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40 Brassie Street  
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12 March 2025

Nicola Rump  
**SRK Consulting**  
254 Walmer Boulevard  
South End  
Gqeberha (Port Elizabeth)  
6001

**RE: PROPOSED BEAUFORT WEST SOLAR PV ENERGY FACILITY ON STEENROTSFOUNTAIN 168/1 &168/3, QUAGGAS FONTEIN 166, AND OUDE VOLKS KRAAL 164/REM, BEAUFORT WEST**

HWC Case No: HWC22102702NK1027

Dear Nicola

The above project refers. The project was assessed in a Heritage Impact Assessment compiled in 2022 within the context of a Basic Assessment. The relevant report is as follows:

Orton, J. 2022. Heritage Impact Assessment: proposed PV Facility on Portion 3 of Steenrotsfontain 168, Quaggasfontein 166, and Remainder of Oude Volks Kraal 164, Beaufort West Magisterial District, Western Cape. Report prepared for SiVest SA (Pty) Ltd. Lakeside: ASHA Consulting (Pty) Ltd.

Heritage Western Cape issued a final comment on 12 January 2023 in support of the project as follows:

**FINAL COMMENT**

The Committee endorsed the Heritage Impact Assessment prepared by Dr Orton dated 7 November 2022 as well as the recommendations of the HIA for authorisation on conditions as follows:

1. The Fossil Chance Finds Procedure must be incorporated into the project EMPr;
2. An archaeological pre-construction survey must be carried out focusing on those areas not yet surveyed and especially PV areas 3 and 5;
3. If any archaeological material or human burials are uncovered during the course of development, then work in the immediate area should be halted. The find would need to be reported to the heritage authorities and may require inspection by an archaeologist. Such heritage is the property of the state and may require excavation and curation in an approved institution.

The proponent (Beaufort West Solar PV Energy Facility (Pty) Ltd), now wishes to alter the layout of the proposed PV facility, but the new layout remains entirely within the originally assessed areas. This change triggers a Part 2 Amendment process to amend the Environmental Authorisation. Specialists have been asked to either confirm that there will be no change to the original assessment and mitigation requirements, or to conduct new fieldwork and update their reports.

## Project description

The proposed development site is located on privately owned farmland, approximately 12.5km southeast of Beaufort West, within the Beaufort West Local Municipality, in the Central Karoo District Municipality, Western Cape Province. Although the original study area comprised of more farm portions, the PV development will be situated on the Quaggas Fontein 166 and the Remainder of Oude Volks Kraal 164.

The site is approximately 3763 ha in extent. The proposed Solar Photovoltaic (PV) energy facility will generate up to 415 MW, and include the following components:

- PV fields (arrays) comprising multiple PV modules. The modules will be either crystalline silicon or thin film technology. The modules will be mounted on a fixed/single or double axis tracking technology.
- Each PV module will be approximately 2.4 m long and 1.3 m wide and mounted on supporting structures above ground. At this stage it is anticipated that the PV modules will be mono- or bifacial modules.
- A 33/132kV on-site substation (facility substation) (stepdown from 132kV to 32kV) occupying an area of up to approximately 1 ha. This will be adjacent to the Eskom on-site substation (covered under the authorization for the grid connection OHL).
- Internal 33kV lines connecting the substations to the facilities (either underground/above ground).
- A Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) on an area of approximately 4 ha next to the onsite 33/132kV substation. The BESS containers will be delivered to site.
- Auxiliary/ Operations & Maintenance (O&M) buildings of approximately 1ha. The functions within these buildings include (but are not limited to) to office/administration, control centre, ablution, workshops, storage areas and security centre.
- The O&M building, substation construction camp and the laydown area (approximately 12 ha) will be located together as per attached layout.
- Site and internal access roads, up to 6m wide, will provide access to the PV arrays. Existing site roads will be used wherever possible, although new site roads will be constructed where necessary.
- Galvanized palisade perimeter fencing with a height of at least 2.1 m, is proposed around each PV cluster, with security access control, and security lighting.
- Associated infrastructure includes a lightning protection system, telecommunication infrastructure, diesel storage facilities (less than 80 m<sup>3</sup>) and a batching plant (if required).
- Abstraction of water will be from existing or new boreholes if required.

The previously authorized (via a separate BAR process – DFFE reference no 14/12116/3/3/1/2672) overhead grid connection from the proposed development to the Eskom Droërivier Main Transmission Station, located approximately 10 km northwest of the site does not require amendment as it will remain within its authorised alignment. The on-site Eskom switching substation is part of the grid connection. However, the adjacent Independent Power Producer (IPP) substation is part of the SEF application.

The following are highlighted and form part of the amendment application:

- Although the location of the IPP substation will not change, amendments to the alignments of the internal powerline connections to each individual SEF cluster are proposed;
- Although the capacity and components of the SEF will not change, the configuration of the arrays and various other components within the site are proposed to change;

- The area allocated to some project components will change (e.g. increased access and internal road widths of 8 m and 6 m respectively, increased laydown area (up to 11 ha), possible increase in security fencing height);
- Temporary laydown areas (to be rehabilitated after construction); and
- On-site diesel fuel storage will be included (<30 m<sup>3</sup>).

Two alternatives are available for the amended layout (Figures 2 & 3). It is anticipated that construction will take up to two years to complete. A new access road may be developed from the east of the site – however, this will be assessed via a separate BA process and does not form part of this amendment application.

### Assessment


The critical aspect for the further assessment of the project is that all changes remain within the already assessed total footprint. This means that no new heritage resources on or in the ground outside the approved footprint (i.e. archaeology, palaeontology, buildings) would be impacted by the development. Likewise, visual impacts to the landscape will remain unchanged because the project components will still be within the same assessed area. For these reasons, **there will be no change to the impact assessment ratings for any of the anticipated heritage impacts**. No new impact assessment is required, and both of the amended layouts are considered acceptable from a heritage point of view.

The requirements of HWC as presented above – specifically that the EMPr must include a Fossil Chance Finds Procedure and that an archaeological pre-construction survey must be carried out – are noted and must continue to apply to the amended authorisation. No new mitigation or management measures are required.

### Conclusion

From a heritage point of view, the EA for the Beaufort West Solar PV Energy Facility may be amended using either of the two proposed layouts and the existing conditions must continue to apply.

Yours sincerely



Jayson Orton



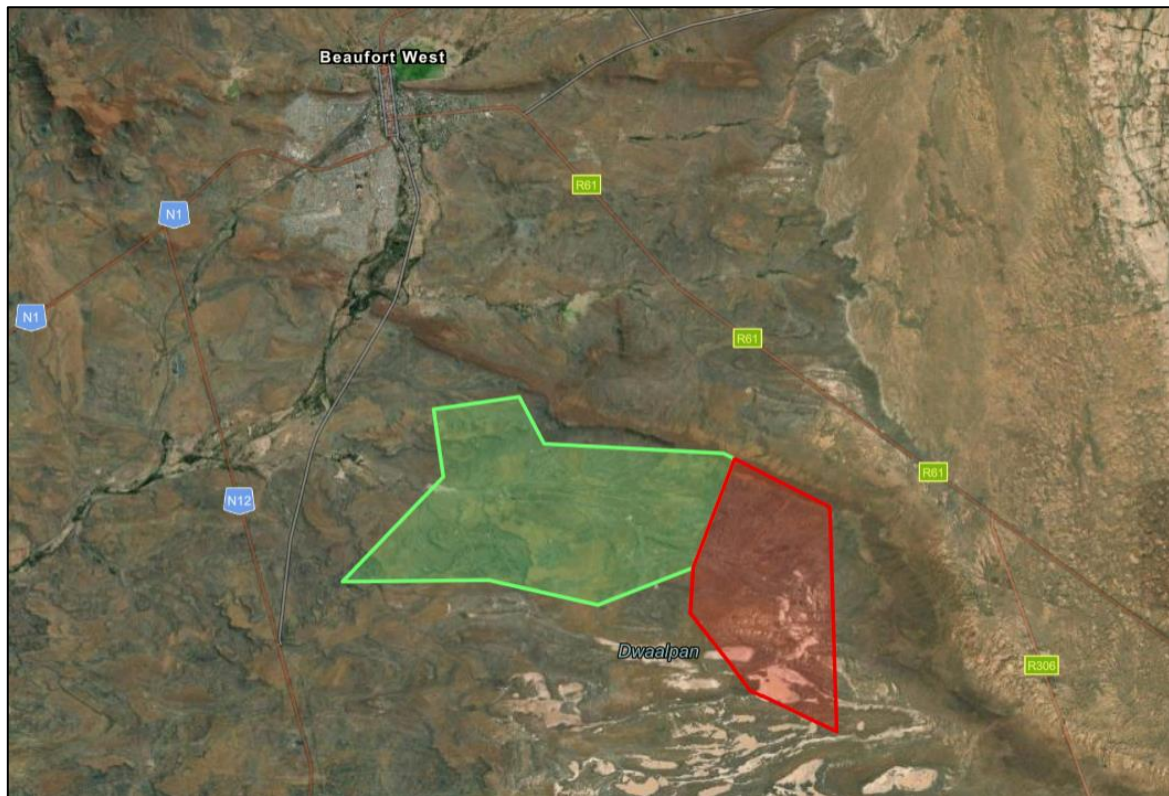


Figure 1: Location of the project with the two affected farm portions for the proposed PV project indicated. Green = Quaggas Fontein 166, Red = Remainder of Oude Volks Kraal 164.

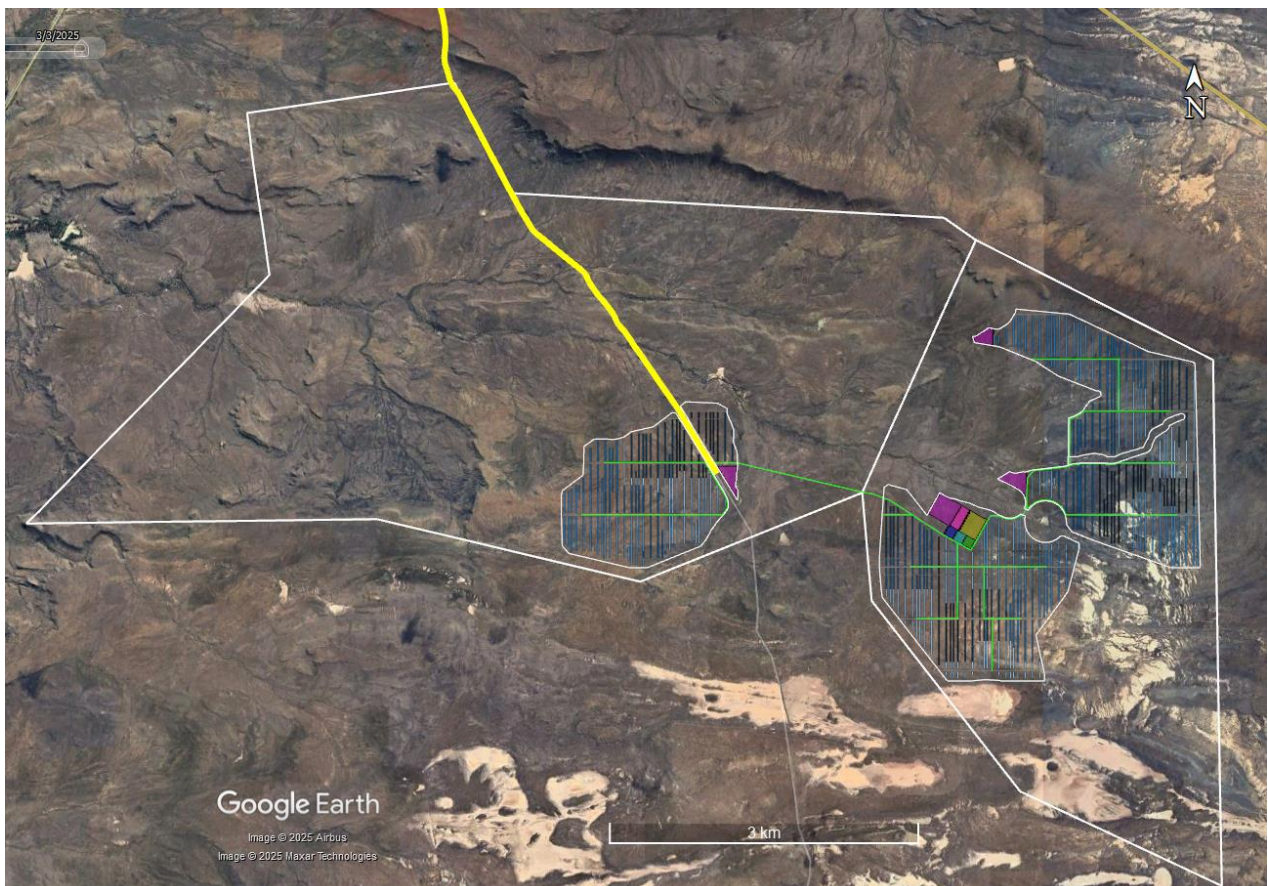


Figure 2: Preferred layout. The yellow line is an existing public road that will provide access to the site.

**ASHA Consulting (Pty) Ltd**

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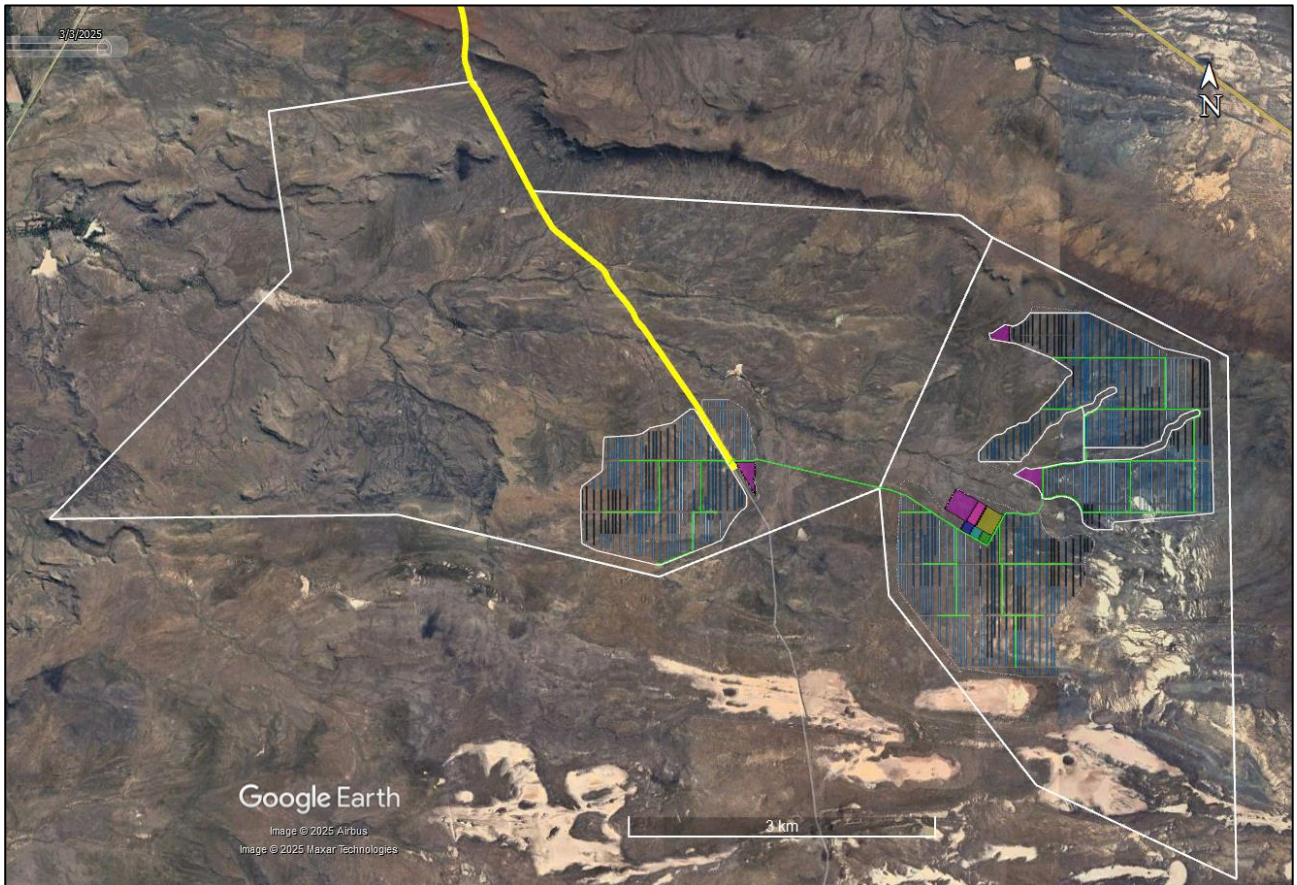


Figure 3: Alternative layout. The yellow line is an existing public road that will provide access to the site.