

Inge Erasmus

From: Jeanne Fourie <Jfourie@george.gov.za>
Sent: Monday, 11 November 2019 8:18 AM
To: Inge Erasmus
Cc: Clinton Petersen
Subject: RE: Hans Moes Kraal - Telecommunication mast design alternatives

Morning Inge

Your email message below has reference. If the trees remain on the property a tree mast will be preferred, but if the trees are removed we will have to consider a monopole or lattice mast with mitigation measures.

Regards

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From: Inge Erasmus [mailto:inge@enviroafrica.co.za]
Sent: Thursday, 07 November 2019 15:35
To: Jeanne Fourie <Jfourie@george.gov.za>
Subject: Hans Moes Kraal - Telecommunication mast design alternatives

Good day

As you know it was originally proposed that a 35m tree mast be constructed on the site. After communication with the municipality it was decided that the mast height be reduced to 25m. Subsequently the idea of a 35m mast was not investigated further.

A 25m tree mast was considered the most preferred alternative due to existing pine trees on the site. The tree mast will fit into the surrounding environment and will be screened by the existing trees, lowering the visual impact.

However, as explained telephonically, the DEADP requested that the visual impacts of the different mast designs (tree, monopole, lattice) be re-evaluated, as well as the visual impact of the different mast designs if these trees are

to be removed. This has been done and the following table, taken from the VIA, will give you a summary of the outcome of the assessment:

	Cluster of trees remain	Cluster of trees removed
Tree Mast	The overall impact is low due to the screening effect of the trees	The tree structure becomes more prominent in the landscape and thus the obtrusive level increase.
Monopole Mast	The overall impact is low due to the screening effect of the trees. The mast form also fits with other infrastructure elements in the area	<u>Without Mitigation:</u> The mast is visible but the obtrusive level is moderate.
		<u>With Mitigation (colour):</u> Changing the mast colour can reduce the obtrusiveness and thus reduce the impact to moderate-low to low
Lattice Mast	The overall impact is low due to the screening effect of the trees. The mast form is not alien to the elements within this production landscape.	<u>Without Mitigation:</u> The mast is visible but the obtrusive level is moderate.
		<u>With Mitigation (colour):</u> Changing the mast colour can reduce the obtrusiveness and thus reduce the impact to moderate-low

As you can see, the visual impact of the mast (irrespective of the design), should the trees remain, is low. A CARA demarcation permit was obtained which will allow the land owner to retain the exiting the trees on site, with the condition to prevent new trees from coming up and spreading from the demarcated area. However, it is up to DEADP to decide if these trees will have to be removed (in terms of the NEM:BA legislation) and what mast design they prefer based on all the information provide in the BAR.

The municipality will still get an opportunity to provide comment on the Revised Post-App BAR, which I hope to send out latest Monday. However, if the municipality could please provide a comment on the preferred mast design I would greatly appreciate it so I can include it as a motivation.

Kind regards
Inge

Inge Erasmus



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