

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

	PAGE
<b>1. INTRODUCTION</b>	<b>1</b>
1.1. The Need and Justification for the Proposed Project	1
1.2. Overview of the Proposed Project	4
1.3. Environmental Study Requirements	6
<b>2. DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPOSED PROJECT</b>	<b>7</b>
2.1. The Proposed CSP Plant	7
2.2.1. <i>How is Electricity Generated at a CSP Plant</i>	8
2.2. Project Alternatives	10
2.2.1. <i>Technology Alternatives</i>	11
2.2.2. <i>The 'Do Nothing Alternative'</i>	12
2.3. Location Alternatives for the Establishment of a New Concentrating Solar Power plant within South Africa	13
2.4. Site alternatives Identified within the Northern Cape Province for the Establishment of a New Concentrating Solar Power Plant	14
2.4.1. <i>Description of Identified Site alternatives</i>	14
2.5. Associated Infrastructure	18
<b>3. SCOPE OF ENVIRONMENTAL INVESTIGATIONS</b>	<b>20</b>
3.1. Approach to Undertaking the Study	20
3.1.1. <i>Environmental Scoping Process</i>	21
3.2. Authority Consultation	21
3.2.1. <i>Consultation with Supervisory Authorities</i>	21
3.2.2. <i>Consultation with other Relevant Authorities</i>	22
3.3. Environmental Impact Assessment	23
3.3.1. <i>Specialist Studies</i>	23
3.3.2. <i>Overview of the Public Participation Process</i>	24
3.3.3. <i>Public Review of the Draft Environmental Impact Report</i>	28
3.3.4. <i>Final Environmental Impact Report</i>	28
<b>4. LEGAL DISCUSSION</b>	<b>29</b>
4.1. Content of this report and how it differs from the first report	29
4.1.1. <i>The general Content of the first report</i>	29
4.1.2. <i>The general content of this report</i>	28
4.2. Scope and Limitations of this report	28
4.2.1. <i>The amended NEMA EIA Regime</i>	28
4.2.2. <i>Applicable convention, legislation and by laws</i>	29
4.3. Conclusion	32

<b>5.</b>	<b>SITE SELECTION PROCESS UNDERTAKEN DURING THE ENVIRONMENTAL SCOPING STUDY</b>	<b>33</b>
5.1.	Site Evaluation- Field Studies	33
5.2.	Specialist Studies	34
5.3.	Rating Criteria	37
5.4.	Sensitivity Mapping and Footprint Analysis	41
5.5.	Overall Conclusion and Recommendations	44
<b>6.</b>	<b>APPROACH TO ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT</b>	<b>45</b>
6.1.	Specialist Studies	45
6.2.	Significance Ratings	46
6.2.1.	<i>Temporal Scale</i>	47
6.2.2.	<i>Spatial Scale</i>	47
6.2.3.	<i>Severity / Beneficial Rating Scale</i>	47
6.2.4.	<i>Significance Scale</i>	48
6.2.5.	<i>Risk or Likelihood</i>	51
6.2.6.	<i>Degree of confidence or certainty</i>	51
6.3.	Assumptions and limitations	52
<b>7.</b>	<b>GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF THE STUDY AREA ENVIRONMENT</b>	<b>53</b>
7.1	Locality	53
7.2.	Climate	53
7.3.	Topography and Landscape	55
7.4.	Geology and Soils	55
7.5.	Land use and agricultural Potential	56
7.6.	Conservation Areas	56
7.7.	Water Resources	57
7.7.1.	<i>Surface Water</i>	57
7.7.2.	<i>Ground Water</i>	57
7.8.	Ecology and Biodiversity	57
7.8.1.	<i>Olifantshoek Plains Thornveld (Savanna).</i>	57
7.8.2	<i>Kalahari Karroid shrubland (Nama- Karoo).</i>	58
7.9.	Social Environment	59
7.9.1.	<i>Land use</i>	60
7.9.2	<i>Population</i>	60
7.9.3	<i>Age and Gender Distribution</i>	60
7.9.4	<i>Education</i>	61
7.9.5	<i>Employment</i>	61
7.9.6	<i>Income</i>	63
7.9.7	<i>Housing</i>	63
7.9.8.	<i>Services</i>	64

<b>8.</b>	<b>SURFACE WATER ASSESSMENT</b>	66
<b>8.1</b>	<b>Introduction</b>	66
<b>8.2.</b>	<b>Environmental Description</b>	67
<i>8.2.1.</i>	<i>Site Description</i>	67
<i>8.2.2.</i>	<i>Climate and Landscape</i>	68
<b>8.3.</b>	<b>Methods</b>	69
<i>8.3.1.</i>	<i>Criteria used to Rank Impacts</i>	69
<b>8.4.</b>	<b>Water Requirements of the CSP</b>	69
<b>8.5.</b>	<b>Flow in the Orange River</b>	69
<b>8.6.</b>	<b>Assessment</b>	71
<b>8.7.</b>	<b>Conclusions</b>	73
<b>9.</b>	<b>GROUNDWATER IMPACT ASSESSMENT</b>	74
<b>9.1.</b>	<b>Introduction</b>	74
<b>9.2.</b>	<b>Topography and Geology</b>	75
<b>9.3.</b>	<b>Hydrogeology</b>	76
<b>9.4.</b>	<b>Groundwater Chemistry</b>	77
<b>9.5.</b>	<b>Significance Rating Scales</b>	78
<b>9.6.</b>	<b>Conclusions and Recommendations</b>	84
<b>10.</b>	<b>VEGETATION AND TERRESTRIAL ASSESSMENT</b>	85
<b>10.1.</b>	<b>Introduction</b>	85
<b>10.2.</b>	<b>Scope and Limitations</b>	85
<i>10.2.1.</i>	<i>Vegetation</i>	85
<i>10.2.2.</i>	<i>Terrestrial Fauna</i>	86
<i>10.2.3.</i>	<i>Ecology</i>	86
<i>10.2.4.</i>	<i>Assumptions</i>	86
<i>10.2.5.</i>	<i>Limitations</i>	86
<b>10.3.</b>	<b>Methodology</b>	86
<i>10.3.1.</i>	<i>Information base (sources) for desk study</i>	86
<i>10.3.2.</i>	<i>Survey</i>	87
<i>10.3.3.</i>	<i>Habitat Assessment</i>	87
<b>10.4.</b>	<b>Regional Overview</b>	89
<i>10.4.1.</i>	<i>Major plant communities</i>	89
<b>10.5.</b>	<b>Site Specific Results</b>	90
<i>10.5.1.</i>	<i>Olyvenhouts Drift</i>	90
<b>10.6.</b>	<b>Conclusions</b>	91
<b>10.7.</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>	92
<b>11.</b>	<b>AVIFAUNA</b>	93
<b>11.1.</b>	<b>Introduction</b>	93
<i>11.1.1.</i>	<i>Background to the CSP Project</i>	93
<i>11.1.2.</i>	<i>Review of potential avifaunal issues</i>	93
<b>11.2.</b>	<b>Scope and limitations</b>	97

<b>11.3.</b>	<b>Methodology</b>	98
<b>11.3.1.</b>	<b><i>Ranking of the three sites during the scoping phase</i></b>	98
<b>11.3.2.</b>	<b><i>Site Preference Rating (SPR)</i></b>	100
<b>11.4.</b>	<b>Regional Overview</b>	100
<b>11.5</b>	<b>Site specific Assessment of the Impacts</b>	103
<b>11.6.</b>	<b>Conclusions</b>	110
<b>12.</b>	<b>VISUAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT</b>	112
<b>12.1.</b>	<b>Introduction</b>	112
<b>12.2.</b>	<b>Scope of Work</b>	112
<b>12.3.</b>	<b>Methodology for the Assessment of the Visual Impact</b>	113
<b>12.3.1.</b>	<b><i>General</i></b>	113
<b>12.3.2.</b>	<b><i>Potential Visual Exposure</i></b>	113
<b>12.3.3.</b>	<b><i>Visual Distance / Observer Proximity to the Facility</i></b>	115
<b>12.3.4.</b>	<b><i>Viewer Incidence / Viewer Perception</i></b>	116
<b>12.3.5.</b>	<b>Visual Absorption Capacity of the natural vegetation</b>	117
<b>12.3.6.</b>	<b><i>Visual Impact Index</i></b>	117
<b>12.4.</b>	<b>Regional Overview</b>	118
<b>12.4.1.</b>	<b><i>Description of the Affected Environment</i></b>	118
<b>12.4.2.</b>	<b><i>Site Description</i></b>	119
<b>12.5.</b>	<b><i>Site Specific Results</i></b>	119
<b>12.5.1.</b>	<b><i>Visual Impact Index</i></b>	119
<b>12.5.2.</b>	<b><i>Issues related to the visual impact of the CSP Plant</i></b>	121
<b>12.6.</b>	<b>Conclusions and Recommendations</b>	126
<b>13.</b>	<b>NOISE IMPACT ASSESSMENT</b>	128
<b>13.1</b>	<b>Introduction</b>	128
<b>13.1.1</b>	<b><i>General</i></b>	128
<b>13.1.2.</b>	<b><i>Terms of reference</i></b>	128
<b>13.1.3.</b>	<b><i>Location and Extent of the Study Area</i></b>	128
<b>13.2.</b>	<b>Details of the planned CSP Plant</b>	130
<b>13.3</b>	<b>Methodology</b>	130
<b>13.3.1.</b>	<b><i>Determination of the Existing Conditions</i></b>	131
<b>13.3.2.</b>	<b><i>Assessment of Planning/Design Phase and Construction Phase Impacts</i></b>	132
<b>13.3.3</b>	<b><i>Assessment of Operational Phase impacts</i></b>	132
<b>13.4.</b>	<b>Details of the Study Area</b>	132
<b>13.4.1</b>	<b><i>Topography</i></b>	132
<b>13.4.2.</b>	<b><i>Land Use</i></b>	132
<b>13.4.3.</b>	<b><i>Roads</i></b>	133
<b>13.4.4</b>	<b><i>Railway Lines</i></b>	134
<b>13.4.5.</b>	<b><i>Factors of Acoustical Significance</i></b>	134
<b>13.5.</b>	<b>Findings and Assessment of Impact</b>	134
<b>13.5.1.</b>	<b><i>Noise Sources</i></b>	134

13.5.2.	<i>Noise Sensitive Areas/sites</i>	134
13.5.3.	<i>The Residual (Existing) Noise Climate</i>	135
13.5.4.	<b>The Predicted Noise Climate (Pre-Construction Phase)</b>	135
13.5.5.	<i>The Predicted Noise Climate (Construction Phase)</i>	135
13.5.6.	<i>The Predicted Noise Climate (Operational Phase)</i>	136
13.5.7.	<i>Significance Rating of the Noise Impact</i>	139
13.6.	<b>Conclusions</b>	140
13.7.	<b>Mitigation Measures</b>	140
13.7.1.	<i>Pre-Construction Phase</i>	140
13.7.2.	<i>Construction Phase</i>	140
13.7.3.	<i>Operational Phase</i>	141
13.8.	<b>Recommendations</b>	141
14.	<b>SOCIAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT</b>	143
14.1.	<b>Introduction</b>	143
14.1.1.	<i>Background to the Proposed Project</i>	143
14.1.2.	<i>Definition of a Social Impact Assessment</i>	143
14.1.3.	<b>Purpose of the Report</b>	144
14.1.4.	<i>Scope</i>	144
14.1.5.	<i>Methodology</i>	144
14.1.6.	<i>Assessment Categories</i>	145
14.1.7.	<i>Impact Tables</i>	148
14.2.	<b>Proposed Sites</b>	148
14.2.1.	<i>Alternative Sites</i>	148
14.2.2.	<i>Preferred Site – Olyvenhouts Drift</i>	148
14.3.	<b>Key Demographic Information</b>	151
14.3.1.	<i>Demographics</i>	151
14.3.2.	<i>Key Economic Activities in the Region</i>	152
14.3.3.	<b>Employment and Income</b>	153
14.3.4.	<i>Housing and Services</i>	156
14.3.5.	<i>Land Use Profile</i>	157
14.4.	<b>Social Impact Assessment</b>	160
14.4.1.	<i>Population Impacts</i>	160
14.4.2.	<i>Community/Institutional Arrangements</i>	165
14.4.3.	<b>Individual, Community and Family Level Impacts</b>	169
14.4.4.	<i>Socio-economic Impacts</i>	174
14.4.5.	<i>Intrusion Impacts</i>	180
14.5.	<b>Conclusions and Recommendations</b>	182
14.5.1.	<i>Preliminary Conclusions</i>	182
14.5.2.	<i>Preliminary Recommendations</i>	184
15.	<b>CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS</b>	185
15.1.	<b>Evaluation of the Proposed Project</b>	185
15.2.	<b>Final Conclusions of the Specialist studies</b>	187

<b>15.2.1.</b>	<b><i>Surface Water</i></b>	187
<b>15.2.2.</b>	<b><i>Ground Water</i></b>	188
<b>15.2.3.</b>	<b><i>Ecology</i></b>	188
<b>15.2.4.</b>	<b><i>Avifauna</i></b>	188
<b>15.2.5.</b>	<b><i>Visual</i></b>	189
<b>15.2.6.</b>	<b><i>Noise</i></b>	190
<b>15.2.7.</b>	<b><i>Social</i></b>	190
<b>15.3.</b>	<b>Recommendations for Appropriate Mitigation Measures</b>	192
<b>15.3.1.</b>	<b><i>Ground Water</i></b>	192
<b>15.3.2.</b>	<b><i>Fauna and Flora</i></b>	192
<b>15.3.3.</b>	<b><i>Avifauna</i></b>	193
<b>15.3.4.</b>	<b><i>Visual/Aesthetic Impacts</i></b>	194
<b>15.3.5.</b>	<b><i>Noise Impacts</i></b>	194
<b>15.3.6.</b>	<b><i>Social Impacts</i></b>	195
<b>15.4.</b>	<b><i>Summary of Significance Ratings</i></b>	197
<b>15.5.</b>	<b><i>Overall Conclusions</i></b>	203
<b>15.6.</b>	<b>Overall Recommendations</b>	203
<b>16.</b>	<b>REFERENCES</b>	204

**APPENDICES:**

<b>Appendix A:</b>	Acceptance of Environmental Scoping Report and Plan of Study for EIA
<b>Appendix B:</b>	Advertisements
<b>Appendix C:</b>	Issues Trail and I&AP Database
<b>Appendix D:</b>	Legal Discussion – Table 1A
<b>Appendix E:</b>	Legal Discussion – Table 2
<b>Appendix F:</b>	Legal Discussion – Table 2 A and Annexure
<b>Appendix G:</b>	Visual Maps
<b>Appendix H:</b>	Glossary of Terms
<b>Appendix I:</b>	Details of the Noise Measurement Survey and Existing Noise Climate Condition Assessment
<b>Appendix J:</b>	Assessment of Noise Impact