



**Western Cape
Government**

Environmental Affairs and
Development Planning

Directorate: Development Management
(Region 1)

EIA REFERENCE: 16/3/3/1/B2/21/1070/18
NEAS REFERENCE: WCP/EIA/0000484/2018
ENQUIRIES: Samornay Smidt
DATE OF ISSUE: 2019-03-07

The Board of Directors
Eagle Towers SA (Pty) Ltd
Suite No. 35, Private Bag X4
DIE BOORD
7613

Attention: Mr A van der Rheede

Tel.: (021) 880 0914
Fax: (086) 726 2626

Dear Sir

APPLICATION FOR ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION IN TERMS OF THE NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT ACT, 1998 (ACT 107 OF 1998) AND THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT REGULATIONS, 2014, (AS AMENDED): THE DEVELOPMENT OF A TELECOMMUNICATION BASE STATION ON FARM NO. 778, AVONDROOD, RAWSONVILLE

1. With reference to the above application, the Department hereby notifies you of its decision to **grant** Environmental Authorisation, attached herewith, together with the reasons for the decision.
2. In terms of Regulation 4 of the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations, 2014, (as amended), you are instructed to ensure, within 14 days of the date of the Environmental Authorisation, that all registered Interested and Affected Parties ("I&APs") are provided with access to and reasons for the decision, and that all registered I&APs are notified of their right to appeal.
3. Your attention is drawn to Chapter 2 of the National Appeal Regulations, 2014 (as amended), which prescribes the appeal procedure to be followed. This procedure is summarized in the attached Environmental Authorisation.

Yours faithfully

**DIRECTOR: DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT (REGION 1)
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS AND DEVELOPMENT PLANNING**

Cc: (1) E Esquire (EnviroAfrica cc)
(2) P Hartzenberg (Breede Valley Municipality)

Fax: (086) 512 0154
Fax: (023) 347 3671



REFERENCE: 16/3/3/1/B2/21/1070/18
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ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION

APPLICATION FOR ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION IN TERMS OF THE NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT ACT, 1998 (ACT 107 OF 1998) AND THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT REGULATIONS, 2014 (AS AMENDED): THE DEVELOPMENT OF A TELECOMMUNICATION BASE STATION ON FARM NO. 778, AVONDROOD, RAWSONVILLE

With reference to your application for the abovementioned, find below the outcome with respect to this application.

DECISION

By virtue of the powers conferred on it by the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998) ("NEMA") and the Environmental Impact Assessment ("EIA") Regulations, 2014 (as amended), the Competent Authority herewith **grants Environmental Authorisation** to the applicant to undertake the listed activity specified in section B below with respect to Design Alternative 1 as described in the Basic Assessment Report ("BAR") dated November 2018.

The applicant for this Environmental Authorisation is required to comply with the conditions set out in section E below.

A. DETAILS OF THE APPLICANT FOR THIS ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION

The Board of Directors
Eagle Towers (Pty) Ltd
% Mr A van der Rheede
Suite No. 35
Private Bag X4
DIE BOORD
7613

Tel: (021) 880 0914
Fax: (086) 726 2626

The abovementioned applicant is the holder of this Environmental Authorisation and is hereinafter referred to as "**the holder**".

B. LIST OF ACTIVITIES AUTHORISED

Listed Activity	Activity/Project Description
<p>Listing Notice 3 of 2014 -</p> <p>Activity Number: 3</p> <p><i>The development of masts or towers of any material or type used for telecommunication broadcasting or radio transmission purposes where the mast or tower—</i> <i>(a) is to be placed on a site not previously used for this purpose; and</i> <i>(b) will exceed 15 metres in height—</i></p> <p><i>but excluding attachments to existing buildings and masts on rooftops.</i></p> <p>i. Western Cape</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>i. All areas outside urban areas;</i> <i>ii. Areas designated for conservation use in Spatial Development Frameworks adopted by the competent authority, or zoned for a conservation purpose, within urban areas; or</i> <i>iii. Areas zoned for use as public open space or equivalent zoning within urban areas.</i> 	<p>The development of a 25m high monopole telecommunication mast on the subject property not previously used for this purpose and located outside an urban area.</p>

The abovementioned list is hereinafter referred to as "**the listed activity**".

The holder is herein authorised to undertake the following alternative that includes the listed activity as it relates to the development:

The proposal entails the development of a 25m high monopole telecommunication base station and associated infrastructure on Farm No. 778, Avondrood, Rawsonville. The enclosure will be 59m² in extent surrounded by a palisade fence. Adequate power supply is available and access to the site will be gained from an existing road.

C. SITE DESCRIPTION AND LOCATION

The listed activity will be undertaken on Farm No. 778, Avondrood, Rawsonville.

The co-ordinates of the telecommunication mast are:

Latitude (S)	Longitude (E)
33° 43' 35.22" South	19° 20' 16.98" East

The SG digit code is: C08500000000077800000

Refer to Annexure 1: Locality Map and Annexure 2: Site Plan.

The above is hereinafter referred to as "**the site**".

D. DETAILS OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT PRACTITIONER

EnviroAfrica cc
% Ms Emile Esquire
PO Box 5367
HELDERBERG
7135

Tel: (021) 851 1616
Fax: (086) 512 0154

E. CONDITIONS OF AUTHORISATION

Scope of authorisation

1. The holder is authorised to undertake the listed activity specified in Section B above in accordance with and restricted to Design Alternative 1, described in the BAR, dated November 2018 on the site as described in Section C above.
2. The Environmental Authorisation is valid for a period of **five years** from the date of issue, within which commencement must occur.
3. The construction phase of the development must be concluded within **ten (10) years** from the date of commencement of the listed activity.
4. The holder shall be responsible for ensuring compliance with the conditions by any person acting on his/her behalf, including an agent, sub-contractor, employee or any person rendering a service to the holder.
5. Any changes to, or deviations from the scope of the alternative described in section B above must be accepted or approved, in writing, by the Competent Authority before such changes or deviations may be implemented. In assessing whether to grant such acceptance/approval or not, the Competent Authority may request information in order to evaluate the significance and impacts of such changes or deviations, and it may be necessary for the holder to apply for further authorisation in terms of the applicable legislation.

Written notice to the Competent Authority

6. Seven calendar days' notice, in writing, must be given to the Competent Authority before commencement of construction activities.
 - 6.1 The notice must make clear reference to the site details and EIA Reference number given above.
 - 6.2 The notice must also include proof of compliance with the following conditions described herein:

Conditions: 7, 8 and 11.

Notification and administration of appeal

7. The holder must in writing, within 14 (fourteen) calendar days of the date of this decision–
 - 7.1 notify all registered Interested and Affected Parties ("I&APs") of –
 - 7.1.1 the outcome of the application;
 - 7.1.2 the reasons for the decision as included in Annexure 3;
 - 7.1.3 the date of the decision; and
 - 7.1.4 the date when the decision was issued.
 - 7.2 draw the attention of all registered I&APs to the fact that an appeal may be lodged against the decision in terms of the National Appeals Regulations, 2014 (as amended) detailed in Section G below;
 - 7.3 draw the attention of all registered I&APs to the manner in which they may access the decision;
 - 7.4 provide the registered I&APs with:
 - 7.4.1 the name of the holder (entity) of this Environmental Authorisation,
 - 7.4.2 name of the responsible person for this Environmental Authorisation,
 - 7.4.3 postal address of the holder,
 - 7.4.4 telephonic and fax details of the holder,
 - 7.4.5 e-mail address, if any, of the holder, and
 - 7.4.6 contact details (postal and/or physical address, contact number, facsimile and e-mail address) of the decision-maker and all registered I&APs in the event that an appeal is lodged in terms of the 2014 National Appeals Regulations (as amended).
8. The listed activity, including site preparation, must not commence within 20 (twenty) calendar days from the date the applicant notified the registered I&APs of this decision. In the event that an appeal is lodged with the Appeal Authority, the effect of this Environmental Authorisation is suspended until the appeal is decided i.e. the listed activity, including site preparation, must not commence until the appeal is decided.

Management of activity

9. The draft Environmental Management Programme ("EMPr") submitted as part of the application for Environmental Authorisation is hereby approved and must be implemented.
10. The EMPr must be included in all contract documentation for all phases of implementation.

Monitoring

11. The holder must appoint a suitably experienced environmental control officer ("ECO"), or site agent where appropriate, before commencement of any land clearing or construction activities to ensure compliance with the EMPr and the conditions contained herein.

12. A copy of the Environmental Authorisation, EMPr, audit reports and compliance monitoring reports must be kept at the site of the authorised activity, and must be made available to anyone on request, including a publicly accessible website.
13. Access to the site referred to in Section C must be granted, and the environmental reports mentioned above must be produced, to any authorised official representing the Competent Authority who requests to see it for the purposes of assessing and/or monitoring compliance with the conditions contained herein.

Auditing

14. In terms of Regulation 34 of the NEMA EIA Regulations, 2014, the holder must conduct environmental audits to determine compliance with the conditions of the Environmental Authorisation and the EMPr and submit Environmental Audit Reports to the Competent Authority. The Audit Report must be prepared by an independent person and must contain all the information required in Appendix 7 of the NEMA EIA Regulations, 2014.

The holder must undertake an environmental audit quarterly for the duration of the construction phase and submit Environmental Audit Reports to the Competent Authority once every six months during the construction phase. The final Environmental Audit Report must be submitted to the Competent Authority (six months after operation commenced).

The holder must, within 7 days of the submission of the report to the Competent Authority, notify all potential and registered I&APs of the submission and make the report available to anyone on request and on a publicly accessible website (if applicable).

Specific Conditions

15. Should any heritage remains be exposed during excavations or any other actions on the site, these must immediately be reported to the Provincial Heritage Resources Authority of the Western Cape, Heritage Western Cape. Heritage remains uncovered or disturbed during earthworks must not be further disturbed until the necessary approval has been obtained from Heritage Western Cape.

Heritage remains include: meteorites, archaeological and/or palaeontological remains (including fossil shells and trace fossils); coins; indigenous and/or colonial ceramics; any articles of value or antiquity; marine shell heaps; stone artifacts and bone remains; structures and other built features with heritage significance; rock art and rock engravings; and/or graves or unmarked human burials including grave goods and/or associated burial material.

16. A qualified archaeologist and/or palaeontologist must be contracted where necessary (at the expense of the holder) to remove any heritage remains. Heritage remains can only be disturbed by a suitably qualified heritage specialist working under a directive from the relevant heritage resources authority.
17. The relevant requirements with respect to occupational health and safety must be adhered to at all times.

18. Health standards of communication structures must be reviewed periodically based on ongoing scientific research.
 - 18.1 The applicant/proponent will be required to decommission (including site rehabilitation) or upgrade any communication structure that does not meet the most recently published health standards of the World Health Organisation, the International Commission on Non-Ionising Radiation Protection (ICNIRP), (which have been adopted by the National Department of Health) and the Independent Communication Authority of South Africa;
 - 18.2 Should the relevant health authority determine that the current limits of electromagnetic radiation pose a significant health risk, then decommissioning of the activity as well as rehabilitation of the site/property shall be required to the satisfaction of the Provincial Environmental Authority; and
 - 18.3 All safety standards set forth by the ICNIRP must be adhered to.
19. Within six months of the mast ceasing to be functional for the purpose for which it is now authorised, it must be removed, including all associated infrastructure at the expense of the applicant, and the site must be rehabilitated to the satisfaction of this Directorate.

F. GENERAL MATTERS

1. Notwithstanding this Environmental Authorisation, the holder must comply with any other statutory requirements that may be applicable when undertaking the listed activity.
2. Non-compliance with a condition of this Environmental Authorisation or EMPr may render the holder liable to criminal prosecution.
3. If the holder does not commence with a listed activity within the period referred to in Condition 2, this Environmental Authorisation shall lapse for that activity, and a new application for Environmental Authorisation must be submitted to the Competent Authority. If the holder wishes to extend the validity period of the Environmental Authorisation, an application for amendment in this regard must be made to the Competent Authority prior to the expiry date of the Environmental Authorisation.
4. The holder must submit an application for amendment of the Environmental Authorisation to the Competent Authority where any detail with respect to the Environmental Authorisation must be amended, added, substituted, corrected, removed or updated. If a new holder is proposed, an application for Amendment in terms of Part 1 of the EIA Regulations, 2014 (as amended) must be submitted.

Please note that an amendment is not required if there is a change in the contact details of the holder. In this case, the Competent Authority must only be notified of such changes.

5. The manner and frequency for updating the EMPr is as follows:

Amendments to the EMPr must be done in accordance with Regulations 35 to 37 of the EIA Regulations 2014 or any relevant legislation that may be applicable at the time.

Please note that to ensure the EMPr sufficiently provides for avoidance, management and mitigation of environmental impacts associated with the undertaking of the activity, the Competent Authority may request amendments to the EMPr, as deemed necessary.

G. APPEALS

Appeals must comply with the provisions contained in the National Appeal Regulations 2014 (as amended).

1. An appellant (if the holder of the decision) must, within 20 (twenty) calendar days from the date on which notification of the decision was sent to the holder by the Competent Authority –
 - 1.1. Submit an appeal in accordance with Regulation 4 of the National Appeal Regulations 2014 (as amended) to the Appeal Administrator; and
 - 1.2. Submit a copy of the appeal to any registered I&APs, any Organ of State with interest in the matter and the decision-maker i.e. the Competent Authority that issued the decision.
2. An appellant (if NOT the holder of the decision) must, within 20 (twenty) calendar days from the date on which the holder of the decision sent notification of the decision to the registered I&APs–
 - 2.1. Submit an appeal in accordance with Regulation 4 of the National Appeal Regulations 2014 (as amended) to the Appeal Administrator; and
 - 2.2 Submit a copy of the appeal to the holder of the decision, any registered I&AP, any Organs of State with interest in the matter and the decision-maker i.e. the Competent Authority that issued the decision.
3. The holder of the decision (if not the appellant), the decision-maker that issued the decision, the registered I&AP and the Organs of State must submit their responding statements, if any, to the appeal authority and the appellant within 20 (twenty) calendar days from the date of receipt of the appeal submission.
4. The appeal and the responding statement must be submitted to the address listed below:

By post: Western Cape Ministry of Local Government, Environmental Affairs and
Development Planning
Private Bag X9186
CAPE TOWN
8000

By facsimile: (021) 483 4174; or

By hand: Attention: Mr Jaap de Villiers (Tel: 021 483 3721)
Room 809
8th Floor Utilitas Building, 1 Dorp Street, Cape Town, 8001

Note: For purposes of electronic database management, you are also requested to submit electronic copies (Microsoft Word format) of the appeal, responding statement and any supporting documents to the Appeal Authority to the address listed above and/ or via e-mail to Jaap.DeVilliers@westerncape.gov.za.


5. A prescribed appeal form as well as assistance regarding the appeal processes is obtainable from Appeal Authority at: Tel. (021) 483 3721, E-mail Jaap.DeVilliers@westerncape.gov.za or URL <http://www.westerncape.gov.za/eadp>.

H. DISCLAIMER

The Western Cape Government, the Local Authority, committees or any other public authority or organisation appointed in terms of the conditions of this Environmental Authorisation shall not be responsible for any damages or losses suffered by the holder, developer or his/her successor in any instance where construction or operation subsequent to construction is temporarily or permanently stopped for reasons of non-compliance with the conditions as set out herein or any other subsequent document or legal action emanating from this decision.

Your interest in the future of our environment is appreciated.

Yours faithfully



MR. ZAahir TOEFY

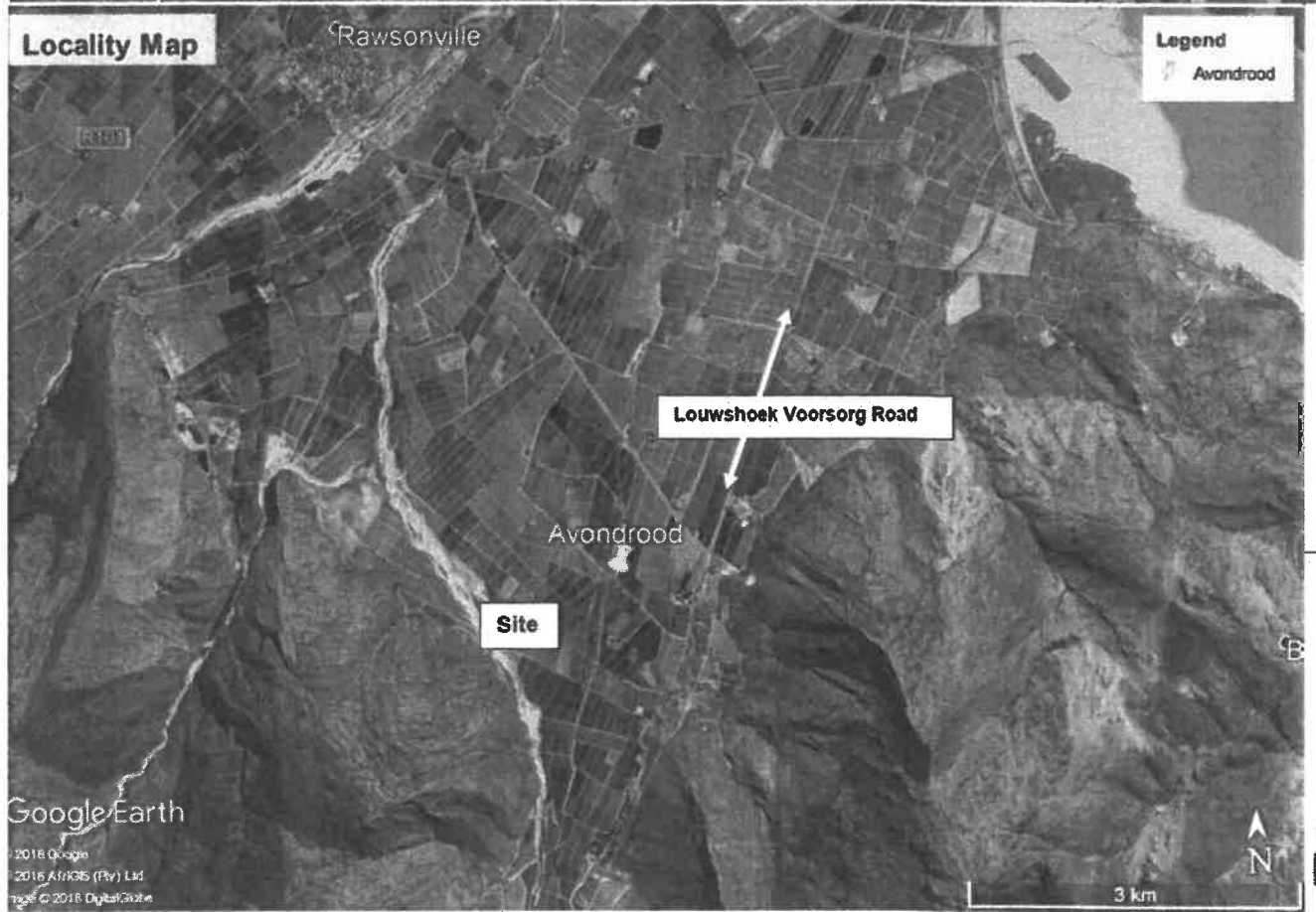
DIRECTOR: DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT (REGION 1)

DATE OF DECISION: 07/03/2019

Cc: (1) E Esquire (EnviroAfrica cc)
(2) P Hartzenberg (Breede Valley Municipality)

Fax: (086) 512 0154
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ANNEXURE 1: LOCALITY MAP

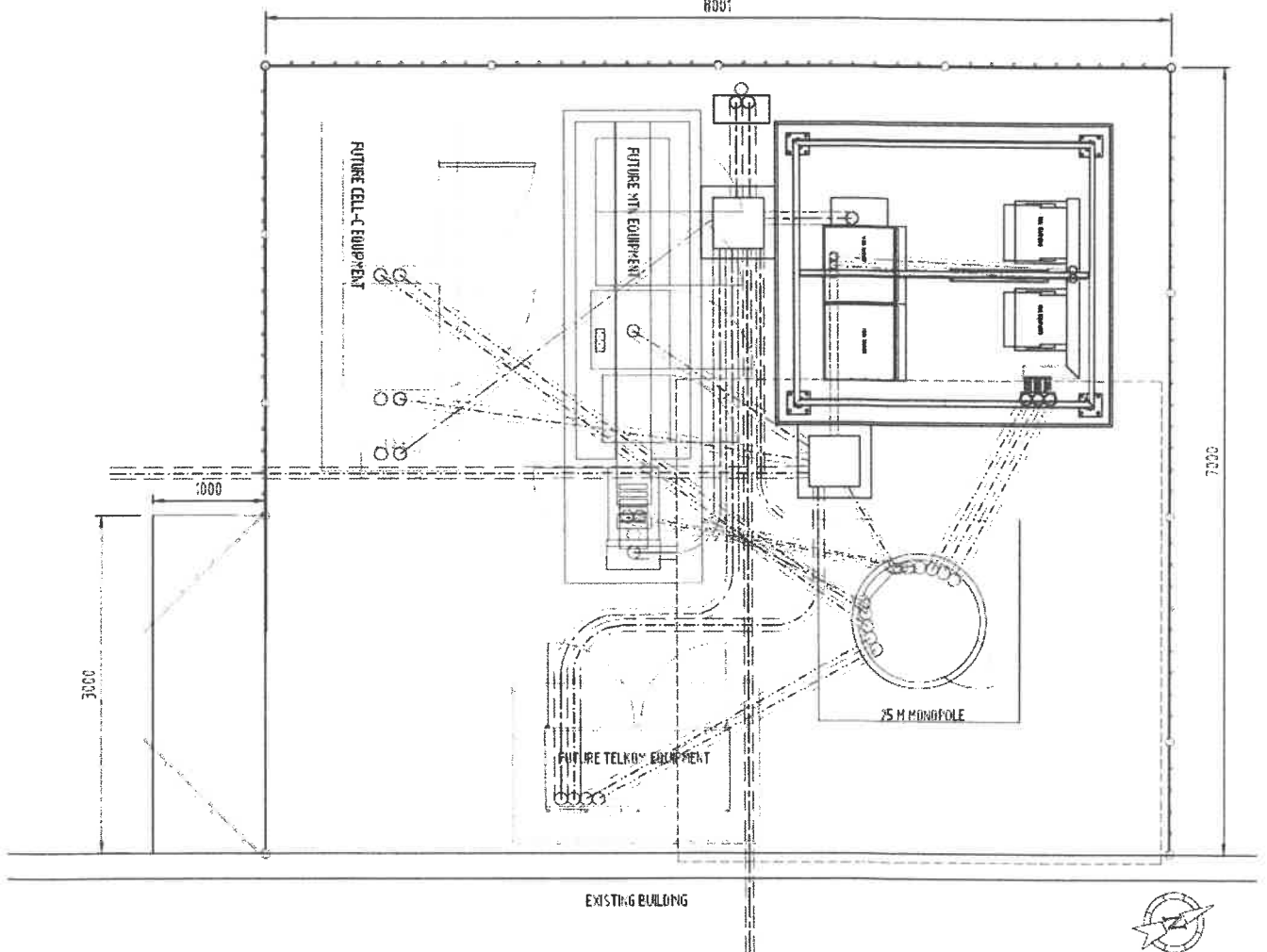


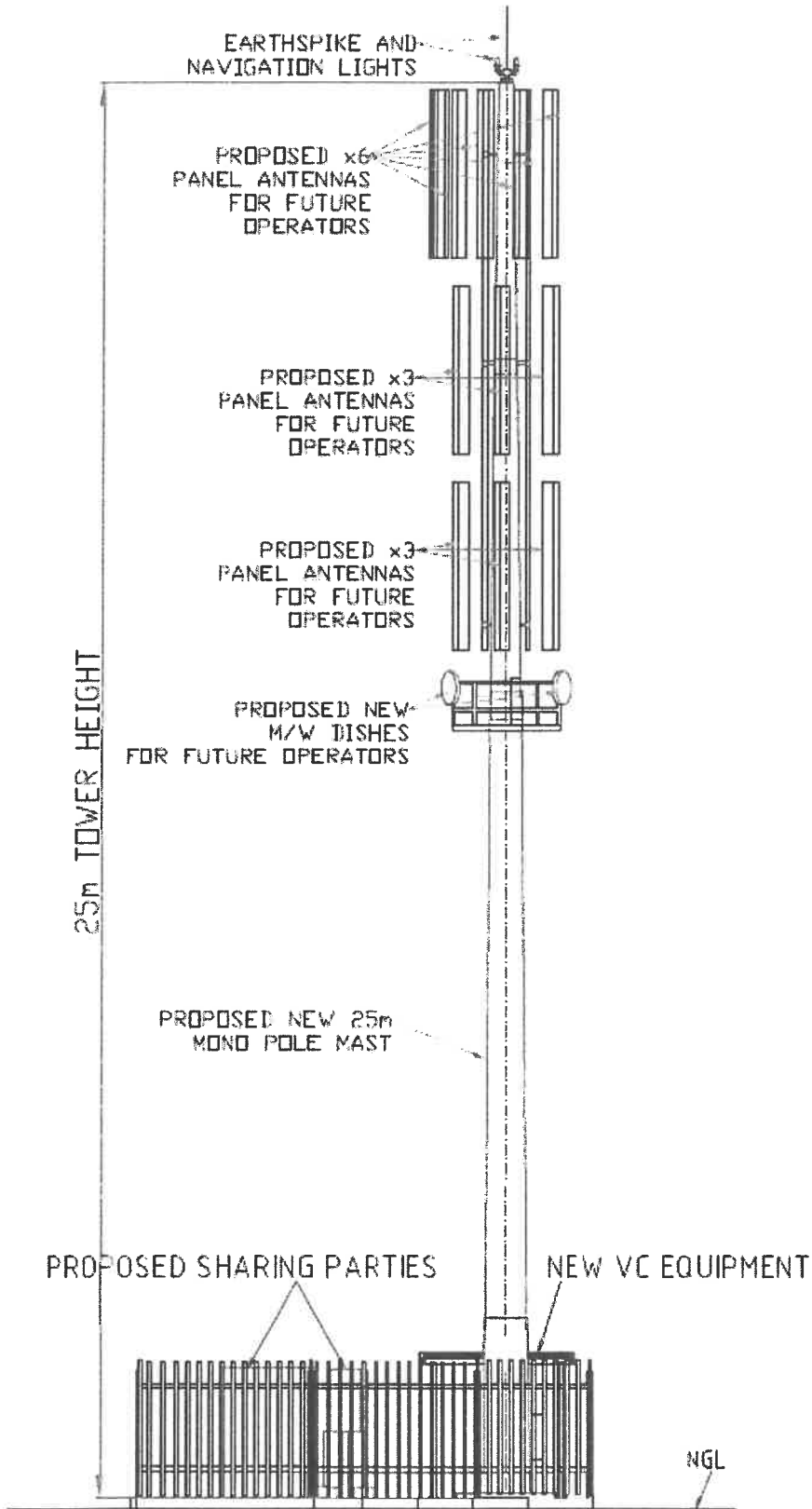
ANNEXURE 2: SITE PLAN



AVONDROOD

8001





ANNEXURE 3: REASONS FOR THE DECISION

In reaching its decision, the Competent Authority considered, *inter alia*, the following:

- a) The information contained in the Application Form submitted to the Department on 13 September 2018, the BAR dated November 2018 and the EMPr submitted together with the BAR on the same day;
- b) Relevant information contained in the Departmental information base, including the Guidelines on Public Participation and Alternatives (dated March 2013);
- c) The objectives and requirements of relevant legislation, policies and guidelines, including section 2 of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998);
- d) The comments received from I&APs and responses to these, included in the BAR, dated November 2018; and
- e) The balancing of negative and positive impacts and proposed mitigation measures.

No site visits were conducted. The competent authority had sufficient information before it to make an informed decision without conducting a site visit.

All information presented to the Competent Authority was taken into account in the consideration of the application for Environmental Authorisation. A summary of the issues that were considered to be the most significant for the decision is set out below.

1. Public Participation

The public participation process included:

- identification of and engagement with I&APs;
- giving written notice to the owners and occupiers of land adjacent to the site where the listed activity is to be undertaken, the municipality and ward councillor, and the various Organs of State having jurisdiction in respect of any aspect of the listed activity on 28 May 2018;
- fixing a notice board at the site where the listed activity is to be undertaken on 31 May 2018;
- the placing of a newspaper advertisement in "*The Standard*" on 31 May 2018,
- making the pre-application draft BAR available to I&APs from May 2018; and
- circulating the in-process draft BAR to I&APs for public review from 17 September 2018.

The Department is satisfied that the Public Participation Process that was followed met the minimum legal requirements and all the comments raised and responses thereto were included in the comments and response report.

Specific alternatives, management and mitigation measures have been considered in this Environmental Authorisation and EMPr to adequately address the concerns raised.

2. Alternatives

The following alternatives were considered for the construction of the telecommunication mast:

Design Alternative 1 (Herewith authorised):

The proposal entails the development of a 25m high monopole telecommunication mast and associated infrastructure on Farm No. 778, Avondrood, Rawsonville. The enclosure will be 59.5m² in extent and surrounded by a palisade fence. Adequate power supply is available and access to the site will be gained via an existing road.

This alternative is preferred for the following reasons:

- It provides the required network coverage and is more affordable to construct;
- It provides co-location opportunities, allowing multiple operators to use the same mast at the base station;
- It is visually acceptable; and
- It will not have a significant biophysical impact.

Design Alternative 2:

The proposal entails the development of a 25m high tree telecommunication mast and associated infrastructure on Farm No. 778, Avondrood, Rawsonville. The enclosure will be 59.5m² in extent and surrounded by a palisade fence. Adequate power supply is available and access to the site will be gained via an existing road.

This alternative was not preferred for the following reasons:

- The construction of a tree telecommunication mast will be visually more intrusive in comparison with the Design Alternative 1, since there are no tall trees in the vicinity. It will be more expensive to construct and the tree mast won't be able to accommodate more equipment, if future demand requires additional equipment.

Design Alternative 3:

The proposal entails the development of a 25m high lattice telecommunication mast and associated infrastructure on Farm No. 778, Avondrood, Rawsonville. The enclosure will be 59.5m² in extent and surrounded by a palisade fence. Adequate power supply is available and access to the site will be gained via an existing road.

This alternative was not preferred for the following reasons:

- The construction of a lattice telecommunication mast will be visually more intrusive and will be more expensive to construct.

"No-Go" Alternative

The "no-go" option was also investigated and was not preferred since there would be no contribution towards a more efficient and improved telecommunication network service in the area.

3. Impact Assessment and Mitigation measures

3.1 Activity need and desirability

The proposed development of the telecommunication base station will provide an improved and more reliable network coverage and communication service to the greater community in the area. The construction of the telecommunication base station is considered to provide essential services to the surrounding area.

3.2 Biophysical Impacts

The development of the telecommunication base station and associated infrastructure will be undertaken on Farm No. 778, Avondrood, Rawsonville, which historically contained Breede Alluvium Fynbos, which is an Endangered vegetation type. However, the area is heavily transformed with no natural vegetation remaining due to agricultural activities on the property. The proposed activities associated with the development of the telecommunication base station will be restricted to an area which is transformed and will not have a significant impact on biodiversity.

3.3 Visual Impacts

The design of the telecommunication base station will be a monopole type mast, to blend in better with the surrounding area and will be restricted to a height of 25m. The proposed site is surrounded by agricultural land uses and is located within the rural area of Rawsonville.

The potential impacts that may result from the proposed development will also be mitigated by the implementation of the EMPr.

The development will result in both negative and positive impacts.

Negative Impacts:

- The proposed development will result in construction related impacts such as dust and noise during the construction period.
- The telecommunication mast will have a visual impact on the area. However, these impacts will be mitigated to a satisfactory level.

Positive impacts:

- The development will provide temporary employment opportunities during the construction phase.
- The telecommunication mast will provide a wider and more reliable coverage for the network.
- The telecommunication mast allows for multiple service providers to attach and house their equipment thereby decreasing the need for additional communication masts in the area.

4. National Environmental Management Act Principles

The National Environmental Management Principles (set out in section 2 of the NEMA, which apply to the actions of all organs of state, serve as guidelines by reference to which any organ of state must exercise any function when taking any decision, and which must guide the interpretation, administration and implementation of any other law concerned with the protection or management of the environment), *inter alia*, provides for:

- the effects of decisions on all aspects of the environment to be taken into account;
- the consideration, assessment and evaluation of the social, economic and environmental impacts of activities (disadvantages and benefits), and for decisions to be appropriate in the light of such consideration and assessment;
- the co-ordination and harmonisation of policies, legislation and actions relating to the environment;
- the resolving of actual or potential conflicts of interest between organs of state through conflict resolution procedures; and
- the selection of the best practicable environmental option.

5. Conclusion

In view of the above, the NEMA principles, compliance with the conditions stipulated in this Environmental Authorisation, and compliance with the EMPr, the Competent Authority is satisfied that the proposed listed activity will not conflict with the general objectives of integrated environmental management stipulated in Chapter 5 of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998) and that any potentially detrimental environmental impacts resulting from the listed activity can be mitigated to acceptable levels.

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