



agriculture, forestry & fisheries

Department:
Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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Memo

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| DATE: | 20 February 2017 | FILE NO.: | |
| TO: | Mr J Matshili | FROM: | Dr MD Durholtz |
| SUBJECT: THE PROPOSED MARINE TELECOMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM TO BE LANDED AT VAN RIEBECKSTRAND | | | |

MTN is proposing to install a submarine telecommunications cable, referred to as the Africa Coast to Europe (ACE) Cable System, to link South Africa and, the West Coast of Africa with key international telecommunication hubs in Europe. This cable will enhance transport of voice, data, Internet and television services between South Africa and Europe.

MTN appointed ACER (Africa) Environmental Consultants to undertake an environmental assessment for the project. A requirement of the process is to receive comment from all Interested and Affected Parties. As a Registered Interested and Affected Party, DAFF has an obligation to respond to the request for comment.

A number of years ago a corridor across the continental shelf was established through which undersea cables could be routed. This corridor is marked on bathymetric charts and is closed to bottom fishing. The routing for the proposed ACE Cable is for it to cross the shelf within the existing undersea cable corridor following the existing South Atlantic No. 2 cable between the South Africa Far East alignment and South Atlantic No. 3 cables (see attached map). Therefore the proposed new cable will cross the shelf in an area that is already closed to fishing and will thus have no additional impact on the fishing industry. Consequently the Demersal Scientific Working Group has no objection to the routing proposed for the new cable.

Deon Durholtz
Chair: Demersal Scientific Working Group.