

DRAFT BASIC ASSESSMENT REPORT COMMENTS RECEIVED - PROPOSED TELECOMMUNICATION MAST, PORTION 84 OF FARM 817, EAST LONDON (JULY 2018 - AUGUST 2018)						
	Date	Issue	Comment	I&AP	Response	Respondent
1	06/07/2018	General	As a farming association in the area, we request to be registered as an Interested and Affected Party for the above project, to be able to communicate to the community	Terry Bush (Chairman), Pat Richter (Secretary) - Thornpark and Nahoon Valley Farmers and Smallholders Association	Noted. You have been added to the Registered Interested and Affected Party list	EnviroAfrica
2	23/07/2018		I am opposed to the erection of the above mentioned 25m mast on portion 84 of farm 817 in East London.	Peter Thompson - 64 Bishops Country Estate	Noted. Please see responses to your concerns below	EnviroAfrica
3	02/08/2018		Please note that it has been referred to the department of Development Planning under Cllr Nazo, Please make follow up with her office at Engineering building 3 rd floor which I have also copied on the email.	Aphiwe Nazo - Executive Support Services, Buffalo City Metropolitan Municipality	Noted	EnviroAfrica
4	06/07/2018	Coverage	There is currently a tower approx. 8kms further north from site co-ordinates 32.847593/27.879485 along the N6 servicing the rural area. For the past 18 months, cellphone reception has been weakening in the rural area from Merrifield School (Nompumelelo area) along the N6. The area includes farms and 2 large community areas, namely Ducats and Newlands MTN and Vodacom have both indicated that there is a problem with the towers. References no's are held. Will the proposed installation of the 25m high telecommunications mast have an effect in the area mentioned above. If so, what radius will the improvement cover?		The target area for the proposed tower is approximately 500m to 1km around the tower (as this is the approximate range that LTE/4G can cover). The areas referred to will most probably not enjoy benefits from the proposed tower as it is too far away, except for 2G (Voice calls) perhaps – as the range is much longer for 2G services.	WPP - Town and regional Planning Consultants
5	21/07/2018	Health Impacts	As a resident at Bishops Country Estate 100 – I am greatly concerned about the radiation of the tower and the effects that will have on my families health.	Carol-Ann Connellan - Bishops Country Estate 100	There is no substantiated scientific evidence that radio signals from base stations operating in accordance with recognised safety standards, pose a health risk. That is not merely the Applicant's position, but the established judgment of scientific panels, standards bodies, government agencies and health authorities around the world that are responsible for setting or evaluating guidelines for safe exposure to RF. These include the World Health Organisation, The International Commission on Non-Ionising Radiation Protection (ICNIRP), the European Committee for Electrotechnical Standardisation, the U.K. National Radiological Protection Board, the American National Standards Institute and Standards Australia. The cumulative radiation levels fall safely within the ICNIRP Compliance safety standards. Safety standards are set by the ICNIRP and are adhered to. There have been over 45 years of RF bio-effects research upon which the national (Dept. of Health) and international (ICNIRP) exposure standards are based. Tr equipment on the mast, decreasing the need for additional communications masts to be erected in the area.equipment complies strictly with these recognised safety standards. Please refer to Appendix G1 – G4 of the Basic Assessment Report for relevant Health documentation, including comment from the Department of Health: Directorate: Radiation Control.	WPP - Town and regional Planning Consultants/ EnviroAfrica
6	23/07/2018		Firstly, there are possible health risks associated with telecommunications masts as they function using microwave and the likes. This will increase the risk of higher radiation levels in our residential area.	Peter Thompson - 64 Bishops Country Estate	See response above	

7	21/07/2018	Visual Impact	The second lesser issue is that the country side view that I now enjoy will be greatly jeopardized as this will be in full view of our North facing side of the house.	Carol-Ann Connellan - Bishops Country Estate 100	The potential visual impact of the proposed mast has been considered and can be mitigated by the use of tree mast design (see Appendix A of the Basic Assessment Report), instead of a lattice mast or a monopole design (monopole masts are commonly used in urban areas). A taller mast (greater than 25m) would provide better coverage, however, it is restricted to 25m to decrease the potential visual impact, but still provide the necessary coverage. It must also be noted that telecommunication masts can be considered as part of the urban landscape. In modern day urban landscapes, it is considered normal and appropriate to have essential urban infrastructure and services such as electrical poles and lines/powerlines, light poles, satellite dishes and other amateur internet antennae and dishes that form part of the communications backbone of the city and its people. It must also be noted that the design and the intention of the proposed communication mast allows for multiple service providers to attach and house their equipment on the mast, decreasing the need for additional communications masts to be erected in the area.	WPP - Town and regional Planning Consultants/ EnviroAfrica
8	23/07/2018		Thirdly, a 25m mast would be an eyesore in the area, also devaluing the area.	Peter Thompson - 64 Bishops Country Estate	See response above	
9	21/07/2018	Property Values	Obviously this is going to negatively impact on the value of my property.	Carol-Ann Connellan - Bishops Country Estate 100	Currently, there is no evidence available to suggest that property values will be negatively or positively affected by a telecommunications mast of this design. Some studies may suggest there is a slight negative impact, while others show no effect, and in some cases a positive impact (due to better, faster and more reliable mobile connectivity and mobile internet in the area). Negative impacts are associated with the public's perceptions on the health risk, and the visual impact of the mast. As indicated above, there is no substantiated scientific evidence that radio signals from base stations operating in accordance with recognised safety standards, pose a health risk. The visual impact of the mast is expected to be low, due to the mast being disguised as a tree.	WPP - Town and regional Planning Consultants/ EnviroAfrica
10	23/07/2018		Secondly, I live in the adjoining estate, which is an upmarket estate. The value of the estate will be compromised by the erection of the mast. This will negatively affect the valuation of all the houses in the estate. We have put a lot of effort into maintaining our estate and setting strict standards to increase and maintain the value of our property.	Peter Thompson - 64 Bishops Country Estate	See response above	
11	23/07/2018	Alternative sites	Please consider my concerns before going ahead with the erection of the mast. I am sure you had a few suggested locations for the mast. There must be an alternate site could be selected, without impacting our investment.	Peter Thompson - 64 Bishops Country Estate	Although other sites were investigated, no other options for the applicant were found in close vicinity. The site is an open plot with a willing Landowner. Please also refer to Section A(2) of the Basic Assessment Report for a description of the site alternatives that were considered, but found not to be viable.	WPP - Town and regional Planning Consultants/ EnviroAfrica