

**Appendix E2 – Correspondence with Organs of State:
DEFF (Biodiversity Directorate)**

Vivienne Thomson

From: Stanley Tshitwamulomoni <StanleyT@environment.gov.za>
Sent: 20 April 2020 11:14
To: Vivienne Thomson
Cc: 'Jackie | Enviro Africa'
Subject: RE: Proposed Visserspan Solar PV Facilities - Projects 1 to 4

Thanks so much

From: Vivienne Thomson [mailto:vivienne@enviroafrica.co.za]
Sent: Monday, 20 April 2020 11:13 AM
To: Stanley Tshitwamulomoni <StanleyT@environment.gov.za>
Cc: 'Jackie | Enviro Africa' <info@enviroafrica.co.za>
Subject: FW: Proposed Visserspan Solar PV Facilities - Projects 1 to 4

Dear Stanley

I received a call from our office manager this morning saying that you requested a link to our website to access the files on the cds sent to you for the above projects since you do not have the facilities to access cd information any more.

Please see the email below for the information you requested. Should there be any queries, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Thank you,
Vivienne Thomson



Environmental Consultant

EnviroAfrica cc

p: +27 21 851 1616 **m:** +27 82 464 2874

f: +27 86 512 0154

a: Unit 7, Pastorie Park, Reitz St, Somerset West, 7130
P.O. Box 5367, Helderberg, 7135

w: www.enviroafrica.co.za **e:** vivienne@enviroafrica.co.za

Please consider the environment and only print this mail if necessary.

From: Vivienne Thomson <vivienne@enviroafrica.co.za>
Sent: 09 March 2020 16:33
To: 'StanleyT@environment.gov.za' <StanleyT@environment.gov.za>
Subject: Proposed Visserspan Solar PV Facilities - Projects 1 to 4

Dear Interested and Affected Party (I&AP)

You have been registered as an I&AP for the four above-mentioned proposed projects.

Please note that the draft basic assessment reports (DBARs) are now available for comment:

1. Cd copies of the DBAR for each of the four projects have been posted to you (if you provided a postal address).

2. Hardcopies of the four DBARs, have been couriered to BKB Dealesville for public viewing.
3. All documentation for the DBARs are also available on EnviroAfrica's website at [www.enviroafrica/projects/forpublic participation](http://www.enviroafrica/projects/forpublic%20participation) then scroll down to [Visserspan Solar Facility - Project \(number\) DBAR](#).

Should you have any comments queries or concerns regarding any of the projects, please notify EnviroAfrica in writing by **15 April 2020**, at the contact details below.

Please also inform and encourage any other parties you feel may be interested in, or affected by, the proposed developments, to register as part of this process. Future correspondence will be sent to registered I&APs.

I trust everything is in order and look forward to your valued input.

Thank you,
Vivienne Thomson



EnviroAfrica

Environmental Consultant

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Vivienne Thomson

From: Jackie | Enviro Africa <info@enviroafrica.co.za>
Sent: 21 August 2020 09:16
To: Vivienne
Cc: 'Bernard De Witt'
Subject: FW: Visserspan 1, 2, 3 & 4 PV facilities DBAR comments
Attachments: Visserspan 4 PV comments... (1).pdf; Visserspan 3 PV comments.pdf; Visserspan PV 1 2 facility.pdf

Morning,

Hope you are well?

Please see below and attached for your attention!

Enjoy your day and weekend.

Jackie Jv Vuuren



Office Manager

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w: www.enviroafrica.co.za e: info@enviroafrica.co.za



From: Portia Makitla <PMakitla@environment.gov.za>
Sent: Friday, 21 August 2020 09:11
To: info@enviroafrica.co.za
Cc: Seoka Lekota <SLekota@environment.gov.za>
Subject: Visserspan 1, 2, 3 & 4 PV facilities DBAR comments

Good morning

Attached please find the Directorate Biodiversity Conservation comments.

Regards

Portia

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environmental affairs

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Tel (+ 27 12) 399 9372

Reference: Visserspan 3 PV facility

Enquiries: Ms Portia Makitla

Telephone: 012-399 9411 **E-mail:** pmakitla@environment.gov.za

Vivienne Thomson
EnviroAfrica CC
P.O. Box 5367
Helderberg
7135

Telephone Number: +27 21 851 1616
Email Address: info@enviroafrica.co.za

Dear Sir/Madam

COMMENTS ON THE DRAFT BASIC ASSESSMENT REPORT FOR THE PROPOSED VISSERSPAN 3 PV SOLAR PHOTOVOLTAIC FACILITY IN THE FREE STATE PROVINCE

The Directorate: Biodiversity Conservation reviewed and evaluated the aforementioned draft report. Based on the information provided in the DBAR, the study area is located within the Renewable Energy Development Zone 5 (REDZ 5), the Critical Biodiversity Area (CBA1) and Ecological Support Area (ESA).

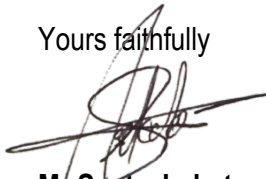
Notwithstanding the above, the following additional comments or recommendation must be considered:

- The proposed development would result in the loss of Vaal-Vet Sandy grassland, to minimise the loss of grasslands where possible the creation of biological corridors is highly encouraged;
- The final walk-through with an ecological specialist must be undertaken to determine the presence of any other Species of Conservation Concern (SCC) on site prior construction;
- A permit must be obtained from relevant authorities for the removal or disturbance of any species listed in terms of TOPs and Red Data list on site;
- Areas with large trees must be avoided as they serve as potential roosting and breeding habitat for a variety of birds, including raptors;
- Lay-down and other temporary infrastructure must be located within low- sensitivity areas;
- Vegetation clearance must be limited to the footprint of the proposed development
- Sensitive areas in close proximity to the development footprint must be demarcated as no-go area;
- All disturbed and cleared areas must be re-vegetated with indigenous perennial shrubs and grasses from the local area;

- An alien invasive management plan to prevent the spread and new invasions must be development in terms of Conservation of Agricultural Resources Act (CARA) and National Environmental Management Biodiversity Act (NEMBA) and submitted as part of the final report; follow up-actions for at least five years need to take place; and
- Concurrent rehabilitation and alien vegetation control program within all sensitive areas must be implemented.

In conclusion; the final report to be submitted for authorisation must comply with all requirements as outlined in the Best Practice Guideline for Birds & Solar Energy for assessing and monitoring the impact of solar energy facilities on birds in Southern Africa in order to avoid or reduce the impacts that might occur as a result of the proposed development.

Yours faithfully



Mr Seoka Lekota
Control Biodiversity Officer Grade B: Biodiversity Conservation
Department of Environmental Forestry and Fisheries
Date: 19/08/2020