



## **environmental affairs**

Department:  
Environmental Affairs  
**REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA**

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**DEA Reference:** 14/12/16/3/3/2/1142

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### **PER MAIL / E-MAIL**

Dear Mr Churchill

### **COMMENTS ON THE DRAFT SCOPING REPORT (DSR) FOR THE PROPOSED MARINE TELECOMMUNICATION SYSTEM (EQUIANO CABLE SYSTEM) TO BE LANDED AT MELKBOSSTRAND ON THE WEST COAST, WESTERN CAPE PROVINCE**

The application form and draft Scoping Report (DSR) dated February 2020 and received by the Department on 05 February 2020 refer.

This letter serves to inform you that the following information must be included to the final SR:

- a) Please ensure that all relevant listed activities are applied for, are specific and that it can be linked to the development activity or infrastructure as described in the project description.
- b) If the activities applied for in the application form differ from those mentioned in the final SR, an amended application form must be submitted. Please note that the Department's application form template has been amended and can be downloaded from the following link <https://www.environment.gov.za/documents/forms>. Please pay particular attention to point 17 on page 2 of the application form, which details the requirement to include the Department's compulsory Screening Tool Report.
- c) Please ensure that the application form is signed by the applicant and that the land owner consent form has been signed.
- d) It is imperative that the relevant authorities are continuously involved throughout the EIAR process, as the development property possibly falls within geographically designated areas in terms of numerous GN R. 985 Activities. Written comments must be obtained from the relevant authorities and submitted to this Department. In addition, a graphical representation of the proposed development within the respective geographical areas must be provided.
- e) The final SR must provide evidence that all identified and relevant competent authorities have been given an opportunity to comment on the proposed development.
- f) The Public Participation Report must contain clear and legible copies of the newspaper adverts.
- g) Please ensure that all issues raised and comments received during the circulation of the draft SR from registered I&APs and organs of state which have jurisdiction (including this Department's Biodiversity

and Conservation Section) in respect of the proposed development are adequately addressed in the final SR. Proof of correspondence with the various stakeholders must be included in the final SR. Should you be unable to obtain comments, proof should be submitted to the Department of the attempts that were made to obtain comments. The Public Participation Process must be conducted in terms of Regulation 39, 40, 41, 42, 43 and 44 of the EIA Regulations 2014.

- h) A comments and response report (C&R) must be submitted with the final SR. The C&R report must incorporate all comments for this development.
- i) Please provide a description of any identified alternatives for the proposed activity that are feasible and reasonable, including the advantages and disadvantages that the proposed activity or alternatives will have on the environment and on the community that may be affected by the activity as per Appendix 2 of the EIA Regulations, 2014. Alternatively, you should submit written proof of an investigation and motivation if no reasonable or feasible alternatives exist in terms of Appendix 2.
- j) Should the appointed specialists specify contradicting recommendations, the EAP must clearly indicate the most reasonable recommendation and substantiate this with defensible reasons; and where necessary, include further expertise advice.
- k) Where specialist studies are conducted in-house or by a specialist other than a suitably qualified specialist in the relevant field, such specialist reports must be peer reviewed by a suitably qualified external specialist in the relevant field.
- l) In accordance with Appendix 2 of the EIA Regulations 2014, the details of—
- the EAP who prepared the report; and
  - the expertise of the EAP to carry out Scoping and Environmental Impact assessment procedures;
  - must be submitted.
- m) You are further reminded that the final SR to be submitted to this Department must comply with all the requirements in terms of the scope of assessment and content of Scoping reports in accordance with Appendix 2 and Regulation 21 of the EIA Regulations, 2014.
- n) Further note that in terms of Regulation 45 of the EIA Regulations 2014, this application will lapse if the applicant fails to meet any of the timeframes prescribed in terms of these Regulations, unless an extension has been granted in terms of Regulation 3(7).
- o) You are hereby reminded of Section 24F of the National Environmental Management Act, Act No 107 of 1998, as amended, that no activity may commence prior to an environmental authorisation being granted by the Department.

Yours faithfully



**Mr Sabelo Malaza**  
**Chief Director: Integrated Environmental Authorisations**  
**Department of Environmental Affairs**  
**Signed by: Ms Sindiswa Dlomo**  
**Designation: Deputy Director: National Infrastructure Projects**  
**Date: 03/05/2020**

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