



environmental affairs

Department:
Environmental Affairs
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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Dear Carina Boonzaaier or Giles Churchill

SUBJECT: COMMENTS ON THE BACKGROUND INFORMATION DOCUMENT (BID) ON THE PROPOSED INSTALLATION OF A SUBMARINE TELECOMMUNICATIONS CABLE (EQUIANO CABLE SYSTEM) IN MELKBOSSTRAND, WESTERN CAPE TO LINK SOUTH AFRICA AND THE WEST COAST OF AFRICA WITH KEY INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS HUBS IN EUROPE.

This letter serves to acknowledge receipt of the Background Information Document on the proposed installation of a submarine telecommunications cable (Equiano Cable System) in Melkbosstrand, Western Cape to link South Africa and the West Coast of Africa with key international telecommunications hubs in Europe. The Department of Environment, Forestry & Fisheries (DEFF) in its Branch Oceans & Coasts appreciates the opportunity given to comment on this proposed project and further requests to be registered as an I&AP.

The Department has reviewed the Background Information Document in terms of the National Environmental Management: Integrated Coastal Management Act, 2008 (Act No. 24 of 2008) ("ICM Act") and further notes that the proposed development activities could have potential impacts on the coastal zone. As such, the department will provide comments on the next public participation stage of this application.

Kindly note that the department reserves the right to revise its initial comments and may request further information. **It is, therefore, a recommendation of DEFF: O&C that the EAP provides confirmation that the above-mentioned project is in the Background Information Document phase.** All future correspondence and documentation (hard copy and electronic documents) submitted to this office should be addressed to Xmyanga@environment.gov.za
Physical Address: Department of Environment, Fisheries and Forestry Branch: Oceans and Coast, 2 East Pier Building, East Pier Road, Victoria and Alfred Waterfront, Cape Town, 8001.

