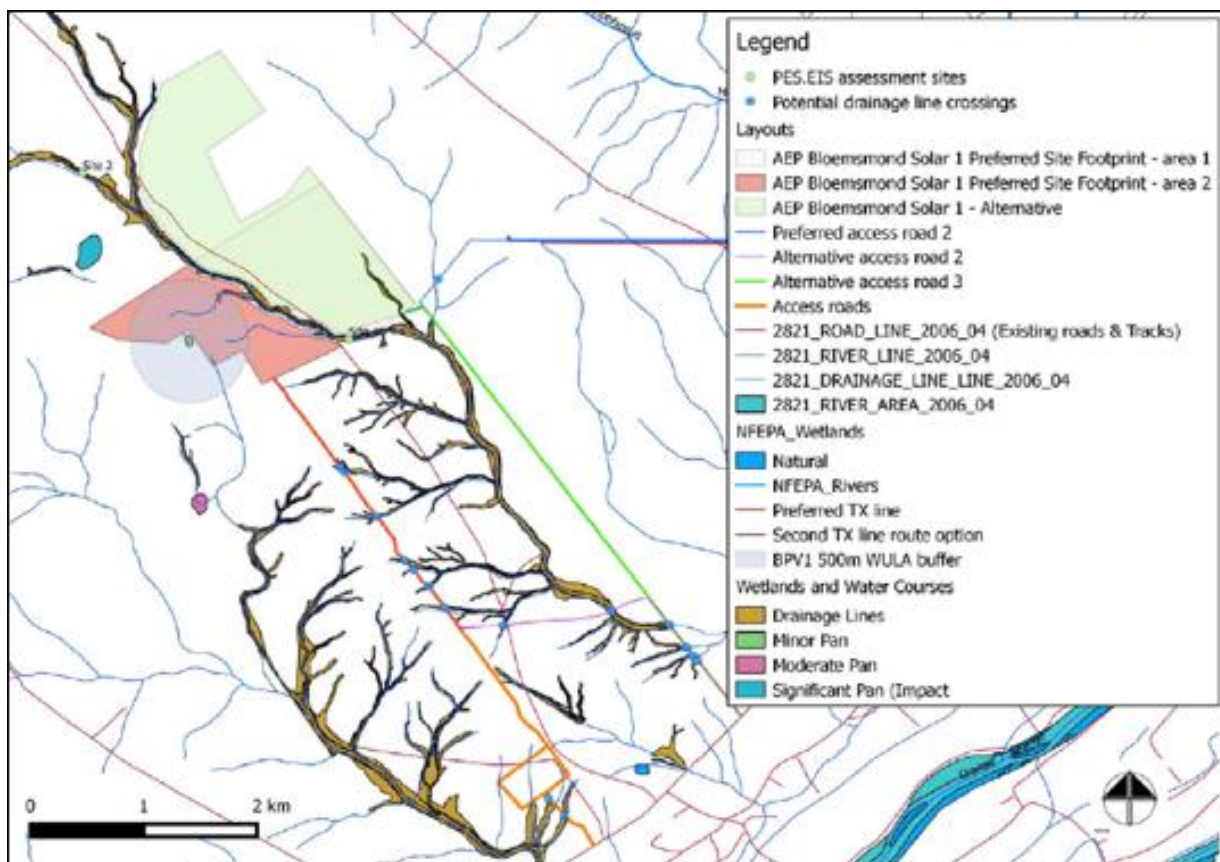


Figure 4: Delineation of Aquatic Biodiversity Resources (Scherman Colloty & Associates, 2015)

During the current site assessment undertaken by the Biodiversity Company, it was concluded that no wetlands were identified within the footprint of the facility. The current specialist furthermore confirmed that several drainage features were present and that these drainage features align with those reported by Todd (2015) and Scherman Colloty & Associates (2015).



Figure 5: Examples of Drainage features on site (The Biodiversity Company, 2026)

The Biodiversity Company concluded that the baseline freshwater environment and sensitivity remains unchanged from that described in the 2015 assessments. The site is still characterised by dry alluvial watercourses, minor drainage lines, with no perennial freshwater features identified within the development footprint.

It is concluded with input from the current specialist that the Aquatic Biodiversity habitats and sensitivities as described as part of the original EIA process remain unchanged.

3.4. Agricultural Context

During the original EIA process, an Agricultural Impact Assessment was undertaken by Savannah Environmental (2015).

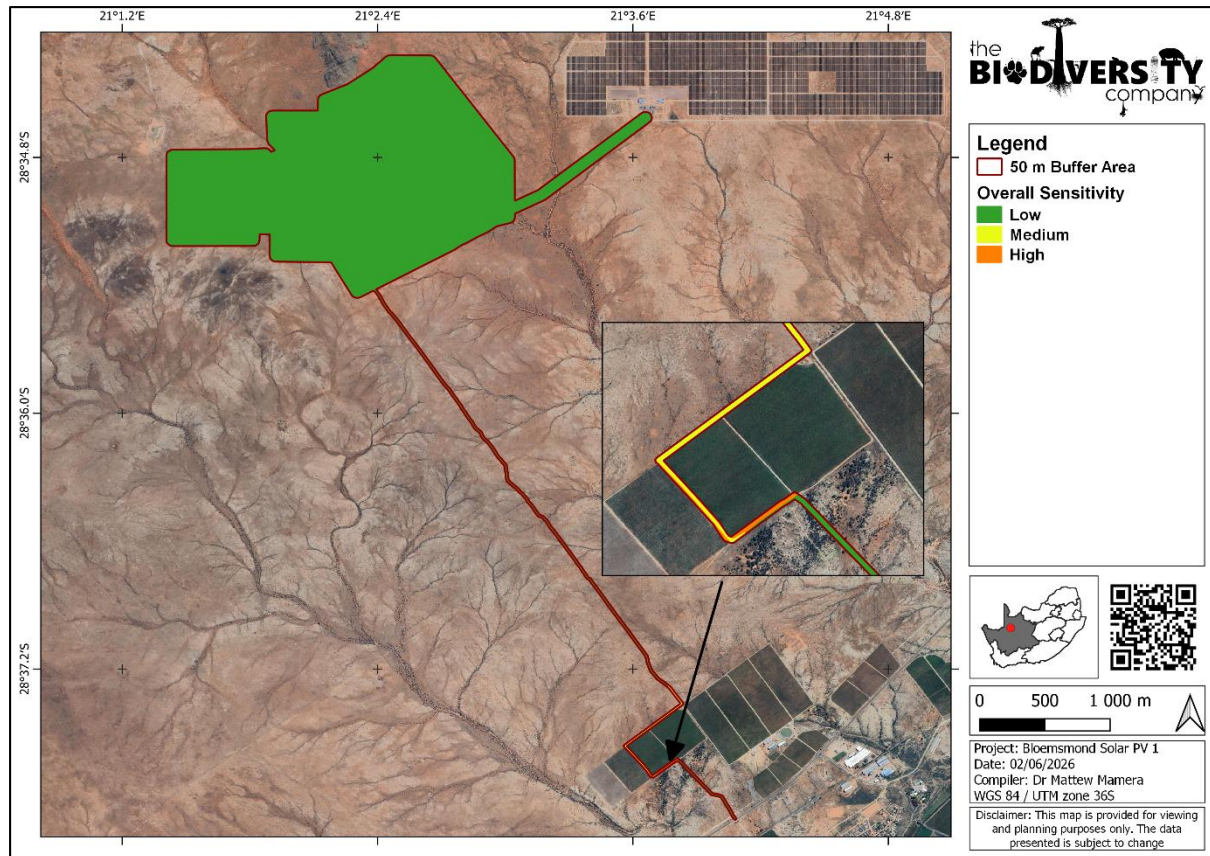
Savannah Environmental confirmed that no part of the development would occupy areas highly sensitive to erosion or areas of great agricultural significance.

It was furthermore confirmed that the Agricultural potential of the site falls under class VII and has very severe limitations on farming (i.e. that no commercial farming practices could be undertaken under natural conditions.)

As part of this application for EA extension, an Agricultural Specialist (The Biodiversity Company, 2026) was appointed to undertake a site inspection to verify whether or not any new agricultural activities were present on the site since the 2015 study.

The current specialist identified Four representative soils namely, Hutton, Vaalbos, Coega and Mispah soil forms. The specialist that no active cropping areas were identified in the PV area; but that active vineyards under grape production were present in the 10 m buffer zone of the proposed access road. This small section of the access road is also categorised as Protected Agricultural Areas (PAAs) (DFFE, 2026).

As can be seen in the image below, the current specialist (Biodiversity Company, 2026) confirms the overall low sensitivity of the PV Footprint and medium to high sensitivity of the soils along the road that traverse the vineyards (noting that this is an existing road)



It is concluded with input from the current specialist that the Agricultural Potential and sensitivity as described as part of the original EIA process remain unchanged³.

3.5. Heritage Context

A heritage Impact Assessment (HCAC, 2015) which included Archaeology, Palaeontology and Cultural Heritage was undertaken as part of the original EIA.

This study confirmed that In terms of the built environment (Section 34 of the NHRA), no features of significance were recorded in the study area. In terms of the archaeological component (Section 35 of the NHRA), isolated Middle Stone Age (MSA) artefacts were recorded scattered over both the site. These artefacts are scattered too sparsely to be of any significance apart from noting their presence. Furthermore, no buildings exist on the site and no cultural landscape elements were noted.

Cultural Landscape refers to the imprint created on a natural landscape through human habitation and cultivation over an extended period of time. In this instance, thousands of years (pre-colonial history). Since the cultural landscape of an area is defined over many generations, it is unlikely that there are any changes to the cultural landscape that have occurred in the preceding 10 years.

Archaeological and Paleontological Impacts are generally considered permanent and irreversible, as the resources impacted are many thousands of years old and only change over

³ With the exception of certain soil forms that have since been reclassified.

the long term. The low impact on archaeological and paleontological resources as determined in the original EIA process, remain unchanged. The proposed amendments will therefore not result in any further Heritage Impacts.

It is concluded that the Heritage Status and sensitivity as described as part of the original EIA process remain unchanged.

3.6. Visual Context

During the original EIA process, a visual specialist (Visual Resource Management Africa, 2015) provided input into the EIA process.

The Specialist confirmed that other than the N14 National Road, there are no tourist activities located within the foreground / middle ground distance zone. The N14 National Road does carry tourist traffic, and these road users would be more sensitive to landscape modification. As the area is not associated with formal conservation, it is unlikely that public interest is high. The presence of the Khi Solar One CSP tower creates a dominant features in the landscape. There are no unique landscape features associated with the site, and the overall receptor sensitivity towards landscape change on the proposed sites was defined as medium to low.

Two main visual landscapes were identified by the specialist, namely, Bushmanland Arid Grassland and Drainage Lines. A Class II visual objective, which allows for low levels of landscape modifications, was assigned to the Drainage Lines. It was recommended that main drainage lines are not utilised for development (the authorised alternative avoids these). A Class III visual objective was assigned to the Bushmanland Arid Grassland on the site as well as for the power line routing, as this type of predominantly agricultural landscape is fairly common in the area and receptor sensitivity is likely to be low.

Please note that the proposed amendments do not propose any physical changes to the authorised infrastructure. These findings and the suggested mitigation measured identified by the visual specialist remain unchanged.

It is concluded that the Visual Status and sensitivity as described as part of the original EIA process remain unchanged.

4. ASSESSMENT AND COMPARISON OF IMPACTS

The following section provides details on the impacts that were assessed during the original Environmental Impact Assessment (2015) and those likely at the current time. This section has been completed with input from the following specialists.

- **Terrestrial Biodiversity**: Igi Jacobs & Martinus Erasmus (Pr. Sci. Nat. 118630), The Biodiversity Company, June 2026.
- **Aquatic Biodiversity**: Rian Pienaar (Pr. Sci. Nat. 135544), The Biodiversity Company, June 2026.
- **Avifauna**: Sam van Zwieten (Cand. Sci. Nat. 167363) & Dr Ryno Kemp (SACNASP 117462/17), The Biodiversity Company, June 2026.
- **Agriculture**: Dr Matthew Mamera (Pr. Sci. Nat. 116356), The Biodiversity Company, June 2026.

The outcome of the additional specialist input is included in Appendices D1 – D4 of this motivation report. A comparison of impacts as originally assessed in 2015 and those verified by the abovementioned specialists and the EAP are included in the sections below.

4.1. Terrestrial Biodiversity Impacts

As outlined above, a Terrestrial Biodiversity Specialist was appointed to undertake a site investigation and to review the previous studies to determine whether the impacts assessed in the original assessment have changed.

Table 4: Comparison of the quantitative assessment of Terrestrial Biodiversity Impacts of the initial assessment (Todd, 2015) and the current assessment (The Biodiversity Company, 2026).

Phase	Impact	Todd (2015)	The Biodiversity Company (2026)
		With mitigations	With mitigations
Planning and Construction	Impacts on vegetation & protected plant species during construction	Medium-Low Negative	Medium-Low Negative
	Faunal Impacts During Construction	Low Negative	Low Negative
	Increased erosion risk during construction	Low Negative	Low Negative
Operation	Direct Faunal Impacts During Operation	Low Negative	Low Negative
	Increased alien plant invasion	Low Negative	Low Negative
	Increased erosion risk.	Low Negative	Low Negative
Decommissioning	Faunal Impacts During Decommissioning.	Low Negative	Low Negative
	Increased alien plant invasion following decommissioning.	Low Negative	Low Negative

As can be seen in the table above, the current specialists (The Biodiversity Company, 2026) has verified the impacts assessed in the original study (Todd, 2015).

The quantitative impacts of the proposed project on Terrestrial Biodiversity are expected to be “Low” overall, provided that the mitigation measures recommended in the original study (Todd, 2015) are implemented. It should be noted that the impacts remained unchanged

following the inclusion of the BESS facility in the 2021 EA amendment assessment (The Biodiversity Company, 2026).

The impact assessment for the Bloemsmond Solar PV 1 project finds that, with mitigation, impacts on arid grassland, shrubland habitats and protected plant species are of low to moderate significance (The Biodiversity Company, 2026).

The 2026 survey by TBC confirmed these findings, and there are no ecological fatal flaws preventing project approval if recommended mitigation is implemented.

The current specialist (The Biodiversity Company, 2026), confirmed that the mitigation measures identified in the original assessment remain relevant and that no new mitigation measures are required.

It is confirmed that there is no increase in the level or nature of Terrestrial Biodiversity impacts as assessed in the original assessment, nor are there any additional mitigation measures that need to be implemented at the current time.

4.2. Avifaunal Impacts

As outlined above, during the original EIA process (2015), an avifaunal assessment was undertaken by Afzelia Environmental Consultants. In order to provide input into this application for extension of the EA, an Avifaunal Specialist (The Biodiversity Company, 2026) were appointed to review the findings of the original Ecological Assessment (Afzelia, 2015) and undertake an additional site verification to confirm the likely avifaunal species present on the site.

Table 5: Comparison of the quantitative assessment of Avifaunal impacts of the initial assessment (Afzelia, 2015) and the current assessment (The Biodiversity Company, 2026)

Phase	Impact	Afzelia (2015)	The Biodiversity Company (2026)
		With mitigations	With mitigations
Planning and Construction Impacts Associated with PV Facility	Habitat Destruction	Medium Negative	Medium Negative
	Disturbance during Construction Phase	Medium Negative	Medium Negative
Operation Impacts Associated with PV Facility	Disturbance during Operational Phase	Low Negative	Low Negative
	Collisions with solar panel infrastructure	Low Negative	Low Negative
	Use of solar infrastructure by avian species	Medium Negative	Medium Negative
Planning and Construction Impacts Associated with PV Facility	Habitat Destruction	Medium Negative	Medium Negative
	Disturbance during Construction Phase	Low Negative	Low Negative

Phase	Impact	Afzelia (2015)	The Biodiversity Company (2026)
		With mitigations	With mitigations
Operation Impacts Associated with PV Facility	Disturbance during Operational Phase	Low Negative	Low Negative
	Electrocution of birds on substations/switching infrastructure	Low Negative	Low Negative
	Electrocution of birds on overhead power line	Low Negative	Low Negative
	Collisions with the power line	Medium Negative	Medium Negative

Based on the available information reviewed by The Biodiversity Company in 2026, it is considered that (The Biodiversity Company, 2026):

- The nature of the activity remains unchanged;
- The receiving environment, insofar as presently known, does not appear to have changed so materially as to invalidate the original findings;
- The identified avifaunal impacts remain the same in nature and significance pathway; and
- No new impact has been identified that would require the amendment application to be treated as a fundamentally different development proposal.

It is therefore reasonable to conclude, for purposes of this draft, that the original impact assessment findings remain substantially valid (The Biodiversity Company, 2026).

The current avifaunal specialist (The Biodiversity Company, 2026), confirmed that the mitigation measures identified in the original assessment remain relevant and that no new mitigation measures are required.

It is confirmed that there is no increase in the level or nature of avifaunal impacts as assessed in the original assessment, nor are there any additional mitigation measures that need to be implemented at the current time.

4.3. Aquatic Biodiversity Impacts

As outlined above, during the original EIA process, Aquatic Biodiversity was considered as part of the Ecological Impact Assessment (Todd, 2015) as well as part of a Water Resources Assessment compiled by Scherman Colloty & Associates, 2015. An Aquatic Specialist was appointed to undertake a site investigation and to review the previous studies to determine whether the impacts assessed in the original assessment have changed.

Table 6: Comparison of the quantitative assessment of Aquatic impacts of the initial assessment (Scherman Colloty & Associates, 2015) and the current assessment (The Biodiversity Company, 2026).

Phase	Impact	Scherman Colloty & Associates (2015)	The Biodiversity Company (2026)
		With mitigations	With mitigations
Planning and Construction	Loss of riparian systems	Low	Low
	Impact on dry riverbeds and localised drainage systems	Low	Low
	Impact on riparian systems through the possible increase in surface water runoff on riparian form and function	Low	Low
	Increase in sedimentation and erosion within the development footprint	Low	Low
	Physical disturbance by supporting infrastructure on the riparian environment	Low	Low

As can be seen in the table above, all impacts on Aquatic Biodiversity have been assessed by the current specialist (The Biodiversity Company, 2026) to be of Low significance. This aligns with the Low significance assessed by Scherman Colloty & Associates, 2015.

The current Aquatic Biodiversity specialist (The Biodiversity Company, 2026), confirmed that the original freshwater mitigation measures and recommendations remain applicable. No additional freshwater-specific conditions are required, provided that the original avoidance and mitigation measures are retained and implemented (The Biodiversity Company, 2026).

It is confirmed that there is no increase in the level or nature of aquatic impacts as considered in the original ecological assessment, nor are there any additional mitigation measures that need to be implemented at the current time.

4.4. Agricultural Impacts

As outlined above, the original EIA included an Agricultural Specialist Assessment undertaken by Savannah Environmental (Pty) Ltd in 2015. As part of this application to extend the EA, an Agricultural specialist (The Biodiversity Company) was appointed to undertake a site investigation and to review the previous studies to determine whether the impacts assessed in the original assessment have changed.

Table 7: Comparison of the quantitative assessment of Agricultural impacts of the initial assessment (Savannah Environmental (Pty) Ltd, 2015) and the current assessment (The Biodiversity Company, 2026).

Phase	Impact	Savannah Environmental (Pty) Ltd (2015)	The Biodiversity Company (2026)
		With mitigations	With mitigations
Planning and Construction	Impacts on vegetation cover and soil stability	Low	Low
	Loss of agricultural land	Low	Low
	Dust generation	Low	Low
	Construction of power lines	Low	Low

The agricultural specialist (The Biodiversity Company, 2026) confirmed that the soil and agricultural impacts remain unchanged from those identified in the 2015 assessment. With implementation of the prescribed mitigation measures, the residual soil and agricultural impact is still expected to remain Low (The Biodiversity Company, 2026).

The specialist furthermore confirmed that the original soil and agricultural mitigation measures and recommendations remain applicable. No additional soil and agricultural -specific conditions are required, provided that the original avoidance and mitigation measures are retained and implemented (The Biodiversity Company, 2026).

It is confirmed that there is no increase in the level or nature of agricultural impacts as considered in the original agricultural assessment, nor are there any additional mitigation measures that need to be implemented at the current time.

4.5. Heritage Impacts

As outlined above, impacts on heritage resources (Cultural Landscape as well as Archaeology and Palaeontology) are permanent and do not change over the medium or long term.

Cultural Landscape refers to the imprint created on a natural landscape through human habitation and cultivation over an extended period. In this instance, thousands of years (pre-colonial history). Since the cultural landscape of an area is defined over many generations, it is unlikely that there are any changes to the cultural landscape that have occurred in the preceding 10 years.

Archaeological and Paleontological Impacts are generally considered permanent and irreversible, as the resources impacted are many thousands of years old and only change over the long term. The low impact on archaeological and paleontological resources as determined in the original EIA process, remain unchanged. The proposed amendments will therefore not result in any further Heritage Impacts.

It is confirmed that there is no increase in the level or nature of heritage impacts as considered in the original Heritage Impact Assessment, nor are there any additional mitigation measures

that need to be implemented at the current time. The SAHRA consent for this project remains valid.

4.6. Visual Impacts

During the Environmental Impact Assessment process, a visual assessment was undertaken by Mr Stephen Stead of Visual Resource Management Africa (VRMA, 2015). This study found that none the preferred alternative (i.e. that which was authorised) would constitute a significant visual impact to the characteristic of the landscape. This finding remains unchanged as the visual resources of the regional landscape have degraded to some extent by the addition of energy infrastructure that was not present at the time of the original assessment.

4.7. Cumulative Impacts

The cumulative impacts of the proposed project on Terrestrial Biodiversity are anticipated to be "Low Negative," considering the number of similar developments currently in the area. Both Todd (2015) and the TBC (2026) studies note that the habitat is neither rare nor sensitive, and the project's location is considered favorable (The Biodiversity Company, 2026).

Table 8: Comparison of the assessment of Cumulative Impacts on Terrestrial Biodiversity, including the animal and plant species between the initial assessment (Todd, 2015) and the current assessment (The Biodiversity Company, 2026).

Phase	Impact	Todd (2015)	The Biodiversity Company (2026)
		With mitigations	With mitigations
Cumulative	Cumulative habitat loss within the region	Medium - Low	Low

From an Aquatic Biodiversity Perspective, the current specialist (The Biodiversity Company 2026) has confirmed that the quantitative impact of the proposed project in isolation as well as the cumulative impact on aquatic biodiversity is anticipated to be "Low". As the layout avoids large and/or sensitive watercourses, and with adherence to the mitigation measures, no irreplaceable loss of freshwater biodiversity is anticipated (The Biodiversity Company, 2026).

Table 9: Cumulative Impacts to Aquatic Biodiversity associated with the proposed project (The Biodiversity Company, 2026).

Status	Impact Rating	Can impact be mitigated?	Is the impact acceptable ?
Impact in isolation	Low	Yes	Yes
Cumulative impact	Low		

From an Avifaunal Perspective, the current specialist (The Biodiversity Company, 2026) confirmed that the cumulative impacts remain relevant. Comparison of the 2015 regional development context with the current 30 km development context indicates that the surrounding renewable energy landscape has intensified. Based on the current assessment, the cumulative impact associated with habitat loss and disruption of SCC home ranges is rated as moderate at the regional scale (The Biodiversity Company, 2026).

Table 10: Cumulative Impacts to Avifauna associated with the proposed project (The Biodiversity Company, 2026).

Impact	Status	Impact Rating
Loss of habitat, and disruption of SCC home ranges	Impact in isolation	Low
	Cumulative impact	Moderate

The increase in significance from Low to Moderate is therefore not due to a change in the inherent impact of the AEP Bloemsmond Solar 1 alone, but rather due to the increased development pressure within the broader landscape since the original assessment. This supports the conclusion that cumulative impacts remain a relevant consideration for the amendment application, particularly from an avifaunal perspective (The Biodiversity Company, 2026).

From an Agricultural Perspective, the current specialist (The Biodiversity Company, 2026) confirmed that the cumulative impacts remain unchanged. The quantitative impact of the proposed project in isolation and the cumulative impact on the soil and agricultural resources is anticipated to be "Low to Medium". As the layout avoids large and/or sensitive agricultural areas, and with adherence to the mitigation measures, no irreplaceable loss of soil and agricultural resources is anticipated (The Biodiversity Company, 2026).

Table 11: Cumulative Impacts to Agriculture associated with the proposed project (The Biodiversity Company, 2026).

Impact	Status	Impact Rating
Loss of land capability through fertility losses, soil pollution, soil degradation, erosion and compaction	Impact in isolation	Low
	Cumulative impact	Medium

5. LEGISLATIVE AND POLICY FRAMEWORK

The applicable legislation and policies have been updated since the submission of the Final Environmental Impact Report for the facility, in 2015 and these changes in legislation have been considered as part of this Application for amendment (extension of the validity period of the EA). The table below lists the applicable legislation and policy framework that was considered in the original assessment, and whether this remains valid. New legislation and policy relevant to the project is discussed thereafter.

Table 12: Legislation and policy guidelines originally considered in the EIA process for the AEP Bloemsmond Solar 1 and additional considerations applicable to the extension of the EA.

Legislation	Additional considerations applicable to the current application to extend the validity period of the EA.
The Constitution of the Republic of South Africa	No additional considerations are applicable to the proposed extension of the validity period of the EA.
National Environmental Management Act (NEMA, Act 107 of 1998) & EIA Regulations 2014, as amended.	The NEMA EIA Regulations were amended in 2014 & 2017. This application is being undertaken in terms of this legislation. All similarly listed activities are applicable to those originally assessed and authorised

Legislation	Additional considerations applicable to the current application to extend the validity period of the EA.
	i.e. no additional activities are applicable to the proposed extension of the validity period of the EA.
National Environmental Management: Biodiversity Act (Act 10 of 2004)	The ecosystem threat status of the mapped vegetation type remains unchanged. The site conditions remain the same as previously assessed, as confirmed with input from relevant specialists.
Conservation of Agricultural Resources Act – CARA (Act 43 of 1983):	No additional considerations applicable to the proposed extension of the validity period of the EA.
The Subdivision of Agricultural Land, Act 70 of 1970	No additional considerations applicable to the extension of the EA for the proposed facility.
National Water Act, No 36 of 1998	In terms of the original study, any activities that impede or divert the flow of water in a watercourse or alter the bed, banks, course or characteristics of a watercourse (21c and 21i) will require approval in terms of the National Water Act. This remains unchanged in this application for extension of the validity period of the EA.
National Forests Act (No. 84 of 1998):	No natural forest or protected trees were identified within the footprint of the proposed facility and this remains unchanged.
National Heritage Resources Act (NHRA, Act 25 of 1998)	SAHRA confirmed that no further action under Section 38 of the National Heritage Resources Act (Act 25 of 1999) is required and this remains unchanged.

Since the original assessment in 2015 and present, the most significant change in legislation and policy is associated with the National Screening tool and the minimum assessment criteria for the assessment of themes identified in the screening tool. One of the terms of references to the current specialists were to consider the outcome of the screening tool and to confirm or refute the sensitivity of the relevant theme sensitivity.

In Terms of the Terrestrial Biodiversity (including the animal and plant themes), the following sensitivities were identified in the screening tool.

- Animal Species Theme – High. Due to the possible presence of one high sensitivity avifauna Species of Conservation Concern (SCC) – *Aves-Falco biarmicus*.
- Plant Species Theme – Low. Due to no flora SCC being expected within the project area of influence.
- Terrestrial Biodiversity Theme – Low.

Please refer to the specialist input in appendices D1 – D4 for the discussion on the screening tool findings. It is important however to note, that the verified sensitivities (2026), do not differ from the sensitivities identified in the 2015 Studies.

The IDP and SDF of the local municipality have been amended since this project was authorised in 2015. The promotion and development of renewable energy infrastructure within the municipality remains a key objective of both the IDP and the SDF.

Another guideline that was published since the original EIA process, and which requires consideration, is the Environmental Impact Assessment Guideline for Renewable Energy.

The Minister of Environmental Affairs published the Environmental Impact Assessment Guideline for Renewable Energy in terms of section 24J of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998) on 16 October 2016.

In pursuit of promoting the country's Renewable Energy development imperatives, the Government has been actively encouraging the role of Independent Power Producers (IPPs) to feed into the national grid. Through its REIPPPP, the DoE has been engaging with the sector in order to strengthen the role of IPPs in renewable energy development. Launched during 2011, the REIPPPP is designed so as to contribute towards a target of 3 725MW, and towards socio-economic and environmentally sustainable development, as well as to further stimulate the renewable industry in South Africa.

In order to facilitate the development of IPPs in South Africa, these guidelines have been written to assist project planning, financing, permitting, and implementation for both developers and regulators. The guideline is principally intended for use by the following stakeholder groups:

- Public Sector Authorities (as regulator and/or competent authority);
- Joint public sector authorities and project funders, e.g., Eskom, IDC, etc.;
- Private Sector Entities (as project funder/developer/consultant); and
- Other interested and affected parties (as determined by the project location and/or scope).

This guideline aims to ensure that all potential environmental issues pertaining to renewable energy projects are adequately and timeously assessed and addressed as necessary so as to ensure sustainable roll-out of these technologies by creating a better understanding of the environmental approval process for renewable energy projects.

The guidelines list the following possible environmental impacts associated with the development of solar energy facilities.

Table 13: Potential environmental impacts of solar energy projects (Adapted from DEA, 2016) showing where they have been considered in this report.

Impact Description	Relevant Legislation	Applicability to this project
Visual Impact	NEMA	Specialist input formed part of the original application for environmental authorisation. Please also refer to section 4.6 above.
Noise Impact (CSP)	NEMA	Not applicable, as CSP is not considered as a technology alternative.
Land Use Transformation (fuel growth and production)	NEMA, NEMPAA, NHRA	Not Applicable to PV.
Impacts on Cultural Heritage	NEMA, NHRA	Specialist input formed part of the original application for environmental authorisation. Please also refer to section 4.5 above.
Impacts on Biodiversity	NEMA, NEMBA, NEMPAA, NFA	Specialist input formed part of the original application for environmental authorisation. Please also refer to section 4.1 and 4.2 above.

Impact Description	Relevant Legislation	Applicability to this project
Impacts on Water Resources	NEMA, NEMICMA, NWA, WSA	Specialist input formed part of the original application for environmental authorisation. Please also refer to section 4.3 above.
Hazardous Waste Generation (CSP and PV)	NEMA, NEMWA, HAS	The EMPr makes provision for damaged and defunct PV infrastructure for dismantling and re-use.
Electromagnetic Interference	NEMA	An EMI and RFI path loss study did not form part of the original application for environmental authorisations. A high level risk assessment was conducted at the South African SKA Project Office to determine the potential impact of such facilities on the Square Kilometre Array. SKA furthermore confirmed that the facility poses a low risk of detrimental impact on the SKA. As the proposed extension does not include any physical changes to the facility, these findings remain valid.
Aircraft Interference	NEMA, MSA	The applicant is in possession of a valid obstacle certificate (in terms of Part 30-27 of the Civil Aviation Act).
Loss of Agricultural Land	SALA	Specialist input formed part of the original application for environmental authorisation. Please also refer to section 4.4 above.
Sterilisation of mineral resources	MPRDA	The applicant has confirmation in terms of section 53 of the MPRDA for the properties.

6. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION & STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

The competent Authority has requested that public participation be undertaken in terms of Chapter 6 of the 2014 EIA Regulations (as amended). Details of and proof of the public participation undertaken will be included in the Final Motivation report that will be submitted for consideration and decision making after completion of the public participation process.

Section 40(2) in Chapter 6 of regulation 982 requires that the public participation process contemplated in this regulation must provide access to all information that reasonably has or may have the potential to influence any decision with regard to an application unless access to that information is protected by law and must include consultation with—

- (a) the competent authority;
- (b) every State department that administers a law relating to a matter affecting the environment relevant to an application for an environmental authorisation;

(c) all organs of state which have jurisdiction in respect of the activity to which the application relates; and

(d) all potential, or, where relevant, registered interested and affected parties.

In order to comply with this requirement, the proposal is to provide all parties, listed in subsections a, b and c above, with full digital copies of the Draft Motivation report and all appendices. Such digital copies will be provided to the competent authority, organs of state and state departments via digital platforms such as WeTransfer/Dropbox/Sharepoint.

In terms of point d above, all Interested & Affected Parties (I&APs) that are identified, or register as part of the process will be provided access to the Draft Motivation Report via the following:

1. The digital copy of the documentation that will be available on the Cape EAPrac website and any other digital platform that is identified by Cape EAPrac or the recipients such as WeTransfer / Dropbox / Sharepoint.
2. I&AP's that do not have access to digital platforms, will be offered the option of receiving information via alternative means;
3. Potential and registered I&APs will be informed that copies of the documentation can be provided via postal or courier services should it be necessary.

All I&AP's that were registered as part of the original environmental process will also be notified of the availability of this Draft Motivation Report for review and comment.

A **comment period of 30 Days** has been allowed in compliance with Chapter 6.

The draft Motivation Report will be circulated for comment at the same time that is provided to the competent authority for review. Submissions received during this period will be considered by the project team and specialists and responded to. The final Motivation Report will reflect the outcome of the stakeholder engagement process in accordance with the POPIA.

Table 14: Public participation actions undertaken for the amendment of the Environmental Authorisation of the AEP Bloemsmond Solar 1.

Regulated Requirement	Proposed Actions
(1) If the proponent is not the owner or person in control of the land on which the activity is to be undertaken, the proponent must, before applying for an environmental authorisation in respect of such activity, obtain the written consent of the landowner or person in control of the land to undertake such activity on that land. (2) Subregulation (1) does not apply in respect of- (a) linear activities;	The landowner of Portion 5 and 14 of the Farm Bloemsmond 455 is also the person in control of the land. Landowner consent has been obtained and is appended to this motivation report.
The person conducting a public participation process must take into account any relevant 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 an application or proposed application which is subjected to public participation by -	
(a) fixing a notice board at a place conspicuous to and accessible by the	Site notices were placed on the boundary of Portion 5 and 14 of the Farm Bloemsmond 455

Regulated Requirement	Proposed Actions
public at the boundary, on the fence or along the corridor of - (i) the site where the activity to which the application or proposed application relates is or is to be undertaken; and (ii) any alternative site;	on 25 May 2026. Proof of these notices will be included in the Public Participation Report which will be submitted with the Final Motivation Report.
(b) giving written notice, in any of the manners provided for in section 47D of the Act, to -	
(i) the occupiers of the site and, if the proponent or applicant is not the owner or person in control of the site on which the activity is to be undertaken, the owner or person in control of the site where the activity is or is to be undertaken or to any alternative site where the activity is to be undertaken;	This Draft Motivation Report has been shared with the relevant Ward Councillor to distribute to the relevant Ward Committees. Ward Committees will distribute the information documents to occupiers/residents of the affected area.
(ii) owners, persons in control of, 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;	This Draft Motivation Report has been shared with the relevant Ward Councillor to distribute to the relevant Ward Committees. Ward Committees will distribute the information documents to the Occupiers/residents of the affected area.
(iii) 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;	The ward councillor will be notified of this environmental process and will be provided with a digital copy of the documentation.
(iv) the municipality which has jurisdiction in the area;	The Kai !Garib Local Municipality(Planning, Technical Services & Environmental) will be notified of this environmental process and will be provided with digital copies of all documentation.
(v) any organ of state having jurisdiction in respect of any aspect of the activity; and	All organs of state that have jurisdiction in respect of the activity will be notified of this environmental process and will be provided with digital copies of all documentation.
(vi) any other party as required by the competent authority;	DFFE will be given an opportunity to comment on the Draft Motivation Report. Should they identify additional parties that need to provide comment, copies of the documentation and opportunity to comment will be provided to such parties.
(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;	An advert has been placed in the Gemsbok calling for I&APs to register and advising on what documentation is available and how to access it. There is currently no official EIA Gazette that has been published specifically for the

Regulated Requirement	Proposed Actions
	purpose of providing public notice of applications.
(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 district 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 paragraph (c)(ii);and	Adverts will not be placed in provincial or national newspapers, as the potential impacts will not extend beyond the borders of the municipal area.
(e) using reasonable alternative methods, as agreed to by the competent authority, in those instances where a person is desirous of but unable to participate in the process due to - (i) illiteracy; (ii) disability; or (iii) any other disadvantage.	Notifications will include provision for alternative engagement in the event of illiteracy, disability or any other disadvantage. In such instances, Cape EAPrac will engage with such individuals in such a manner as agreed on with the competent authority. Virtual meetings / telephone calls as reasonable alternative methods of public participation will be utilised, where I&APs request such, because they are unable to utilise some of the methods provided.
(3) A notice, notice board or advertisement referred to in subregulation (2) must - (a) give details of the application or proposed application which is subjected to public participation; and (b) state - (i) whether basic assessment or S&EIR procedures are being applied to the application; (ii) the nature and location of the activity to which the application relates; (iii) where further information on the application or proposed application can be obtained; and (iv) the manner in which and the person to whom representations in respect of the application or proposed application may be made.	All notification and adverts will comply with this requirement.
(4) A notice board referred to in subregulation (2) must - (a) be of a size at least 60cm by 42cm; and	The site notices placed comply with these requirements.

Regulated Requirement	Proposed Actions
(b) display the required information in lettering and in a format as may be determined by the competent authority.	
(5) Where public participation is conducted in terms of this regulation for an application or proposed application, subregulation (2)(a), (b), (c) and (d) need not be complied with again during the additional public participation process contemplated in regulations 19(1)(b) or 23(1)(b) or the public participation process contemplated in regulation 21(2)(d), on condition that - (a) such process has been preceded by a public participation process which included compliance with subregulation (2)(a), (b), (c) and (d); and (b) written notice is given to registered interested and affected parties regarding where the - (i) revised basic assessment report or, EMPr or closure plan, as contemplated in regulation 19(1)(b); (ii) revised environmental impact report or EMPr as contemplated in regulation 23(1)(b); or (iii) environmental impact report and EMPr as contemplated in regulation 21(2)(d); may be obtained, the manner in which and the person to whom representations on these reports or plans may be made and the date on which such representations are due.	This will be complied with if final reports are produced later in the environmental process.
(6) When complying with this regulation, the person conducting the public participation process must ensure that - (a) information containing all relevant facts in respect of the application or proposed application is made available to potential interested and affected parties; and (b) participation by potential or registered interested and affected parties is facilitated in such a manner that all potential or registered interested and affected parties are provided with a reasonable opportunity to comment on the application or proposed application.	All reports that are submitted to the competent authority will be subject to a public participation process of a minimum of 30 days. These include: - Draft Motivation Report - All specialist reports that form part of this environmental amendment process.

Regulated Requirement	Proposed Actions
(7) Where an environmental authorisation is required in terms of these Regulations and an authorisation, permit or licence is required in terms of a specific environmental management Act, the public participation process contemplated in this Chapter may be combined with any public participation processes prescribed in terms of a specific environmental management Act, on condition that all relevant authorities agree to such combination of processes.	

7. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Cape EAPrac is of the opinion that the information contained in this Motivation Report and the documentation attached hereto, is sufficient to allow the competent authority and Potential and Registered I&AP's to consider the potential negative and/or positive impacts associated with the proposed extension of the validity period of the Environmental Authorisation for the proposed AEP Bloemsmond Solar 1.

All participating specialists and the EAP have confirmed that:

1. The state of the biophysical and social environment remains the same as previously assessed.
2. The significance of impacts remains the same as previously assessed.
3. The Cumulative impacts remain the same as previously assessed.
4. The mitigation and management measures outlined in the Final Environmental Impact Report for the facility remain relevant and no further mitigation measures are required.

It is the reasoned view of the EAP that the proposed amendments (Extension of the validity period of the EA) can be considered for authorisation subject to the outcome of the public participation process and full implementation of the existing EMPr and existing EA Conditions.

8. DECLARATION OF THE APPOINTED ENVIRONEMNTAL ASSESSMENT PRACTITIONER

I, DALE HOLDER EAP Registration Number: 2 0 1 9 / 3 0 1
as the Appointed EAP hereby declare/affirm that:

- my EAP Registration is current and up to date, and will inform the Applicant and Department if the registration should lapse during this pre-application process;
- the information provided or to be provided as part of this Application form, is true and correct;
- in terms of the general requirement to be independent:
 - other than fair remuneration for work performed/to be performed in terms of this application, have no business, financial, personal or other interest in the activity or application and that there are no circumstances that may compromise my objectivity; or
- in terms of the remainder of the general requirements for an EAP, am fully aware of and meet all of the requirements and that failure to comply with any the requirements may result in disqualification;
- I have disclosed/will disclose, to the Applicant, the specialist (if any), the Competent Authority and registered interested and affected parties, all material information that have or may have the potential to influence the decision of the Competent Authority or the objectivity of any report, plan or document prepared or to be prepared as part of this Application form;
- I have ensured/will ensure that information containing all relevant facts in respect of the Application form was/will be distributed or was/will be made available to registered interested and affected parties and that participation will be facilitated in such a manner that all interested and affected parties were/will be provided with a reasonable opportunity to participate and to provide comments;
- I have ensured/will ensure that the comments of all interested and affected parties were/will be considered, recorded and submitted to the Competent Authority in respect of this Application form;
- I have ensured/will ensure the inclusion of inputs and recommendations from any specialists in respect of the Application form, where relevant;
- I have kept/will keep a register of all interested and affected parties that participated in the public participation process;
- I am aware that a false declaration is an offence in terms of Regulation 48 of the EIA Regulations, 2014; and
- All specialist investigations must comment on how the potential impacts relate to climate change concerns.



Signature of the Appointed EAP:

18 June 2025

Date:

Cape Environmental Assessment Practitioners