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WESTERN CAPE LAND USE PLANNING ACT (ACT 3 OF 2014) : CONSTRUCTION OF ILANGA EMOYENI PV SOLAR ENERGY FACILITY (SEF) & ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE IN THE BEAUFORT WEST MUNICIPAL AREA (WESTERN CAPE PROVINCE)

This letter serves to provide information on the relevance of the Land Use Planning Act, 2014 (Act 3 of 2014) to the above mentioned project.

As part of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process for the iLanga Emoyeni SEF, Johann Lanz Consulting prepared Site Sensitivity Verification & Agricultural Compliance Statement Reports for the iLanga Emoyeni PV 1, PV 2, PV 3 and Grid Connection.

The Site Sensitivity Verification Reports for iLanga Emoyeni PV 1, PV 2 and PV 3 concludes with the following:

- *It will occupy land that is of very limited land capability, which is insufficient for crop production. There is not a scarcity of such agricultural land in South Africa and its conservation for agricultural production is not therefore a priority.*
- *The amount of agricultural land use by the development is within the allowable development limits prescribed by the agricultural protocol. These limits reflect the national need to conserve valuable agricultural land and therefore to steer, particularly renewable energy developments, onto land with low agricultural production potential.*
- *The proposed development is within a REDZ, which is an area that has specifically been designated within South Africa for the prioritisation of renewable energy development. The designation of the REDZ has taken into account the country's need to balance renewable energy development against the conservation of land required for agricultural production and national food security.*
- *The PV panels will not necessarily totally exclude agricultural production. The area can still be used to graze sheep that will, in addition, be protected against stock theft within the security area of the facility.*
- *All renewable energy development in South Africa decreases the need for coal power and thereby contributes to reducing the large agricultural impact that open cast coal mining has on highly productive agricultural land throughout the coal mining areas of the country.*

The Site Sensitivity Verification Report for iLanga Emoyeni Grid Connection concludes with the following :

- *The proposed development will have very low agricultural impact and will therefore be acceptable in terms of its impact on the agricultural production capability of the site. The only impact of this development is the loss of up to 5.33 hectares of agricultural land on the site of the substations. This is assessed as being of very low significance because the amount of land loss is small and the production potential of the land is very limited.*

- *The power line itself has insignificant agricultural impact because all agricultural activities that are viable in this environment, can continue completely unhindered underneath the power line and there will therefore be no loss of agricultural production potential underneath it.*
- *The only potential source of impact from the power line is minimal disturbance to the land (erosion and topsoil loss) during construction (and decommissioning). This impact can be completely mitigated with standard, generic mitigation measures that are included in the EMPr.*
- *From an agricultural impact point of view, it is recommended that the development be approved.*
- *The conclusion of this assessment on the acceptability of the proposed development and the recommendation for its approval is not subject to any conditions, other than recommended mitigation.*

Based on the assessments, it can be confirmed that the iLanga Emoyeni SEF will not utilise an area of 5 ha or more of agricultural land that has been cultivated or irrigated during the 10 year period immediately preceding the proposed development. The development therefore does not trigger a Provincial Development Application in terms of Section 53 (1) of the Land Use Planning Act, 2014 (Act 3 of 2014), read together with Section 10 of the Amended Regulations.

Kind Regards



Johann Lantz