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6 December 2006

Mr Brian Whitfield  
P O Box 2083  
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Sir

**PROPOSED ESKOM GARONA – ARIES HIGH VOLTAGE POWER LINE**

As owner of Thuru Lodge Private Game Reserve, I seriously want to object to the above mentioned power line which is proposed to adjoin the border of the game reserve.

As entrepreneur, nature conservationist and work provider, my family trust (U-Meat Trust) spent approximately R20 million on the development of Thuru Lodge Private Game Reserve.

According to me, the visual impact study has not been done sufficiently and although the power line cannot be seen from the lodge camp, it can be seen for 12km adjoining our border line. It must be taken into consideration that the tourists visiting my 5-star lodge, is in the veld for the whole day and only returns to the lodge camp for lunch and evenings. That means that they will be in visual contact of the power line for 80 % of the day.

At present the lodge is home to some 28 species of game which includes the White Rhino, Buffalo and Sable. Thuru Lodge is also assisting the Northern Cape Department of Nature Conservation with a project to relocate the Cheetah at Thuru Lodge Private Game Reserve. You are welcome to contact Mr Julius Koen at the Northern Cape Nature Conservation to confirm this.

Thuru Lodge is also involved in the rehabilitation of Vultures and we have a Vulture Restaurant which is operational whenever Mr Abri Maritz entrusts us with injured vultures.

The argument that there is already a railway line adjoining our border, and that the power line will not have a negative impact, is not valid due to following three reasons:

1. The railway line is much lower than the proposed power line.
2. The railway line has been sunk into the ground for long distances to keep it as level as possible.
3. Two wrongs do not make a right.

Attached please find a letter from Dr Johan Kriek who does all the veterinary work at Thuru Lodge.

I trust that you will give this letter serious consideration and I trust you will understand my legitimate reasons why the alternative route should be used.

This issue is of utmost importance for Thuru Lodge and myself and we will fight the process to the very end. I do however trust that you share our passion to make this part of the Northern Cape available to the tourists from all over the world, but most importantly to the descendants of our wonderful South Africa.

Awaiting your response.

W J van Wyk

**OWNER – THURU LODGE**

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**To whom it may concern:**

**30/11/2006**

It has come to our attention that Eskom proposes to build a high voltage power line on the boundary fence of Thuru Game Lodge. This would be a decision that will definitely have a negative influence on the area and will pose a very serious aviation risk for our company, doing a great deal of helicopter operations on Thuru Lodge.

We do a great deal of game counting, surveys, game darting and capture at low level. We always operate below the height of power lines when operating in the area. The power lines are very difficult to see at times by even highly experienced pilots and especially when concentrating on game capture operations. This could lead to very serious consequences and even death.

We as a helicopter company would please ask Eskom to move their proposed power line to another area as this will create a very hazardous area for helicopter operations. Thuru lodge breeds endangered species and has a huge tourism business and this power line would visually pollute this wildlife area.

Overseas tourists do not want to see power lines crossing game farms or for that matter on the boundary fence of beautiful game farms.

Thanking you

Dr. J.C. Kriek  
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