

FINAL BASIC ASSESSMENT REPORT

PROPOSED COMMUNICATION MAST AND EQUIPMENT BUILDING ON PORTION 3 (STERHUIS) OF FARM WELGEVONDEN NO 218 STELLENBOSCH



**PREPARED BY JOHAN NEETHLING
August 2014**

**JOHAN NEETHLING ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES CC
P O BOX 16594, VLAEBERG, 8018
FAX 0865444868 Tel 021 4614386**



**Basic Assessment Report in terms of the NEMA Environmental Impact
Assessment Regulations, 2010**

AUGUST 2010

Kindly note that:

1. This **Basic Assessment Report** is the standard report required by DEA&DP in terms of the EIA Regulations, 2010 and must be completed for all Basic Assessment applications.
2. This report must be used in all instances for Basic Assessment applications for an environmental authorisation in terms of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998) (NEMA), as amended, and the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations, 2010, and/or a waste management licence in terms of the National Environmental Management: Waste Act, 2008 (Act 59 of 2008) (NEM: WA), and/or an atmospheric emission licence in terms of the National Environmental Management: Air Quality Act, 2004 (Act No. 39 of 2004) (NEM: AQA).
3. This report is current as of 2 August 2010. It is the responsibility of the Applicant / EAP to ascertain whether subsequent versions of the report have been published or produced by the competent authority.
4. The required information must be typed within the spaces provided in the report. The sizes of the spaces provided are not necessarily indicative of the amount of information to be provided. It is in the form of a table that will expand as each space is filled with typing.
5. Incomplete reports will be rejected. A rejected report may be amended and resubmitted.
6. The use of "not applicable" in the report must be done with circumspection. Where it is used in respect of material information that is required by the Department for assessing the application, this may result in the rejection of the report as provided for in the regulations.
7. **While the different sections of the report only provide space for provision of information related to one alternative, if more than one feasible and reasonable alternative is considered, the relevant section must be copied and completed for each alternative.**
8. Unless protected by law all information contained in, and attached to this report, will become public information on receipt by the competent authority. If information is not submitted with this report due to such information being protected by law, the applicant and/or EAP must declare such non-disclosure and provide the reasons for the belief that the information is protected.
9. This report must be submitted to the Department at the postal address given below or by delivery thereof to the Registry Office of the Department. No faxed or e-mailed reports will be accepted. **Please note that for waste management licence applications, this report must be submitted for the attention of the Department's Waste Management Directorate (tel: 021-483-2756 and fax: 021-483-4425) at the same postal address as the Cape Town Office Region A.**
10. Unless indicated otherwise, two electronic copies (CD/DVD) and three hard copies of this report must be submitted to the Department.

DEPARTMENTAL DETAILS

CAPE TOWN OFFICE REGION A (Cape Winelands, City of Cape Town: Tygerberg and Oostenberg Administrations)	CAPE TOWN OFFICE REGION B (West Coast, Overberg, City of Cape Town: Helderberg, South Peninsula, Cape Town and Blaauwberg Administrations)	GEORGE OFFICE (Eden and Central Karoo)
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<p>Department of Environmental Affairs and Development Planning Attention: Directorate: Integrated Environmental Management (Region A2) Private Bag X 9086 Cape Town, 8000</p> <p>Registry Office 1st Floor Utilitas Building 1 Dorp Street, Cape Town</p> <p>Queries should be directed to the Directorate: Integrated Environmental Management (Region A2) at: Tel: (021) 483-4793 Fax: (021) 483-3633</p>	<p>Department of Environmental Affairs and Development Planning Attention: Directorate: Integrated Environmental Management (Region B) Private Bag X 9086 Cape Town, 8000</p> <p>Registry Office 1st Floor Utilitas Building 1 Dorp Street, Cape Town</p> <p>Queries should be directed to the Directorate: Integrated Environmental Management (Region B) at: Tel: (021) 483-4094 Fax: (021) 483-4372</p>	<p>Department of Environmental Affairs and Development Planning Attention: Directorate: Integrated Environmental Management (Region A1) Private Bag X 6509 George, 6530</p> <p>Registry Office 4th Floor, York Park Building 93 York Street George</p> <p>Queries should be directed to the Directorate: Integrated Environmental Management (Region A1) at: Tel: (044) 805 8600 Fax: (044) 874-2423</p>
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View the Department's website [at http://www.capegateway.gov.za/eap](http://www.capegateway.gov.za/eap) for the latest version of this document.

DEPARTMENTAL REFERENCE NUMBER(S)

File reference number (EIA):	16/3/1/1/B4/45/1112/13
File reference number (Waste):	
File reference number (Other):	

PROJECT TITLE

Communication mast and stone clad equipment building on Portion 3 (Sterhuis) of Farm Welgevonden No 218, Stellenbosch

DETAILS OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT PRACTITIONER (EAP)

Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP):	Johan Neethling Environmental Services		
Contact person:	Johan Neethling		
Postal address:	P O Box 16594		
	VLAEBERG	Postal code:	8018
Telephone:	021 4614386	Cell:	0834493920
E-mail:	jneeth@mweb.co.za	Fax:	0865444868
EAP Qualifications	PhD Forestry, HonsB Publ Admin		
EAP Registrations/Associations	Member of IAIAAs, Founder member EAPASA		

Details of the EAP's expertise to carry out Basic Assessment procedures

Dr Johan Neethling – PhD in Forestry, member of the International Association of Impact Assessment, founding member of Environmental Assessment Practitioners Association of South Africa, ex-Chief Director of CapeNature, 40+ years experience in environmental management (including execution of more than 300 Basic Assessment/Scoping and EIA processes).

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY OF THE CONTENT OF THE BASIC ASSESSMENT REPORT:

INTRODUCTION

Johan Neethling Environmental Services was appointed as the independent Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP) responsible for facilitating the Basic Environmental Assessment process for a communication mast (34m high with a 3mx3m base) and stone clad equipment building of 8mx4mx2.5m within a fenced area of 14mx14m on Portion 3 (Sterhuis) of Farm Welgevonden No 218, Stellenbosch.

ENVIRONMENTAL LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

The National Environmental Management Act (NEMA, Act 107 of 1998) makes provision for the identification and assessment of activities that are potentially detrimental to the environment and which require authorisation from the competent authority (in this case, the Provincial Department of Environmental Affairs and Development Planning, DEA&DP) based on the findings of a BAR.

The following listed activity is triggered in terms of Listing Notice 3 (Government Notice R. 546)

No 3 The construction of masts or towers of any material or type used for telecommunication broadcasting or radio transmission purposes where the mast:
(a) is to be placed on a site not previously used for this purpose, and
(b) will exceed 15metres in height,
but excluding attachments to existing buildings and masts on rooftops.

SITE DESCRIPTION

The subject property is accessed from the Bottelary Road approximately 5km from the Kuils River Golf Course. The mast is proposed to be placed on one of the high points on the Bottelary Hills at a position near the survey beacon where a number of properties converge. The site is situated close to at least 6 other masts and their infrastructure within an alien pine plantation.

Figure 1 is an aerial map indicating the location of the site.



Soils

The Bottelary Hills consist of decomposed and weathered rock of the Malmesbury Group and the Cape Granite Suite with outcrops of the latter occurring near the site. The soil on the site is mainly from granitic origin.

Vegetation

The Stellenbosch Biodiversity summary map indicates the general area as having critically endangered vegetation interspersed with cultivated land with no natural vegetation remaining. There are cultivated vineyards close to the site. Three different types of vegetation - Swartland Shale Renosterveld, Swartland Granite Renosterveld (both of which are critically endangered vegetation types) and Boland Granite Fynbos (classified as an 'endangered' type of fynbos) occur in the larger area. From observations on site the location of the proposed mast was previously terraced and cultivated. Alien Pine trees were planted and proliferated on the terrace in question.

PLANNING CONTEXT

The site is zoned for agricultural purposes and the application is for a consent use.

SERVICES

The only external service needed is electricity and an Eskom power line services the site. There are more than 6 other communication masts in the general area.

PROCESS TO DATE

A public participation process (PPP) was undertaken in terms of Regulation 56 of NEMA (as amended): **Appendix E1**

- Newspaper Advertisement

Advertisements in Afrikaans and English, notifying the public of the project and the availability of the Draft Basic Assessment Report and requesting I&APs to register their comments, were placed in the Die Burger of 26 February 2014 and Cape Times of 28 February 2014, respectively. **Appendix E2**. No I&AP's responded to the newspaper advertisements.

- Site notice

In order to inform surrounding communities and immediately adjacent landowners of the proposed development, site notices were erected at the entrance to the farm on 26 February 2014. See photographic evidence under **Appendix E3**. No I&AP's responded to the notice boards.

- Draft BAR

The adjacent landowners, the local authority, ward councillor and relevant organs of state were registered as I&AP's. The draft BAR was made available to all the above plus the Department of Environmental Affairs and Development Planning for a comment period of 40 days with closing date of 28 May 2014. See **Appendix E4**

- Final BAR

The final BAR was made available to the local authority, the ward councillor, Department of Agriculture, Heritage Western Cape, CapeNature and adjacent landowners for a final comment period of 21 days.

See **Appendix E7**

ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT PROGRAMME

A Construction Phase Environmental Management Programme (CEMP) is required in terms of the amended NEMA. A CEMP was compiled and is attached as **Appendix H**

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The footprint of the site is small (14mx14m), situated on an old terrace and overgrown with alien pine trees. It was probably originally planted as a plantation but at present many young seedlings abound. The footprint of the proposed mast will have very little influence on the site and surrounding area and authorisation is recommended.

SECTION A: ACTIVITY INFORMATION

1. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

(a) Is the project a new development?	YES	NO
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(b) Provide a detailed description of the development project and associated infrastructure.

Formal application is made for the following:

A communication mast (34m high with a 3mx3m base) and stone clad equipment building of 8mx4mx2.5m within a fenced area of 14mx14m.

Zoning of property is Agricultural Zone 1 and consent use is applied for.

SG21 Digit code(s):
C05500000000021800003

(c) List all the activities assessed during the Basic Assessment process:

GN No. R. 544 Activity No(s):	Describe the relevant Basic Assessment Activity(ies) in writing as per Listing Notice 1 (GN No. R. 544)	Describe the portion of the development as per the project description that relates to the applicable listed activity.
	N/A	
GN No. R. 546 Activity No(s):	Describe the relevant Basic Assessment Activity(ies) in writing as per Listing Notice 3 (GN No. R. 546)	Describe the portion of the development as per the project description that relates to the applicable listed activity.
3	The construction of masts or towers of any material or type used for telecommunication broadcasting or radio transmission purposes where the mast: (a) is to be placed on a site not previously used for this purpose, and (b) will exceed 15metres in height, but excluding attachments to existing buildings and masts on rooftops.	100%

If the application is also for activities as per Listing Notice 2 and permission was granted to subject the application to Basic Assessment, also indicate the applicable Listing Notice 2 activities:

GN No. R. 545 Activity No(s):	If permission was granted in terms of Regulation 20, describe the relevant Scoping and EIA Activity(ies) in writing as per Listing Notice 2 (GN No. R. 545)	Describe the portion of the development as per the project description that relates to the applicable listed activity.
	N/A	

Waste management activities in terms of the NEM: WA (Government Gazette No. 32368):

GN No. 718 - Category A Activity No(s):	Describe the relevant <u>Category A</u> waste management activity in writing.
	N/A

Please note: If any waste management activities are applicable, the **Listed Waste Management Activities Additional Information Annexure** must be completed and attached to this Basic Assessment Report as **Appendix I**.

If the application is also for waste management activities as per Category B and permission was granted to subject the application to Basic Assessment, also indicate the applicable Category B activities:

GN No. 718 – Category B Activity No(s):	Describe the relevant <u>Category B</u> waste management activity in writing.
	N/A

Atmospheric emission activities in terms of the NEM: AQA (Government Gazette No. 33064):

GN No. 248 Activity No(s):	Describe the relevant atmospheric emission activity in writing.
	N/A

(d) Please provide details of all components of the proposed project and attach diagrams (e.g. architectural drawings or perspectives, engineering drawings, process flow charts etc.).

Buildings	YES	NO
Provide brief description:		
The proposed development makes provision for a stone clad equipment building of 8mx4mx2.5m high within a fenced area of 14mx14m.		
Infrastructure (e.g. roads, power and water supply/ storage)	YES	NO
Provide brief description:		
An existing farm road services the area where this proposed mast is to be erected. There are a number of other masts in the vicinity. Power connections will be obtained from an existing Eskom power line servicing the site.		
Processing activities (e.g. manufacturing, storage, distribution)	YES	NO
Provide brief description:		
Storage facilities for raw materials and products (e.g. volume and substances to be stored)		
Provide brief description	YES	NO
Storage and treatment facilities for solid waste and effluent generated by the project	Yes	No
Provide brief description		
Other activities (e.g. water abstraction activities, crop planting activities)		
Provide brief description	Yes	No

2. PHYSICAL SIZE OF THE ACTIVITY

	Size of the property:
(a) Indicate the size of the property (cadastral unit) on which the activity is to be undertaken.	14mx14m
	Size of the facility:
(b) Indicate the size of the facility (development area) on which the activity is to be undertaken.	14mx14m
	Size of the activity:
(c) Indicate the physical size (footprint) of the activity together with its associated infrastructure:	3mx3m (base of mast) and 8mx4mx2.5m (equipment building)
(d) Indicate the physical size (footprint) of the activity:	14mx14m
(e) Indicate the physical size (footprint) of the associated infrastructure:	Small trench of about 20m for power supply. No other associated infrastructure outside the 14mx14m area.

and, for linear activities:

	Length of the activity:
(f) Indicate the length of the activity: N/A	m

3. SITE ACCESS

(a) Is there an existing access road?	YES	NO
(b) If no, what is the distance over which a new access road will be built?		m

(c) Describe the type of access road planned:

Please Note: indicate the position of the proposed access road on the site plan.

4. DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPERTY ON WHICH THE ACTIVITY IS TO BE UNDERTAKEN AND THE LOCATION OF THE ACTIVITY ON THE PROPERTY

(a) Provide a description of the property on which the activity is to be undertaken and the location of the activity on the property.

The subject property is accessed from the Bottelary Road approximately 5km from the Kuils River Golf Course. The mast is proposed to be placed on one of the high points on the Bottelary Hills at a position close to the survey beacon where a number of properties converge. The site is situated close to at least 6 other masts and their infrastructure within an alien pine plantation. The latter will be cleared to accommodate the footprint of 14mx14m.

(b) Please provide a **location map** (see below) as **Appendix A** to this report which shows the location of the property and the location of the activity on the property; as well as a **site map** (see below) as **Appendix B** to this report; and if applicable all alternative properties and locations.

Locality map:	<p>The scale of the locality map must be at least 1:50 000. For linear activities of more than 25 kilometres, a smaller scale e.g. 1:250 000 can be used. The scale must be indicated on the map. The map must indicate the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • an accurate indication of the project site position as well as the positions of the alternative sites, if any; • road names or numbers of all the major roads as well as the roads that provide access to the site(s) • a north arrow; • a legend; • the prevailing wind direction (during November to April and during May to October); and • GPS co-ordinates (Indicate the position of the activity using the latitude and longitude of the centre point of the site for each alternative site. The co-ordinates should be in degrees and decimal minutes. The minutes should have at least three decimals to ensure adequate accuracy. The projection that must be used in all cases is the WGS84 spheroid in a national or local projection).
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Site Plan:	<p>Detailed site plan(s) must be prepared for each alternative site or alternative activity. The site plan must contain or conform to the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The detailed site plan must be at a scale preferably at a scale of 1:500 or at an appropriate scale. The scale must be indicated on the plan. • The property boundaries and numbers of all the properties within 50m of the site must be indicated on the site plan. • The current land use (not zoning) as well as the land use zoning of each of the adjoining properties must be indicated on the site plan. • The position of each element of the application as well as any other structures on the site must be indicated on the site plan. • Services, including electricity supply cables (indicate above or underground), water supply pipelines, boreholes, sewage pipelines, storm water infrastructure and access roads that will form part of the development must be indicated on the site plan. • Servitudes indicating the purpose of the servitude must be indicated on the site plan. • Sensitive environmental elements within 100m of the site must be included on the site plan, including (but not limited to): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Rivers. ○ Flood lines (i.e. 1:10, 1:50, year and 32 meter set back line from the banks of a river/stream). ○ Ridges. ○ Cultural and historical features. ○ Areas with indigenous vegetation (even if it is degraded or infested with alien species).
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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Whenever the slope of the site exceeds 1:10, then a contour map of the site must be submitted.
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(c) For a linear activity, please also provide a description of the route.

N/A

Indicate the position of the activity using the latitude and longitude of the centre point of the site. The co-ordinates must be in degrees, minutes and seconds. The minutes should be given to at least three decimals to ensure adequate accuracy. The projection that must be used in all cases is the WGS84 spheroid in a national or local projection.	Latitude (S):			Longitude (E):		
	33°	54'	29.15"	18°	46'	39.52"

(d) or:

For linear activities:	Latitude (S):			Longitude (E):		
• Starting point of the activity	o	'	"	o	'	"
• Middle point of the activity	o	'	"	o	'	"
• End point of the activity	o	'	"	o	'	"

Please Note: For linear activities that are longer than 500m, please provide an addendum with co-ordinates taken every 100 meters along the route.

5. SITE PHOTOGRAPHS

Colour photographs of the site and its surroundings (taken of the site and from the site) with a description of each photograph. The vantage points from which the photographs were taken must be indicated on the site plan, or locality plan as applicable. If available, please also provide a recent aerial photograph. [Photographs](#) must be attached as [Appendix C](#) to this report. It should be supplemented with additional photographs of relevant features on the site. Date of photographs must be included. Please note that the above requirements must be duplicated for all alternative sites.

SECTION B: DESCRIPTION OF RECEIVING ENVIRONMENT

Site/Area Description

For linear activities (pipelines, etc.) as well as activities that cover very large sites, it may be necessary to complete copies of this section for each part of the site that has a significantly different environment. In such cases please complete copies of Section B and indicate the area which is covered by each copy No. on the Site Plan.

1. GRADIENT OF THE SITE

Indicate the general gradient of the sites (highlight the appropriate box).

Flat	Flatter than 1:10	<u>1:10 – 1:4</u>	Steeper than 1:4
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2. LOCATION IN LANDSCAPE

(a) Indicate the landform(s) that best describes the site (highlight the appropriate box(es)).

Ridgeline	Plateau	<u>Side slope of hill/mountain</u>	Closed valley	Open valley	Plain	Undulating plain/low hills	Dune	Sea-front
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(b) Please provide a description of the location in the landscape.

Near the top of the Bottelary Hills.

3. GROUNDWATER, SOIL AND GEOLOGICAL STABILITY OF THE SITE

(a) Is the site(s) located on or near any of the following (highlight the appropriate boxes)?

Shallow water table (less than 1.5m deep)	YES	<u>NO</u>	UNSURE
Seasonally wet soils (often close to water bodies)	YES	<u>NO</u>	UNSURE
Unstable rocky slopes or steep slopes with loose soil	YES	<u>NO</u>	UNSURE
Dispersive soils (soils that dissolve in water)	YES	<u>NO</u>	UNSURE
Soils with high clay content	YES	<u>NO</u>	UNSURE
Any other unstable soil or geological feature	YES	<u>NO</u>	UNSURE
An area sensitive to erosion	YES	<u>NO</u>	UNSURE
An area adjacent to or above an aquifer.	YES	<u>NO</u>	UNSURE
An area within 100m of the source of surface water	YES	<u>NO</u>	UNSURE

(b) If any of the answers to the above are "YES" or "unsure", specialist input may be requested by the Department. (Information in respect of the above will often be available at the planning sections of local authorities. Where it exists, the 1:50 000 scale Regional Geotechnical Maps prepared by Geological Survey may also be used).

(c) Please indicate the type of geological formation underlying the site.

<u>Granite</u>	Shale	Sandstone	Quartzite	Dolomite	Dolorite	Other Dune sands
Please provide a description.						
<u>The Bottelary Hills consist of decomposed and weathered rock of the Malmesburty Group or the Cape Granite Suite with outcrops of the latter occurring near the site. The soil on the site is mainly from granitic origin.</u>						

4. SURFACE WATER

(a) Indicate the surface water present on and or adjacent to the site and alternative sites (highlight the appropriate boxes)?

Perennial River	YES	<u>NO</u>	UNSURE
Non-Perennial River	YES	<u>NO</u>	UNSURE
Permanent Wetland	YES	<u>NO</u>	UNSURE
Seasonal Wetland	YES	<u>NO</u>	UNSURE
Artificial Wetland	YES	<u>NO</u>	UNSURE
Estuarine / Lagoonal wetland	YES	<u>NO</u>	UNSURE

(b) Please provide a description.

The site is on a steep slope near the top of the Bottelary Hills and no water features occur on site.

5. BIODIVERSITY

Please note: The Department may request specialist input/studies depending on the nature of the biodiversity occurring on the site and potential impact(s) of the proposed activity/ies. To assist with the identification of the biodiversity occurring on site and the ecosystem status consult <http://bgis.sanbi.org> or BGIShelp@sanbi.org. Information is also available on compact disc (cd) from the Biodiversity-GIS Unit, Ph (021) 799 8698. This information may be updated from time to time and it is the applicant/ EAP's responsibility to ensure that the latest version is used. A map of the relevant biodiversity information (including an indication of the habitat conditions as per (b) below) and must be provided as an overlay map to the property/site plan as **Appendix D** to this report.

(a) Highlight the applicable biodiversity planning categories of all areas on site and indicate the reason(s) provided in the biodiversity plan for the selection of the specific area as part of the specific category).

Systematic Biodiversity Planning Category				If CBA or ESA, indicate the reason(s) for its selection in biodiversity plan
Critical Biodiversity Area (CBA)	Ecological Support Area (ESA)	Other Natural Area (ONA)	No Natural Area Remaining (NNR)	The Stellenbosch Biodiversity summary map indicates the general area as having critically endangered vegetation interspersed with cultivated land with no natural vegetation remaining. There are cultivated vineyards close to the site. Three different types of vegetation - Swartland Shale Renosterveld, Swartland Granite Renosterveld (both of which are critically endangered vegetation types) and Boland Granite Fynbos (classified as an 'endangered' type of fynbos) occur in the larger area. From observations on site the location of the proposed mast was previously terraced and cultivated. Alien Pines were planted and took over after cultivation was stopped with no natural vegetation remaining.

(b) Highlight and describe the habitat condition on site.

Habitat Condition	Percentage of habitat condition class (adding up to 100%)	Description and additional Comments and Observations (including additional insight into condition, e.g. poor land management practises, presence of quarries, grazing/harvesting regimes etc).
Natural		
Near Natural (includes areas with low to moderate level of alien invasive plants)		
Degraded (includes areas heavily invaded by alien plants)		
Transformed (includes cultivation, dams, urban, plantation, roads, etc)	100%	The area was previously terraced for cultivation and subsequently planted with pine trees (<i>Pinus radiata</i>). The trees became invasive and no natural vegetation remains on the footprint area of the mast.)

(c) Complete the table to indicate:
 (i) the type of vegetation, including its ecosystem status, present on the site; and
 (ii) whether an aquatic ecosystem is present on site.

Terrestrial Ecosystems		Aquatic Ecosystems						
Ecosystem threat status as per the National Environmental Management: Biodiversity Act (Act No. 10 of 2004)	Critical	Wetland (including rivers, depressions, channelled and unchannelled wetlands, flats, seeps pans, and artificial wetlands)			Estuary		Coastline	
	Endangered							
	Vulnerable							
	Least Threatened							
		YES	NO	UNSURE	YES	NO	YES	NO

(d) Please provide a description of the vegetation type and/or aquatic ecosystem present on site, including any important biodiversity features/information identified on site (e.g. threatened species and special habitats)

The Stellenbosch Biodiversity summary map indicates the general area as having critically endangered vegetation interspersed with cultivated land with no natural vegetation remaining. There are cultivated vineyards close to the site. Three different types of vegetation - Swartland Shale Renosterveld, Swartland Granite Renosterveld (both of which are critically endangered vegetation types) and Boland Granite Fynbos (classified as an 'endangered' type of fynbos) occur in the larger area.

From observations on site the location of the proposed mast was previously terraced and cultivated. Alien Pines were planted which took over after cultivation was stopped. There is no remaining natural vegetation on the site itself.

So, while the remaining natural vegetation types of the Bottelary Hills are classified as critically endangered, the site itself has no remaining natural vegetation and is thus least threatened.

6. LAND USE OF THE SITE

Please note: The Department may request specialist input/studies depending on the nature of the land use character of the area and potential impact(s) of the proposed activity/ies.

<u>Untransformed area</u> <u>Vacant plot</u>	Low density residential	Medium density residential	High density residential	Informal residential
Retail	Commercial & warehousing (derelict)	Light industrial	Medium industrial	Heavy industrial
Power station	Office/consulting room	Military or police base/station/compound	Casino/entertainment complex	Tourism & Hospitality facility (derelict)
Open cast mine	Underground mine	Spoil heap or slimes dam	Quarry, sand or borrow pit	Dam or reservoir
Hospital/medical center	School	Tertiary education facility	Church	Old age home
Sewage treatment plant	Train station or shunting yard	Railway line	Major road (4 lanes or more)	Airport
Harbour	Sport facilities	Golf course	Polo fields	Filling station
Landfill or waste treatment site	<u>Plantation</u>	<u>Agriculture</u>	River, stream or wetland	Nature conservation area
<u>Mountain, koppie or ridge</u>	Museum	Historical building	Graveyard	Archaeological site
Other land uses (describe):				

(a) Please provide a description.

The mast is proposed to be placed on a slope close to the top of the Bottelary Hills at a position near the survey beacon where a number of properties converge. The site is situated close to at least 6 other masts and their infrastructure, within an alien pine plantation. The latter was clear felled in the immediate vicinity of the proposed mast. The site was previously terraced for agricultural use and not natural vegetation remains on the site.

7. LAND USE CHARACTER OF SURROUNDING AREA

(a) Highlight the current land uses and/or prominent features that occur within +/- 500m radius of the site and neighbouring properties if these are located beyond 500m of the site.

Please note: The Department may request specialist input/studies depending on the nature of the land use character of the area and potential impact(s) of the proposed activity/ies.

<u>Untransformed area</u> <u>Vacant plots</u>	Low density residential	Medium density residential	High density residential	Informal residential
Retail	Commercial & warehousing	Light industrial	Medium industrial	Heavy industrial
Power station	Office/consulting room	Military or police base/station/compound	Casino/entertainment complex	Tourism & Hospitality facility

Open cast mine	Underground mine	Spoil heap or slimes dam	Quarry, sand or borrow pit	Dam or reservoir
Hospital/medical center	School	Tertiary education facility	Church	Old age home
Sewage treatment plant	Train station or shunting yard	Railway line	Major road (4 lanes or more)	Airport
Harbour	Sport facilities	Golf course	Polo fields	Filling station
Landfill or waste treatment site	Plantation	Agriculture	River, stream or wetland	Nature conservation area
Mountain, koppie or ridge	Museum	Historical building	Graveyard	Archaeological site
Other land uses (describe):				

(b) Please provide a description, including the distance and direction to the nearest residential area and industrial area.

[Near the top of the Bottellary Hills with no residential or industrial areas in the vicinity](#)

8. SOCIO-ECONOMIC ASPECTS

Describe the existing social and economic characteristics of the community in order to provide baseline information.

[The Bottellary area is a farming community with vineyards as the main component.](#)

9. HISTORICAL AND CULTURAL ASPECTS

(a) Please be advised that if section 38 of the National Heritage Resources Act, 1999 (Act No. 25 of 1999), is applicable to your proposed development, then you are requested to furnish this Department with written comment from Heritage Western Cape as part of your public participation process. Section 38 of the Act states as follows: "38. (1) Subject to the provisions of subsections (7), (8) and (9), any person who intends to undertake a development categorised as-

- (a) the construction of a road, wall, power line, pipeline, canal or other similar form of linear development or barrier exceeding 300m in length;
 - (b) the construction of a bridge or similar structure exceeding 50m in length;
 - l any development or other activity which will change the character of a site-
 - (i) exceeding 5 000 m2 in extent; or
 - (ii) involving three or more existing erven or subdivisions thereof; or
 - (iii) involving three or more erven or divisions thereof which have been consolidated within the past five years; or
 - (iv) the costs of which will exceed a sum set in terms of regulations by SAHRA or a provincial heritage resources authority;
 - (d) the re-zoning of a site exceeding 10 000 m2 in extent; or
 - (e) any other category of development provided for in regulations by SAHRA or a provincial heritage resources authority,
- must at the very earliest stages of initiating such a development, notify the responsible heritage resources authority and furnish it with details regarding the location, nature and extent of the proposed development."

(b) The impact on any national estate referred to in section 3(2), excluding the national estate contemplated in section 3(2)(i)(vi) and (vii), of the National Heritage Resources Act, 1999 (Act No. 25 of 1999), must also be investigated, assessed and evaluated. Section 3(2) states as follows: "3(2) Without limiting the generality of subsection (1), the national estate may include—

- (a) places, buildings, structures and equipment of cultural significance;
- (b) places to which oral traditions are attached or which are associated with living heritage;
- l historical settlements and townscapes;
- (d) landscapes and natural features of cultural significance;
- (e) geological sites of scientific or cultural importance;
- (f) archaeological and palaeontological sites;
- (g) graves and burial grounds, including—
 - (i) ancestral graves;
 - (ii) royal graves and graves of traditional leaders;

- (iii) graves of victims of conflict;
- (iv) graves of individuals designated by the Minister by notice in the Gazette;
- (v) historical graves and cemeteries; and
- (vi) other human remains which are not covered in terms of the Human Tissue Act, 1983 (Act No. 65 of 1983);
- (h) sites of significance relating to the history of slavery in South Africa;
- (i) movable objects, including—
 - (i) objects recovered from the soil or waters of South Africa, including archaeological and palaeontological objects and material, meteorites and rare geological specimens;
 - (ii) objects to which oral traditions are attached or which are associated with living heritage;
 - (iii) ethnographic art and objects;
 - (iv) military objects;
 - (v) objects of decorative or fine art;
 - (vi) objects of scientific or technological interest; and
 - (vii) books, records, documents, photographic positives and negatives, graphic, film or video material or sound recordings, excluding those that are public records as defined in section 1(xiv) of the National Archives of South Africa Act, 1996 (Act No. 43 of 1996)."

Is section 38 of the National Heritage Resources Act, 1999, applicable to the development?			NO
If YES, explain:	The Draft Basic Assessment Report was circulated to Heritage Western Cape and they requested a Notice of Intend to Develop. This was delivered on 12 June 2014. No further action was requested by HWC.		
Will the development impact on any national estate referred to in section 3(2) of the National Heritage Resources Act, 1999?			NO
If YES, explain:			
Will any building or structure older than 60 years be affected in any way?			NO
If YES, explain:			

Please Note: If uncertain, the Department may request that specialist input be provided.

10. APPLICABLE LEGISLATION, POLICIES AND/OR GUIDELINES

- (a) Please list all legislation, policies and/or guidelines that have been considered in the preparation of this Basic Assessment Report.

LEGISLATION	ADMINISTERING AUTHORITY	TYPE Permit/ license/ authorisation/comment / relevant consideration (e.g. rezoning or consent use, building plan approval)	DATE (if already obtained):
NEMA R546	DEADP	Environmental Authorisation	This application
Land Use Planning Ordinance, 1985	Stellenbosch Municipality	Consent use	Pending
POLICY/ GUIDELINES		ADMINISTERING AUTHORITY	
Guidelines to Alternatives March 2013		DEA&DP	
Guideline on Transitional Arrangements (March 2013).		DEA&DP	
Guidelines on Need and Desirability March 2013		DEA&DP	
Guidelines on Public Participation March 2013		DEA&DP	
Guidelines to Management Plans June 2005		DEA&DP	
Guideline on Communication Infrastructure 2001		DEA&DP	
Guideline on Exemption Applications (March 2013).		DEA&DP	

Generic Terms of Reference for EAPs and Project Schedules (March 2013).	DEA&DP
Guideline for the Management of Development on Mountains, Hills and Ridges in the Western Cape 2002	DEA&DP

(b) Please describe how the legislation, policies and/or guidelines were taken into account in the preparation of this Basic Assessment Report.

LEGISLATION / POLICY / GUIDELINE	DESCRIBE HOW THE LEGISLATION / POLICY / GUIDELINE WERE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT (e.g. describe the extent to which it was adhered to, or deviated from, etc).
Stellenbosch Biodiversity summary map	Determine status of vegetation on site
Guidelines on Public Participation March 2013	Public Participation Process
Guidelines to Alternatives March 2013	Presentation of alternatives
Guidelines on Specialists	Assessing need for specialist input in the proposed development
Guidelines on Need and Desirability March 2013	Assessing the need and desirability of the proposed development
Guidelines to Management Plans June 2005	Drafting Environmental Management Plan for project
Guideline on Exemption Applications (March 2013).	To determine validity of applying for exemption.
Guideline on Communication Infrastructure 2001	To determine criteria for these towers.
Guideline for the Management of Development on Mountains, Hills and Ridges in the Western Cape 2002	To determine the key decision making criteria for development in these areas.

Please note: Copies of any permit(s) or licences received from any other organ of state must be attached this report as **Appendix E**.

SECTION C: PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

The public participation process must fulfil the requirements outlined in NEMA, the EIA Regulations, and if applicable the NEM: WA and/or the NEM: AQA. This Department's *Guideline on Public Participation* (August 2010) and *Guideline on Exemption Applications* (August 2010), both of which are available on the Department's website (<http://www.capegateway.gov.za/eadp>), must also be taken into account.

Please highlight the appropriate box to indicate whether the specific requirement was undertaken or whether there was a deviation that was agreed to by the Department.

1. Were all potential interested and affected parties notified of the application by –		
(a) fixing a notice board at a place conspicuous to the public at the boundary or on the fence of –		
(i) the site where the activity to which the application relates is to be undertaken; and	YES	DEVIATED
(ii) any alternative site mentioned in the application;	N/A	DEVIATED
(b) giving written notice to –		
(i) the owner or person in control of that land if the applicant is not the owner or person in control of the land;		N/A
(ii) the occupiers of the site where the activity is to be undertaken and to any alternative site where the activity is to be undertaken;	YES	DEVIATED
(iii) owners and occupiers of land adjacent to the site where the activity is to be undertaken and to any alternative site where the activity is to be undertaken;	YES	DEVIATED
(iv) the municipal councillor of the ward in which the site and alternative site is situated and any organisation of ratepayers that represent the community in the area;	YES	DEVIATED
(v) the municipality which has jurisdiction in the area;	YES	DEVIATED

(vi) any organ of state having jurisdiction in respect of any aspect of the activity; and	YES	DEVIATED
(vii) any other party as required by the competent authority;	YES	DEVIATED
I placing an advertisement in -		
(i) one* local newspaper; and	YES	DEVIATED
(ii) any official Gazette that is published specifically for the purpose of providing public notice of applications or other submissions made in terms of these Regulations;	YES	DEVIATED N/A
(d) placing an advertisement in at least one* provincial newspaper or national newspaper, if the activity has or may have an impact that extends beyond the boundaries of the metropolitan or local municipality in which it is or will be undertaken.	YES	DEVIATED N/A

* **Please note:** In terms of the NEM: WA and NEM: AQA a notice must be placed in at least two newspapers circulating in the area in which the activity applied for is to be carried out.

2. Provide a list of all the state departments that were consulted: CapeNature Provincial Dept. of Agriculture Heritage Western Cape

3. Please provide an overall summary of the Public Participation Process that was followed. (The detailed outcomes of this process must be included in a comments and response report to be attached to the final Basic Assessment Report (see note below) as Appendix E .
A public participation process (PPP) was undertaken in terms of Regulation 56 of NEMA (as amended): Appendix E1 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Newspaper Advertisement Advertisements in Afrikaans and English, notifying the public of the project and the availability of the Draft Basic Assessment Report and requesting I&APs to register their comments, were placed in the Die Burger of 26 February 2014 and Cape Times of 28 February 2014, respectively. Appendix E2. No I&AP's responded to the newspaper advertisements. Site notice In order to inform surrounding communities and immediately adjacent landowners of the proposed development, site notices were erected at the entrance to the farm on 26 February 2014. See photographic evidence under Appendix E3. No I&AP's responded to the notice boards. Draft BAR The adjacent landowners, the local authority, ward councillor and relevant organs of state were registered as I&AP's. The draft BAR was made available to all the above plus the Department of Environmental Affairs and Development Planning for a comment period of 40 days with closing date of 28 May 2014. See Appendix E4 Final BAR The final BAR was made available to the local authority, the ward councillor, Department of Agriculture, Heritage Western Cape, CapeNature and adjacent landowners for a final comment period of 21 days. <p>See Appendix E7</p>

Please note:

Should any of the responses be "No" and no deviation or exemption from that requirement was requested and agreed to /granted by the Department, the Basic Assessment Report will be rejected.

A list of all the potential interested and affected parties, including the organs of State, notified and a list of all the register of interested and affected parties, must be submitted with the final Basic Assessment Report. The list of registered interested and affected parties must be opened, maintained and made available to any person requesting access to the register in writing.

The draft Basic Assessment Report must be submitted to the Department before it is made available to interested and affected parties, including the relevant organs of State and State

departments which have jurisdiction with regard to any aspect of the activity, for a 40-day commenting period. With regard to State departments, the 40-day period commences the day after the date on which the Department as the competent/licensing authority requests such State department in writing to submit comment. The applicant/EAP is therefore required to inform this Department in writing when the draft Basic Assessment Report will be made available to the relevant State departments for comment. Upon receipt of the Draft Basic Assessment Report and this confirmation, this Department will in accordance with Section 24O(2) and (3) of the NEMA request the relevant State departments to comment on the draft report within 40 days.

All comments of interested and affected parties on the draft Basic Assessment Report must be recorded, responded to and included in the Comments and Responses Report included as **Appendix F** to the final Basic Assessment Report. If necessary, any amendments in response to comments received must be effected in the Basic Assessment Report itself. The Comments and Responses Report must also include a description of the public participation process followed.

The final Basic Assessment Report must be made available to registered interested and affected parties for comment before submitting it to the Department for consideration. Unless otherwise indicated by the Department, a final Basic Assessment Report must be made available to the registered interested and affected parties for comment for a minimum of 21-days. Comments on the final Basic Assessment Report does not have to be responded to, but the comments must be attached to the final Basic Assessment Report.

The minutes of any meetings held by the EAP with interested and affected parties and other role players which record the views of the participants must also be submitted as part of the public participation information to be attached to the final Basic Assessment Report as **Appendix F**.

Proof of all the notices given as indicated, as well as of notice to the interested and affected parties of the availability of the draft Basic Assessment Report and final Basic Assessment Report must be submitted as part of the public participation information to be attached to the final Basic Assessment Report as **Appendix F**.

SECTION D: NEED AND DESIRABILITY

Please Note: Before completing this section, first consult this Department's *Guideline on Need and Desirability* (August 2010) available on the Department's website (<http://www.capegateway.gov.za/eadp>).

1. Is the activity permitted in terms of the property's existing land use rights?	YES	<u>NO</u>	Please explain
Application for consent use			
2. Will the activity be in line with the following?			
(a) Provincial Spatial Development Framework (PSDF)	<u>YES</u>	NO	Please explain
The SDP makes provision for this type of consent use.			

(b) Urban edge / Edge of Built environment for the area	YES	NO	Please explain
The urban edge for the built environment is not applicable in this instance.			
(c) Integrated Development Plan and Spatial Development Framework of the Local Municipality (e.g. would the approval of this application compromise the integrity of the existing approved and credible municipal IDP and SDF?).	YES	NO	Please explain
The approval of this activity will <i>not</i> compromise the integrity of the existing environmental management priorities for the area			
(d) Approved Structure Plan of the Municipality	YES	NO	Please explain
N/A			
(e) An Environmental Management Framework (EMF) adopted by the Department (e.g. Would the approval of this application compromise the integrity of the existing environmental management priorities for the area and if so, can it be justified in terms of sustainability considerations?)	YES	NO	Please explain
The approval of this activity will <i>not</i> compromise the integrity of the existing environmental management priorities for the area.			
(f) Any other Plans (e.g. Guide Plan)	YES	NO	Please explain

3. Is the land use (associated with the activity being applied for) considered within the timeframe intended by the existing approved Spatial Development Framework (SDF) agreed to by the relevant environmental authority (i.e. is the proposed development in line with the projects and programmes identified as priorities within the credible IDP)?	YES	NO	Please explain
Communication infrastructure is considered an important development tool.			
4. Should development, or if applicable, expansion of the town/area concerned in terms of this land use (associated with the activity being applied for) occur here at this point in time?	YES	NO	Please explain
Modern communication infrastructure can only be placed in a limited number of locations.			
5. Does the community/area need the activity and the associated land use concerned (is it a societal priority)? (This refers to the strategic as well as local level (e.g. development is a national priority, but within a specific local context it could be inappropriate.)	YES	NO	Please explain
An additional communication mast was identified as a necessity to improve people's access to electronic communication in the area.			

6. Are the necessary services with adequate capacity currently available (at the time of application), or must additional capacity be created to cater for the development? (Confirmation by the relevant Municipality in this regard must be attached to the final Basic Assessment Report)	YES	NO	Please explain
Eskom supplies the electricity and bulk supply is available on site.			
7. Is this development provided for in the infrastructure planning of the municipality, and if not what will the implication be on the infrastructure planning of the municipality (priority and placement of services and opportunity costs)? (Comment by the relevant Municipality in this regard must be attached to the final Basic Assessment Report)	YES	NO	Please explain
Farm road services the area			
8. Is this project part of a national programme to address an issue of national concern or importance?	YES	NO	Please explain
9. Do location factors favour this land use (associated with the activity applied for) at this place? (This relates to the contextualisation of the proposed land use on this site within its broader context.)	YES	NO	Please explain
The proposed development is not out of character with the land use and character of the surrounding environment. There are a number of other masts in the immediate vicinity			
10. How will the activity or the land use associated with the activity applied for, impact on sensitive natural and cultural areas (built and rural/natural environment)?	YES	NO	Please explain
The development will have no impact on cultural resources. Heritage Western Cape did not comment on the Draft Basic Assessment Report.			
The proposed mast will be placed on a terraced area within a pine plantation. No impact on natural features.			
11. How will the development impact on people's health and wellbeing (e.g. in terms of noise, odours, visual character and sense of place, etc)?	YES	NO	Please explain
The proposed mast will be situated in a remote area away from human habitation. It is not expected to have any negative impact on people's health and wellbeing.			
12. Will the proposed activity or the land use associated with the activity applied for, result in unacceptable opportunity costs?	YES	NO	Please explain
Approval of the mast will not deprive society of other opportunities or pass any opportunity costs onto society.			
13. What will the cumulative impacts (positive and negative) of the proposed land use associated with the activity applied for, be?	YES	NO	Please explain
The small amount of additional power drawn from the existing Eskom power line is negligible and the positive impact will be improved access to communication infrastructure to the community.			

14. Is the development the best practicable environmental option for this land/site?	YES	NO	Please explain
<p>The no-go option will maintain the <i>status quo</i> with no impact on the micro environment of the site. This is however not the best practical option as the site is in an altered state and development will improve the communication situation and bring positive outcomes to the surrounding community.</p>			
15. What will the benefits be to society in general and to the local communities?	Please explain		
<p>The proposed development's positive impact will be improved access to communication infrastructure to the community.</p>			
16. Any other need and desirability considerations related to the proposed activity?	Please explain		

(17) Please describe how the general objectives of Integrated Environmental Management as set out in section 23 of NEMA have been taken into account:

The objectives are met by incorporating the principles of integrated environmental management set out in point 18 below. Mitigation measures (stone clad equipment building) have been included here in the development to minimise negative impacts.

A full public participation process was undertaken to include the interests of the community.

(18) Please describe how the principles of environmental management as set out in section 2 of NEMA have been taken into account:

The area is situated within a pine plantation minimising the impact on natural vegetation. The immediate area around the footprint fence of 14mx14m will be cleared of alien trees and the natural vegetation allowed to regrow. This will assist in the long term conservation of the endangered veld type.

The Environmental Management Plan addresses construction activity issues to reduce impacts.

The area is fairly high up on the slopes of the Bottelary Hills. The general vegetation type is considered to be endangered but the site itself is within a pine plantation.

The gradient of the property was taken into account during identification of the site. It was placed on an old terrace cut into the slope. There will be no new cut and fill.

No rocky outcrops occur within the actual site. The rocky outcrops in the vicinity were avoided.

The use of resources has been addressed with the tapping into the existing Eskom power line.

The Environmental Management Plan addresses construction activity issues to reduce environmental impacts during construction.

SECTION E: ALTERNATIVES

Please Note: Before completing this section, first consult this Department's *Guideline on Alternatives* (August 2010) available on the Department's website (<http://www.capegateway.gov.za/eadp>).

"Alternatives", in relation to a proposed activity, means different means of meeting the general purposes and requirements of the activity, which may include alternatives to –

- (a) the property on which, or location where, it is proposed to undertake the activity;

- (b) the type of activity to be undertaken;
- (c) the design or layout of the activity;
- (d) the technology to be used in the activity;
- (e) the operational aspects of the activity; and
- (f) the option of not implementing the activity.

The NEMA prescribes that the procedures for the investigation, assessment and communication of the potential consequences or impacts of activities on the environment must, *inter alia*, with respect to every application for environmental authorisation –

- ensure that the general objectives of integrated environmental management laid down in NEMA and the National Environmental Management Principles set out in NEMA are taken into account; and
- include an investigation of the potential consequences or impacts of the alternatives to the activity on the environment and assessment of the significance of those potential consequences or impacts, including the option of not implementing the activity.

The general objective of integrated environmental management is, *inter alia*, to "identify, predict and evaluate the actual and potential impact on the environment, socio-economic conditions and cultural heritage, the risks and consequences and alternatives and options for mitigation of activities, with a view to minimising negative impacts, maximising benefits, and promoting compliance with the principles of environmental management" set out in NEMA.

1. In the sections below, please provide a description of any identified and considered alternatives and alternatives that were found to be feasible and reasonable.

Please note: Detailed written proof the investigation of alternatives must be provided and motivation if no reasonable or feasible alternatives exist.

- (a) Property and location/site alternatives to avoid negative impacts, mitigate unavoidable negative impacts and maximise positive impacts, or detailed motivation if no reasonable or feasible alternatives exist:

From a technical point of view the general area in the proximity of the existing array of masts on or near the summit was the only feasible position to place the mast. The possible location was further limited by the applicant's property boundaries.

No alternative site on another property is available. The applicant owns the property and radio communication needs also dictate the position of the site on the farm. Placing the mast in the pine plantation and on the old terrace minimises the impact.

Within the above constraints two alternative locations were considered:

1. Alternative 1 (Rejected)

Situated at co-ordinates 33° 54' 31.42"S / 18° 46' 37.47"E (see **Appendix B1**) this was the first location investigated.

The reasons for considering the site at the edge of existing vineyards was the following: (i) original technical request from operators for a south-westerly field of transmission; (ii) the mast would be lower down the slope and would not visually breach the ridge; (iii) old clear area next to vineyard, free of pine trees, would make construction easier as no stumps will have to be removed.

This alternative location was rejected in favour of the preferred location for the following reasons: (i) the technical requirements for the field of transmission changed to include a much wider area up to the Helderberg and the Peninsula; (ii) higher cost and disturbance to supply electricity to this location; (iii) a new road would have to be constructed to the site, higher costs and disturbance; (iv) not located on an old terraced area thus necessitating a cut and fill operation with resultant higher costs, impact on environment and danger of erosion.

2. Alternative 2 (Preferred)

Situated at co-ordinates 33° 54' 29,15"S / 18° 46' 39.52"E (see **Appendix B2**) is the preferred alternative location for the following reasons: (i) satisfies all technical transmission requirements; (ii) close to the existing Eskom power point servicing the other masts on the hill, short distance of underground cabling; (iii) on old terrace, no cut and fill; (iv) close to farm road servicing other masts, no additional road making; (v) in a pine plantation with no remaining natural vegetation.

(b) Activity alternatives to avoid negative impacts, mitigate unavoidable negative impacts and maximise positive impacts, or detailed motivation if no reasonable or feasible alternatives exist:

No activity alternatives are feasible. A communication mast is the only alternative considered.

(c) Design or layout alternatives to avoid negative impacts, mitigate unavoidable negative impacts and maximise positive impacts, or detailed motivation if no reasonable or feasible alternatives exist:

The layout of the footprint of the mast and ancillary equipment is fairly standard. A 14mx14m square fenced area to provide security with a security gate. An equipment building of 4mx8mx2.5m and a foundation of 3mx3m. See **Appendix B2**. No alternative layout was considered as there is no benefit to be derived from minor adjustments of the placing of the various elements within the enclosure.

(d) Technology alternatives (e.g. to reduce resource demand and resource use efficiency) to avoid negative impacts, mitigate unavoidable negative impacts and maximise positive impacts, or detailed motivation if no reasonable or feasible alternatives exist:

The only possible technology alternative that was considered was to use solar power and batteries. This was rejected in the light of the availability of Eskom Power on site. The latter is cheaper and more reliable.

(e) Operational alternatives to avoid negative impacts, mitigate unavoidable negative impacts and maximise positive impacts, or detailed motivation if no reasonable or feasible alternatives exist:

Operation of such a mast is environmentally neutral. No mitigation is needed.

(f) the option of not implementing the activity (the No-Go Option):

The Status Quo or "No-go" alternative was also considered

The Status Quo /No go option. Do not implement the proposal and leave the site in its present condition. The no-go option will deprive the community at large of better electronic communication with no benefit to the disturbed site. The footprint of 14x14m is small.

(g) Other alternatives to avoid negative impacts, mitigate unavoidable negative impacts and maximise positive impacts, or detailed motivation if no reasonable or feasible alternatives exist:

(h) Please provide a summary of the alternatives investigated and the outcomes of such investigation:

Please note: If no feasible and reasonable alternatives exist, the description and proof of the investigation of alternatives, together with motivation of why no feasible or reasonable alternatives exist, must be provided.

An alternative site in the same vicinity was investigated. It was rejected for the reason indicated above.

SECTION F: IMPACT ASSESSMENT, MANAGEMENT, MITIGATION AND MONITORING MEASURES

Please note: The information in this section must be duplicated for all the feasible and reasonable alternatives (where relevant).

1. PLEASE DESCRIBE THE MANNER IN WHICH THE DEVELOPMENT WILL IMPACT ON THE FOLLOWING ASPECTS:

(a) Geographical and physical aspects:

The proposed development is not out of character with the land use and character of the surrounding environment. The proposed mast is situated close to existing masts.

(b) Biological aspects:

Will the development have an impact on critical biodiversity areas (CBAs) or ecological support areas (CSAs)?	YES	NO
If yes, please describe:		
<p>The Stellenbosch Biodiversity summary map indicates the general area as having critically endangered vegetation interspersed with cultivated land with no natural vegetation remaining. There are cultivated vineyards close to the site. Three different types of vegetation - Swartland Shale Renosterveld, Swartland Granite Renosterveld (both of which are critically endangered vegetation types) and Boland Granite Fynbos (classified as an 'endangered' type of fynbos) occur in the larger area.</p> <p>From observations on site the location of the proposed mast was previously terraced and cultivated. Alien Pines were planted which took over after cultivation was stopped. There is no remaining natural vegetation on the site itself.</p> <p>So, while the remaining natural vegetation types of the Bottelary Hills are classified as critically endangered, the site itself has no remaining natural vegetation and is thus least threatened.</p>		
Will the development have an impact on terrestrial vegetation, or aquatic ecosystems (wetlands, estuaries or the coastline)?	YES	NO
If yes, please describe:		
In a pine plantation on old terraced lands near the ridge top of the Bottelary hills.		
Will the development have an impact on any populations of threatened plant or animal species, and/or on any habitat that may contain a unique signature of plant or animal species?	YES	NO
If yes, please describe:		
Within a pine plantation of old terraced area.		
Please describe the manner in which any other biological aspects will be impacted:		
Since the site has been cultivated in the past, no significant ecological impacts are expected.		

(c) Socio-Economic aspects:

What is the expected capital value of the activity on completion?	±R100000.00
What is the expected yearly income or contribution to the economy that will be generated by or as a result of the activity?	± R 60.000
Will the activity contribute to service infrastructure?	YES
How many new employment opportunities will be created in the construction phase of the activity?	2
What is the expected value of the employment opportunities during the construction phase?	± R 15000.00

What percentage of this will accrue to previously disadvantaged individuals?	80%
How will this be ensured and monitored (please explain):	
The construction of the development will go to the successful bidder – which has to comply with BEE	
How many permanent new employment opportunities will be created during the operational phase of the activity?	N/A
What is the expected current value of the employment opportunities during the first 10 years?	N/A
What percentage of this will accrue to previously disadvantaged individuals?	N/A
How will this be ensured and monitored (please explain):	
Any other information related to the manner in which the socio-economic aspects will be impacted:	

(d) Cultural and historic aspects:

The site is not in or close to historic areas. The footprint is small and a Notice of Intent to Develop was submitted to Heritage Western cape. They did not require further action.
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2. WASTE AND EMISSIONS

(a) Waste (including effluent) management

Will the activity produce waste (including rubble) during the construction phase?	<u>YES</u>	NO
If yes, indicate the types of waste (actual type of waste, e.g. oil, and whether hazardous or not) and estimated quantity per type?	As per single dwelling M ³	
Small amount of building rubble will be temporarily stored and protected on site (within the fenced 14x14m area) to be disposed of at an approved municipal landfill site. The Environmental Management Programme (EMP) specifies how construction effluent and solid waste are to be stored and disposed of during the construction phase.		

Will the activity produce waste during its operational phase?	YES	<u>NO</u>
If yes, indicate the types of waste (actual type of waste, e.g. oil, and whether hazardous or not) and estimated quantity per type?		

Where and how will the waste be treated / disposed of (describe)?		
If yes, indicate the types of waste (actual type of waste, e.g. oil, and whether hazardous or not) and estimated quantity per type per phase of the development?		
Has the municipality or relevant authority confirmed that sufficient capacity exist for treating / disposing of the waste to be generated by this activity(ies)? If yes, provide written confirmation from Municipality or relevant authority	YES	NO
N/A		
Will the activity produce waste that will be treated and/or disposed of at another facility other than into a municipal waste stream?	YES	<u>NO</u>
If yes, has this facility confirmed that sufficient capacity exist for treating / disposing of the waste to be generated by this activity(ies)? Provide written confirmation from the facility and provide the following particulars of the facility:	YES	NO
Does the facility have an operating license? (If yes, please attach a copy of the license.)	YES	NO

Facility name:	
Contact person:	
Postal address:	
	Postal code:
Telephone:	Cell:
E-mail:	Fax:

Describe the measures that will be taken to reduce, reuse or recycle waste:

(b) Emissions into the atmosphere

Will the activity produce emissions that will be disposed of into the atmosphere?	YES	NO
If yes, does it require approval in terms of relevant legislation?	YES	NO
Describe the emissions in terms of type and concentration and how it will be treated/mitigated:		

3. WATER USE

Please indicate the source(s) of water for the activity by ticking the appropriate box(es)

Municipal	Water board	Groundwater	River, Stream, Dam or Lake	Other	The activity will not use water
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If water is to be extracted from a groundwater source, river, stream, dam, lake or any other natural feature, please indicate the volume that will be extracted per month:			m ³
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Please provide proof of assurance of water supply (eg. Letter of confirmation from municipality / water user associations, yield of borehole)	
Does the activity require a water use permit / license from DWAF?	YES NO
If yes, please submit the necessary application to Department of Water Affairs and attach proof thereof to this application. See proof of submission under	
Describe the measures that will be taken to reduce water demand, and measures to reuse or recycle water:	

4. POWER SUPPLY

Please indicate the source of power supply eg. Municipality / Eskom / Renewable energy source

Eskom power is available.
If power supply is not available, where will power be sourced from?

5. ENERGY EFFICIENCY

Describe the design measures, if any, that have been taken to ensure that the activity is energy efficient:
Modern communication equipment is very energy efficient. Power consumption is estimated top be low,

Describe how alternative energy sources have been taken into account or been built into the design of the activity, if any:

Alternative power sources can be considered for most sites in remote areas. In this instance Eskom power is available on site. This is a more reliable and cheaper source of energy.

PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE

6. DESCRIPTION AND ASSESSMENT OF THE SIGNIFICANCE OF IMPACTS PRIOR TO AND AFTER MITIGATION

Please note: While sections are provided for impacts on certain aspects of the environment and certain impacts, the sections should also be copied and completed for all other impacts.

- (a) **Impacts that may result from the planning, design and construction phase (briefly describe and compare the potential impacts (as appropriate), significance rating of impacts, proposed mitigation and significance rating of impacts after mitigation that are likely to occur as a result of the planning, design and construction phase.**

Potential impacts on geographical and physical aspects:	Erosion of cut and fill embankments
Nature of impact:	Negative
Extent and duration of impact:	Local and Permanent
Probability of occurrence:	Low
Degree to which the impact can be reversed:	High
Degree to which the impact may cause irreplaceable loss of resources:	Low
Cumulative impact prior to mitigation:	Medium
Significance rating of impact prior to mitigation (Low, Medium, Medium-High, High, or Very-High)	Medium
Degree to which the impact can be mitigated:	High
Proposed mitigation:	Use the existing terraced area for the small 14x14m footprint of the proposal. No new excavation needed.
Cumulative impact post mitigation:	Low
Significance rating of impact after mitigation (Low, Medium, Medium-High, High, or Very-High)	Low

Potential impact on geographical and physical aspects:	Dust generation during construction. Mainly on approach road
Nature of impact:	Negative
Extent and duration of impact:	Local and Temporary
Probability of occurrence:	Medium to low depending on time of year.
Degree to which the impact can be reversed:	High
Degree to which the impact may cause irreplaceable loss of resources:	Low
Cumulative impact prior to mitigation:	Low
Significance rating of impact prior to mitigation (Low, Medium, Medium-High, High, or Very-High)	Medium
Degree to which the impact can be mitigated:	High
Proposed mitigation:	Standard EMP procedures, including watering and restricting speed of vehicles. The latter is self regulating as the road is very steep and difficult to attain high speeds.
Cumulative impact post mitigation:	Low
Significance rating of impact after mitigation (Low, Medium, Medium-High, High, or Very-High)	Low

Potential impact on biological aspects:	Loss of critically endangered vegetation.
Nature of impact:	Negative
Extent and duration of impact:	Local and Permanent

Probability of occurrence:	Low due to choice of location in pine plantation and old agricultural terrace.
Degree to which the impact can be reversed:	High
Degree to which the impact may cause irreplaceable loss of resources:	Low
Cumulative impact prior to mitigation:	Low
Significance rating of impact prior to mitigation (Low, Medium, Medium-High, High, or Very-High)	Medium- Low
Degree to which the impact can be mitigated:	High
Proposed mitigation:	Restrict all activities including the trenching for the power cable to the old terrace and pine plantation area.
Cumulative impact post mitigation:	Low
Significance rating of impact after mitigation (Low, Medium, Medium-High, High, or Very-High)	Low

Potential impact on biological aspects:	Impact on indigenous fauna.
Nature of impact:	None of significance
Extent and duration of impact:	
Probability of occurrence:	
Degree to which the impact can be reversed:	
Degree to which the impact may cause irreplaceable loss of resources:	
Cumulative impact prior to mitigation:	
Significance rating of impact prior to mitigation (Low, Medium, Medium-High, High, or Very-High)	
Degree to which the impact can be mitigated:	
Proposed mitigation:	
Cumulative impact post mitigation:	
Significance rating of impact after mitigation (Low, Medium, Medium-High, High, or Very-High)	

Potential impacts on socio-economic aspects:	Creation of construction phase job opportunities
Nature of impact:	None of significance
Extent and duration of impact:	
Probability of occurrence:	
Degree to which the impact can be reversed:	
Degree to which the impact may cause irreplaceable loss of resources:	
Cumulative impact prior to mitigation:	
Significance rating of impact prior to mitigation (Low, Medium, Medium-High, High, or Very-High)	
Degree to which the impact can be mitigated:	
Proposed mitigation:	
Cumulative impact post mitigation:	
Significance rating of impact after mitigation (Low, Medium, Medium-High, High, or Very-High)	

Potential impacts on cultural-historical aspects:	None of significance. NID submitted to HWC
Nature of impact:	
Extent and duration of impact:	
Probability of occurrence:	
Degree to which the impact can be reversed:	
Degree to which the impact may cause irreplaceable loss of resources:	
Cumulative impact prior to mitigation:	
Significance rating of impact prior to mitigation (Low, Medium, Medium-High, High, or Very-High)	
Degree to which the impact can be mitigated:	

Proposed mitigation:	
Cumulative impact post mitigation:	
Significance rating of impact after mitigation (Low, Medium, Medium-High, High, or Very-High)	

Potential noise impacts:	There will be noise associated with the construction phase
Nature of impact:	Negative
Extent and duration of impact:	Local and Short-term
Probability of occurrence:	Probable
Degree to which the impact can be reversed:	Medium
Degree to which the impact may cause irreplaceable loss of resources:	Low
Cumulative impact prior to mitigation:	Low
Significance rating of impact prior to mitigation (Low, Medium, Medium-High, High, or Very-High)	Medium-low
Degree to which the impact can be mitigated:	High
Proposed mitigation:	The site is remote and construction is of a low tech nature. Using existing terrace means no cut and fill. No heavy equipment to be used.
Cumulative impact post mitigation:	Low
Significance rating of impact after mitigation (Low, Medium, Medium-High, High, or Very-High)	Low

Potential visual impacts:	Visual impact.
Nature of impact:	Negative as it occurs on a high point in the landscape
Extent and duration of impact:	Local and permanent
Probability of occurrence:	High
Degree to which the impact can be reversed:	Low to Medium
Degree to which the impact may cause irreplaceable loss of resources:	Medium
Cumulative impact prior to mitigation:	Medium
Significance rating of impact prior to mitigation (Low, Medium, Medium-High, High, or Very-High)	High
Degree to which the impact can be mitigated:	Medium
Proposed mitigation:	The area is situated within a pine plantation. The immediate area around the footprint will be cleared and the mast will remain visible. The location is remote from view points lower down and other masts already forms a visual backdrop. The proposed new mast will blend into this viewscape .
Cumulative impact post mitigation:	Low
Significance rating of impact after mitigation (Low, Medium, Medium-High, High, or Very-High)	Low

(b) **Impacts that may result from the operational phase (briefly describe and compare the potential impacts (as appropriate), significance rating of impacts, proposed mitigation and significance rating of impacts after mitigation that are likely to occur as a result of the operational phase.**

Potential impacts on the geographical and physical aspects:	None of significance
Nature of impact:	
Extent and duration of impact:	
Probability of occurrence:	
Degree to which the impact can be reversed:	
Degree to which the impact may cause irreplaceable loss of resources:	
Cumulative impact prior to mitigation:	
Significance rating of impact prior to mitigation (Low, Medium, Medium-High, High, or Very-High)	
Degree to which the impact can be mitigated:	

Proposed mitigation:	
Cumulative impact post mitigation:	
Significance rating of impact after mitigation (Low, Medium, Medium-High, High, or Very-High)	

Potential impact biological aspects:	None of significance
Nature of impact:	
Extent and duration of impact:	
Probability of occurrence:	
Degree to which the impact can be reversed:	
Degree to which the impact may cause irreplaceable loss of resources:	
Cumulative impact prior to mitigation:	
Significance rating of impact prior to mitigation (Low, Medium, Medium-High, High, or Very-High)	
Degree to which the impact can be mitigated:	
Proposed mitigation:	
Cumulative impact post mitigation:	
Significance rating of impact after mitigation (Low, Medium, Medium-High, High, or Very-High)	

Potential impacts on socio-economic aspects:	Improved communication in the area.
Nature of impact:	Positive impact
Extent and duration of impact:	
Probability of occurrence:	
Degree to which the impact can be reversed:	
Degree to which the impact may cause irreplaceable loss of resources:	
Cumulative impact prior to mitigation:	
Significance rating of impact prior to mitigation (Low, Medium, Medium-High, High, or Very-High)	
Degree to which the impact can be mitigated:	
Proposed mitigation:	
Cumulative impact post mitigation:	
Significance rating of impact after mitigation (Low, Medium, Medium-High, High, or Very-High)	

Potential impacts on the cultural-historical aspects:	
Nature of impact:	None of significance
Extent and duration of impact:	
Probability of occurrence:	
Degree to which the impact can be reversed:	
Degree to which the impact may cause irreplaceable loss of resources:	
Cumulative impact prior to mitigation:	
Significance rating of impact prior to mitigation (Low, Medium, Medium-High, High, or Very-High)	
Degree to which the impact can be mitigated:	
Proposed mitigation:	
Cumulative impact post mitigation:	
Significance rating of impact after mitigation (Low, Medium, Medium-High, High, or Very-High)	

Potential noise impacts:	No noise impacts from operation
Nature of impact:	
Extent and duration of impact:	
Probability of occurrence:	
Degree to which the impact can be reversed:	
Degree to which the impact may cause irreplaceable loss of resources:	
Cumulative impact prior to mitigation:	

Significance rating of impact prior to mitigation (Low, Medium, Medium-High, High, or Very-High)	
Degree to which the impact can be mitigated:	
Proposed mitigation:	
Cumulative impact post mitigation:	
Significance rating of impact after mitigation (Low, Medium, Medium-High, High, or Very-High)	

Potential visual impacts:	Visual impact.
Nature of impact:	Negative as it occurs on a high point in the landscape
Extent and duration of impact:	Local and permanent
Probability of occurrence:	High
Degree to which the impact can be reversed:	Low to Medium
Degree to which the impact may cause irreplaceable loss of resources:	Medium
Cumulative impact prior to mitigation:	Medium
Significance rating of impact prior to mitigation (Low, Medium, Medium-High, High, or Very-High)	High
Degree to which the impact can be mitigated:	Medium
Proposed mitigation:	The area is situated within a pine plantation. The immediate area around the footprint will be cleared and the mast will remain visible. The location is remote from view points lower down and other masts already forms a visual backdrop. The proposed new mast will blend into this viewscape .
Cumulative impact post mitigation:	Low
Significance rating of impact after mitigation (Low, Medium, Medium-High, High, or Very-High)	Low

- (c) Impacts that may result from the **decommissioning and closure phase** (briefly describe and compare the potential impacts (as appropriate), significance rating of impacts, proposed mitigation and significance rating of impacts after mitigation that are likely to occur as a result of the decommissioning and closure phase.

NB This is a small footprint 14m x14m fenced area with a mast base of 3mx3m and an equipment building of 8mx4m. Decommissioning the installation will not have any significant impacts.

Potential impacts on the geographical and physical aspects:	
Nature of impact:	
Extent and duration of impact:	
Probability of occurrence:	
Degree to which the impact can be reversed:	
Degree to which the impact may cause irreplaceable loss of resources:	
Cumulative impact prior to mitigation:	
Significance rating of impact prior to mitigation (Low, Medium, Medium-High, High, or Very-High)	
Degree to which the impact can be mitigated:	
Proposed mitigation:	
Cumulative impact post mitigation:	
Significance rating of impact after mitigation (Low, Medium, Medium-High, High, or Very-High)	

Potential impact biological aspects:	
Nature of impact:	
Extent and duration of impact:	
Probability of occurrence:	
Degree to which the impact can be reversed:	
Degree to which the impact may cause irreplaceable loss of resources:	
Cumulative impact prior to mitigation:	
Significance rating of impact prior to mitigation (Low, Medium, Medium-High, High, or Very-High)	

Degree to which the impact can be mitigated:	
Proposed mitigation:	
Cumulative impact post mitigation:	
Significance rating of impact after mitigation (Low, Medium, Medium-High, High, or Very-High)	

Potential impacts on the socio-economic aspects:	
Nature of impact:	
Extent and duration of impact:	
Probability of occurrence:	
Degree to which the impact can be reversed:	
Degree to which the impact may cause irreplaceable loss of resources:	
Cumulative impact prior to mitigation:	
Significance rating of impact prior to mitigation (Low, Medium, Medium-High, High, or Very-High)	
Degree to which the impact can be mitigated:	
Proposed mitigation:	
Cumulative impact post mitigation:	
Significance rating of impact after mitigation (Low, Medium, Medium-High, High, or Very-High)	

Potential impacts on the cultural-historical aspects:	
Nature of impact:	
Extent and duration of impact:	
Probability of occurrence:	
Degree to which the impact can be reversed:	
Degree to which the impact may cause irreplaceable loss of resources:	
Cumulative impact prior to mitigation:	
Significance rating of impact prior to mitigation (Low, Medium, Medium-High, High, or Very-High)	
Degree to which the impact can be mitigated:	
Proposed mitigation:	
Cumulative impact post mitigation:	
Significance rating of impact after mitigation (Low, Medium, Medium-High, High, or Very-High)	

Potential noise impacts:	
Nature of impact:	
Extent and duration of impact:	
Probability of occurrence:	
Degree to which the impact can be reversed:	
Degree to which the impact may cause irreplaceable loss of resources:	
Cumulative impact prior to mitigation:	
Significance rating of impact prior to mitigation (Low, Medium, Medium-High, High, or Very-High)	
Degree to which the impact can be mitigated:	
Proposed mitigation:	
Cumulative impact post mitigation:	
Significance rating of impact after mitigation (Low, Medium, Medium-High, High, or Very-High)	

Potential visual impacts:	
Nature of impact:	
Extent and duration of impact:	
Probability of occurrence:	
Degree to which the impact can be reversed:	
Degree to which the impact may cause irreplaceable loss of resources:	

Cumulative impact prior to mitigation:	
Significance rating of impact prior to mitigation (Low, Medium, Medium-High, High, or Very-High)	
Degree to which the impact can be mitigated:	
Proposed mitigation:	
Cumulative impact post mitigation:	
Significance rating of impact after mitigation (Low, Medium, Medium-High, High, or Very-High)	

(d) Any other impacts:

Potential impact:	
Nature of impact:	
Extent and duration of impact:	
Probability of occurrence:	
Degree to which the impact can be reversed:	
Degree to which the impact may cause irreplaceable loss of resources:	
Cumulative impact prior to mitigation:	
Significance rating of impact prior to mitigation (Low, Medium, Medium-High, High, or Very-High)	
Degree to which the impact can be mitigated:	
Proposed mitigation:	
Cumulative impact post mitigation:	
Significance rating of impact after mitigation (Low, Medium, Medium-High, High, or Very-High)	

LAYOUT ALTERNATIVES

(a) Impacts that may result from the planning, design and construction phase (briefly describe and compare the potential impacts (as appropriate), significance rating of impacts, proposed mitigation and significance rating of impacts after mitigation that are likely to occur as a result of the planning, design and construction phase.

NB The rejected alternative position for the mast about 200m away, will have the same impacts as the preferred alternative.

Potential impacts on geographical and physical aspects:	
Nature of impact:	
Extent and duration of impact:	
Probability of occurrence:	
Degree to which the impact can be reversed:	
Degree to which the impact may cause irreplaceable loss of resources:	
Cumulative impact prior to mitigation:	
Significance rating of impact prior to mitigation (Low, Medium, Medium-High, High, or Very-High)	
Degree to which the impact can be mitigated:	
Proposed mitigation:	
Cumulative impact post mitigation:	
Significance rating of impact after mitigation (Low, Medium, Medium-High, High, or Very-High)	

NOTE: All other impacts remain the same as for the preferred alternative.

“No-Go Alternative”. This means do not place the mast with resultant loss of better communication in the area with no impact on the local environment in the pine plantation.

SPECIALIST INPUTS/STUDIES AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Please note: Specialist inputs/studies must be attached to this report as **Appendix G**. Also take into account the Department's Guidelines on the Involvement of Specialists in EIA Processes available on the Department's website (<http://www.capegateway.gov.za/eadp>).

Specialist inputs/studies and recommendations:

No specialist studies were deemed necessary due to the nature of the proposal and the site.

8. IMPACT SUMMARY

Please provide a summary of all the above impacts.

Using existing infrastructure such as the approach farm road and Eskom power, coupled with the small footprint and placing the tower on an existing terrace within the pine plantation, results in generally low impacts.

The proposed development is not out of keeping with the surrounding area where other masts already occur.

Botanical impact is very limited with only alien pine trees affected.

The EMP will regulate construction impacts to medium-low to low.

Accumulative impacts are very low.

Operation and closure of the mast will have a very low impact.

Summary table of impacts for preferred alternative

Impact	Significance rating	
	Without mitigation	With mitigation
Construction Phase		
Erosion of cut and fill embankments	Low	Low
Dust generation during construction. Mainly on approach road	Medium	Low
Loss of Vegetation	Low	Low
Noise associated with the construction phase	low	Low
Visual impact	Medium	Medium
Operation phase		
Improved communication	High	High
Decommissioning and closure phase		
No significant impacts	Low	Low

Summary table for alternative design option

Impact	Significance rating	
	Without mitigation	With mitigation
Construction Phase		

All other impacts remain the same as for the preferred alternative.

9. OTHER MANAGEMENT, MITIGATION AND MONITORING MEASURES

(a) Over and above the mitigation measures described in Section 6 above, please indicate any additional management, mitigation and monitoring measures.

Fully described in Environmental Management Programme

(b) Describe the ability of the applicant to implement the management, mitigation and monitoring measures.

The applicant budgeted for construction of the mast and infrastructure.

Please note: A draft ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT PROGRAMME must be attached this report as **Appendix H**.

SECTION G: ASSESSMENT METHODOLOGIES AND CRITERIA, GAPS IN KNOWLEDGE, UNDERLYING ASSUMPTIONS AND UNCERTAINTIES

(a) Please describe adequacy of the assessment methods used.

All assessments were completed with a high degree of confidence, and are thus deemed to be adequate. A full public participation process was undertaken to include public concerns.

Appropriate mitigating alternatives were assessed.

(b) Please describe the assessment criteria used.

The criteria are as recommended by the EIA Regulations, published by the Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism (April, 1998) in terms of the Environmental Conservation Act No. 73 of 1989.

(c) Please describe the gaps in knowledge.

Nothing of significance

(d) Please describe the underlying assumptions.

The following assumptions are made:

- The information upon which this report is based is correct.
- The construction and management of this proposed development will be in line with the recommendations in this report, and enforced by the implementation of the Environmental Management Programme.

(e) Please describe the uncertainties.

From a biophysical point of view there are not any uncertainties. The general vegetation type and its status are known. The basic soil conditions are known.

SECTION H: RECOMMENDATION OF THE EAP

In my view (EAP), the information contained in this application form and the documentation attached hereto is sufficient to make a decision in respect of the activity applied for.	YES	NO
If "NO", list the aspects that should be further assessed through additional specialist input/assessment or whether this application must be subjected to a Scoping & EIR process before a decision can be made:		
N/A		
If "YES", please indicate below whether in your opinion the activity should or should not be authorised:		
Activity should be authorised:	YES	NO
Please provide reasons for your opinion		
<p>The proposed mast will add to the communication infrastructure in the area and it is easy to connect to the existing Eskom power line. The mast will be placed on an old terrace within a pine plantation. Other masts occur on the site.</p> <p>All impacts can be mitigated to an acceptable level, with no assessed impacts remaining of high significance once mitigation is applied.</p>		
If you are of the opinion that the activity should be authorised, then please provide any conditions, including mitigation measures that should in your view be considered for inclusion in an authorisation.		
Should the project be authorized, the following recommendations could be included as conditions, where applicable:		
Adherence to the Construction Phase Environmental Management Programme		
Duration and Validity: Environmental authorisations are usually granted for a period of three years from the date of issue. Should a longer period be required, the applicant/EAP is requested to provide a detailed motivation on what the period of validity should be.		
An extension of the authorisation time period of 3 years is not required.		

SECTION I: APPENDICES

The following appendices must be attached to this report:

Appendix		Tick the box if Appendix is attached
Appendix A:	Locality map	✓
Appendix B1:	Alternative Layout 1 (Rejected)	✓
Appendix B2:	Alternative Layout 2 (Preferred)	✓
Appendix C:	Photographs	✓
Appendix D:	Biodiversity Summary Map	✓
Appendix E1:	Public participation process	✓

Appendix E2:	Newspaper Notices	✓
Appendix E3:	Site Notice Boards	✓
Appendix E4:	Proof of delivery of Draft BAR to I&AP's	✓
Appendix E5:	Registered Interested and Affected Parties (I&AP's)	✓
Appendix E6:	Comments from I&AP's	✓
Appendix E7:	Comments and Responses Report	✓
Appendix E8:	Proof of delivery of Final BAR to I&AP's	✓
Appendix E9:	NID to HWC	✓
Appendix F:	Official correspondence	✓
Appendix G:	Specialist Reports (None Commissioned)	
Appendix H:	Environmental Management Programme	✓
Appendix I:	EAP Terms of Reference and Time Schedule	✓