

THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF A 30M HIGH TELECOMMUNICATION MAST ON PORTION 14 OF THE FARM HEMEL EN AARDE NO. 587, HERMANUS, WESTERN CAPE



DRAFT BASIC ASSESSMENT REPORT FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

SEPTEMBER 2019

**PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF A 30M HIGH
TELECOMMUNICATION MAST ON PORTION 14 OF
THE FARM HEMEL EN AARDE NO. 587,
HERMANUS, WESTERN CAPE**

PREPARED FOR:

Atlas Tower (Pty) Ltd
166 Main Road,
Omnipark Building,
Paarl
7646
Tel: (021) 870 1302
Fax: (086) 462 4509

PREPARED BY:

EnviroAfrica

P.O. Box 5367
Helderberg
7135
Tel: (021) 851 1616
Fax: 086 512 0154

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Proposed Activity

It is proposed that a 30m high telecommunication mast and base station be constructed on Portion 14 of the Farm Hemel en Aarde No. 587, Hermanus, Western Cape. The base station and mast will be enclosed with a 2.4m high palisade fence with an access gate. The mast will be constructed on a cement plinth and antennas will be attached to the top of the mast. The base station will consist of three equipment containers for future mobile network operators (MNOs). The total area of land to be cleared is approximately 64m² (8m X 8m) to erect a 30m high tree mast with antennas attached to the top of the telecommunication mast. No new roads will be constructed as an existing road will be utilised to gain access to the proposed site. A row of tall bluegum trees is located immediately south, west and east of the proposed site. Electricity to power the proposed base station will be sourced from Eskom. The site co-ordinates are **34° 21' 4.60"S, 19° 17' 10.09"E**. Ertjiesvlei hall is located to the north of the proposed site. The proposed site is located within the rural area of Hermanus, in the Hemel end Aarde Valley. Please refer to Appendix A1 for the locality map and Appendix B for the site plans.

Environmental Requirements

The National Environmental Management Act (NEMA, Act 107 of 1998), as amended, makes provision for the identification and assessment of activities that are potentially detrimental to the environment and which require authorisation from the competent authority based on the findings of an Environmental Assessment. NEMA is a national act, which is enforced by the Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA). In the Western Cape, these powers are delegated to the Department of Environmental Affairs & Development Planning (DEA&DP).

According to the regulations of Section 24(5) of NEMA, authorisation is required for the following:

Government Notice R324 (Listing Notice 3):

Activity no. 3: *"The development of masts or towers of any material or type used for telecommunication broadcasting or radio transmission purposes where the mast or tower-*

- (a) is to be placed on a site not previously used for this purpose; and*
- (b) will exceed 15 metres in height-*

but excluding attachments to existing buildings and masts on rooftops".

i. Western Cape:

- "i. All areas outside urban areas;**
- ii. Areas designated for conservation use in Spatial Development Frameworks adopted by the competent authority, or zoned for a conservation purpose, within urban areas; or
- iii. Areas zoned for use as public open space or equivalent zoning within urban areas".

Site Description

It is proposed that a 30m high telecommunication mast and base station be constructed on Portion 14 of the Farm Hemel en Aarde No. 587, Hermanus, Western Cape. The base station and mast will be enclosed with a 2.4m high palisade fence with an access gate. The site is located at the southern corner of the property. The mast will be constructed on a cement plinth and antennas will be attached to the top of the mast. The base station will consist of three equipment containers for future mobile network operators (MNOs). The total area of land to be cleared is approximately 64m² (8m X 8m) to erect a 30m high tree mast with antennas attached to the top of the telecommunication mast. No new roads will be constructed as an existing road will be utilised to gain access to the proposed site. A row of tall bluegum trees is located immediately south, west and east of the proposed site. Electricity to power the proposed base station will be sourced from Eskom. The site co-ordinates are **34° 21' 4.60"S, 19° 17' 10.09"E**. Ertjiesvlei hall is located to the north of the proposed site.

The site has no natural vegetation cover present and is covered with some dry grass and some kikuyu grass. Some garden waste can be seen on the site. The site is completely transformed and degraded with no indigenous vegetation present. The site is not located within a Critical Biodiversity Area (CBA) or Ecological Support Area (ESA). The site is not located within 32m of any surface water body. The property on which the site is located is zoned for Agricultural purposes and Ertjiesvlei hall is located to the north of the proposed site.

EnviroAfrica

Ertjiesvlei hall are being as a church and for community functions. Please refer to Appendix A1 for the locality map, Appendix C (site photographs) and Appendix B for the site plans.

Civil and Electrical Services

Electricity will be sourced from Eskom. The Proposed development of a telecommunication mast will not produce waste or use water during its operational phase.

Access

No new roads will be constructed as an existing access road will be utilised to gain access to the proposed site. Access to the site will be gained via Hemel en Aarde Road.

Conclusion

The proposed telecommunication 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. The benefits of telecommunications services in modern society are potentially limitless. The proposed activity will increase the coverage of these telecommunications services, including providing a more reliable and wider coverage. The activity would create a more efficient telecommunications service, considered essential to the business and private sector. The data capabilities provided by the proposed mast are also important in business, education and for the public, and has thus become paramount for social and economic development. The construction of the telecommunications mast is therefore considered as part of the essential services for the greater community.

The proposed communications mast is not expected to have any adverse effects on people's health and well-being. It is also not expected to produce any noise or odours during the operational phase. Some noise can be expected during the construction phase, but this will be temporary, and the impact is expected to be negligible. Due to the design and location of the proposed communications mast, the activity is expected to have a low-medium impact on the visual character of the area. The proposed site is not located within a Critical Biodiversity Area (CBA) or Ecological Support Area ("ESA"). The site is totally transformed due to past development activities. There is no natural vegetation on site (kikuyu grass). No cultural or historical aspects were identified on the site. Any potential negative impacts during the construction phase are expected to be adequately mitigated through the implementation of the Environmental Management Programme ("EMPr") and the appointment of an Environmental Control Officer ("ECO") during the construction phase.

Considering all the information, it is not envisaged that this proposed development will have a significant negative impact on the environment.

It is therefore recommended that this application be authorised with the necessary conditions of approval as described throughout this draft BAR for comment.