

**iNca DE AAR FACILITY AND ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE**  
**COMMENTS AND RESPONSE REPORT: I&APs & STAKEHOLDERS**  
**Comments Received**  
**EIA Phase**

No.	Issue	Raised by	Response
<i>General</i>			
1.	Please accept my request to register as an interested and affected party for project 12/12/20/2177 and 2048. This registration is for De Aar Agri.	Andre Theron, De Aar Agri, comment by e-mail, 15 April 2011.	Noted. I&AP registered on database.
2.	Kindly register me on your database as interested party for the proposed projects 12/12/20/2048 and 2177.	Raymond Swenson, Individual, De Aar, comment by e-mail, 15 April 2011.	Noted. I&AP registered on database.
3.	<p>This serves as a notice of receipt and confirms that your application has been captured in our electronic AgriLand tracking and management system. It is strongly recommended that you use the on-line AgriLand application facility in future.</p> <p>Detail of your application as captured:                      Type: EIA                      Your reference number: 12/12/20/2177                      Dated: 16 NOVEMBER 2011</p> <p>Please use the following reference number in all enquiries: AgriLand reference number: 2011_11_0180. Enquiries can be made to the above postal, fax or e-mail address.</p>	L. Mongotoato, Director land Use and Soil Management, comment by e-mail, 22 November 2011.	Comment noted

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	<p>Yours sincerely, L. Mongoato                      pp DIRECTOR: LAND USE AND SOIL MANAGEMENT. Online application available at:  <a href="http://www.agis.agric.za/agriland">http://www.agis.agric.za/agriland</a></p>		
4.	<p>TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN: Unlike most other WESSA Regions, WESSA Northern Cape is unstaffed, and run by a group of volunteers. We currently have nobody on our Committee to handle the Conservation portfolio, and pressure of work means that we are unfortunately not able to register as an Interested and Affected Party, to attend public meetings or to participate in Environmental Impact Assessments at this time.</p> <p>Please record that WESSA Northern Cape will not be participating in this process. Note that this does not in any way mean that we condone the project.</p> <p>Consult our website (<a href="http://www.wessa.org.za">www.wessa.org.za</a>) for the contact details of our National Office and other WESSA Regions.</p> <p>Please do not hesitate to contact me should you require any further information.</p>	<p>Suzanne Erasmus, Chairperson Wildlife and Environmental Society of South Africa Northern Cape, comment by e-mail, November 2011.</p>	<p>Comment noted</p>
5.	<p>By when do you hope to bid the iNca Energy De Aar project?</p>	<p>Ian Horn, Farmer Hartebeestfontein De Aar, comment at public meeting, 07 December 2011.</p>	<p>iNca De Aar hope to bid this project by March 2011.</p>

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<b>Transport</b>			
6.	<p>The South African National Roads Agency Limited (SANRAL) has the following comments:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Should abnormal loads have to be transported by road to the site, a permit needs to be obtained from the Provincial Government Western Cape (PGWC).</li> <li>2. A statutory building restriction of a 500 m radius measured from any intersection on a national road and 60 m distance measured from the road reserve fence line will be applicable on rural national roads.</li> <li>3. SANRAL's approval is required for construction of any new access, should it be required from a national road.</li> </ol>	Rene de Kock, Statutory Control Officer, South African National Roads Agency Limited, comment by letter, 31 May 2011.	<p>In chronological order, response as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Noted. All necessary permits will be applied for and received before any construction activities commence.</li> <li>2. Comment noted.</li> <li>3. SANRAL will be liaised with throughout the EIA process of this project. They will be informed of the proposed layout and infrastructure, including all proposed roads. Should any permits be required, i.e. for new access roads from a national road, these will be applied for by the applicant.</li> </ol>
7.	How will you transport the components?	Andre Theron, De Aar Agri, comment at public meeting 10 May 2011.	INCA De Aar are planning to use the railways from Cape Town to De Aar to move all components to site as the area has a siding as well.
<b>Public Participation</b>			
8.	Thank you for the copy of the draft scoping report. We will study the report and make comments in conjunction with the office of the Emanthanjeni municipal manager's office.	Patrick Tshame: Emthanjeni Municipality De Aar, comment at focus group meeting, 10 May 2011.	Noted.
9.	Has the municipal manager, local economic development and integrated development programme managers received the draft scoping reports as well.	Patrick Tshame: Emthanjeni Municipality De Aar, comment at focus group meeting, 10 May 2011.	Yes all of the relevant Emthanjeni Municipality departments have received the report.
10.	Where has the scoping report been release for the local community to review?	Patrick Tshame: Emthanjeni Municipality De Aar,	The reports were placed at the De Aar Library, and at the Emthanjeni Local Municipality.

No.	Issue	Raised by	Response
		comment at focus group meeting, 10 May 2011.	
11.	Give us the opportunity to review the scoping report and make comments. These will be submitted in conjunction with all other Emthanjeni Municipal comments.	Patrick Tshame: Emthanjeni Municipality De Aar, comment at focus group meeting, 10 May 2011.	Noted.
12.	Have you spoken to the Pixley ka Seme District Municipality?	Patrick Tshame: Emthanjeni Municipality De Aar, comment at focus group meeting, 10 May 2011.	Yes, the Pixley ka Seme District Municipality have received all the project documents and scoping report for review. A focus group meeting with the district municipality was held on the 10 May 2011 (Refer to Appendix E2 for minutes of the meeting).
13.	Thank you for delivering the draft scoping report for the to the Pixley ka Seme District Municipality. We are currently reviewing the reports for a number of solar and wind energy facilities within our district	Sandisile Madyo: Local Economic Development Manager, comment at focus group meeting, 11 May 2011.	Noted.
14.	Would you be interested to come and brief the full new Pixley ka Seme District council after the local government elections?	Sandisile Madyo: Local Economic Development Manager, comment at focus group meeting, 11 May 2011.	Yes, this can be done during the public participation which is on-going. It can be in the form of a presentation to council or a focus group meeting. Dates can be confirmed as soon as the new council is in place.
15.	Please consult and make sure that the Pixley ka Seme District Municipality town and regional planner receive the draft scoping report and other documents to comment on.	Sandisile Madyo: Local Economic Development Manager, comment at focus group meeting, 11 May 2011.	Noted. The draft Scoping Report was delivered to the Pixley Ka-Seme District Municipality on the 10/05/2011.
16.	We welcome your information sharing and I will make sure this project and other projects being investigated by your team in the Pixley ka Seme District Municipal area be reviewed.	Sandisile Madyo: Local Economic Development Manager, comment at focus group meeting, 11 May 2011.	The EIA team welcomed the input and mentioned that they look forward to future engagements on the proposed projects.

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<b>Jobs</b>			
17.	We would be keen to know what the job creation, direct and indirect investment by INCA De Aar would be in the area around De Aar.	Sandisile Madyo: Local Economic Development Manager, comment at focus group meeting, 11 May 2011.	As mentioned in the Social impact assessment (Refer to appendix J), the construction phase would employ ~ 100 workers, and the operational phase would employ ~ 50 workers. This would include low, semi, and highly skilled.
18.	How much of the components for this project will be manufactured in South Africa?	Sandisile Madyo: Local Economic Development Manager, comment at focus group meeting, 11 May 2011.	INCA De Aar are planning to manufacture all of the project components locally.
19.	How many full-time jobs will be provided for the construction and operations phases of the project?	Andre Theron, De Aar Agri, comment at public meeting 10 May 2011.	As mentioned in the Social impact assessment (Refer to appendix J), the construction phase would employ ~ 100 workers, and the operational phase would employ ~ 50 workers. This would include low, semi, and highly skilled.
20.	Where will your workers be housed during the construction and operational phases?	Andre Theron, De Aar Agri, comment at public meeting 10 May 2011.	All staff for both phases of the project will be housed in the town of De Aar.
21.	What type of local opportunities would iNca Energy create in the community of De Aar?	Ian Horn, Farmer Hartebeestfontein De Aar, comment at public meeting, 07 December 2011.	Inca De Aar are looking at a various options. These would be building and operation of the solar energy facility and our social investment programme which we need to develop.
22.	Where will you house your specialist and workers during the construction and operational phases of the project?	Ian Horn, Farmer Hartebeestfontein De Aar, comment at public meeting, 07 December 2011.	All staff will be housed in the town of De Aar or surrounding towns.
23.	The town of De Aar needs major direct investment. We need more that one project in this area to stimulate growth in the town of De Aar and renewable energy would be a great opportunity for the local community and the	Ian Horn, Farmer Hartebeestfontein De Aar, comment at public meeting, 07 December 2011.	Inca De Aar welcomes your comments and iNca Energy is committed to its solar energy project being investigated near De Aar and the Hydra substation.

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	farming community to benefit form projects like these.		
<b>Transmission Integration</b>			
24.	Are you consulting with the local Eskom team about transmission integration?	Patrick Tshame: Emthanjeni Municipality De Aar, comment at focus group meeting, 10 May 2011.	Yes this is directly done by the team at INCA De Aar. A copy of the draft scoping report and draft EIA report has been submitted to Eskom for review and comment.
25.	Have you been speaking to Eskom about your grid connection to the Hydra substation.	Ian Horn, Farmer Hartebeestfontein De Aar, comment at public meeting, 07 December 2011.	Yes Inca De Aar has been in consultation with Eskom. they are looking at various options of connectig to the Eskom grid.
<b>Pixley ka Seme District Municipality Renewable Energy Strategy</b>			
26.	Are you aware that the Pixley ka Seme District Municipality has developed a renewable energy strategy to establish large scale renewable energy facilities in the district along the N10. The district is also promoting the town and areas around De Aar as a new inland port and transport hub which will be powered by renewable energy from wind and solar energy facilities.	Sandisile Madyo: Local Economic Development Manager, comment at focus group meeting, 11 May 2011.	The EIA team is not aware of this new strategy by the Pilxley ka Seme District Municipality. However, they would be keen on reviewing all relevant documents relating to the proposal.
27.	Please review the integrated development plan and economic development strategy for the Pixley ka Seme District Municipality.	Sandisile Madyo: Local Economic Development Manager, comment at focus group meeting, 11 May 2011.	Noted. The EIA team has reviewed all the relevant documents as part of the full environmental impact assessment process.
28.	Are you aware of all the other proposed wind and solar energy facilities in the area of De Aar?	Sandisile Madyo: Local Economic Development Manager, comment at focus group meeting, 11 May 2011.	No not all of them. The EIA team is however working on three proposed solar energy facilities in the area.

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<b>Water</b>			
29.	How much water will be used to clean the solar panels?	Raymond Swanson, Resident De Aar, comment at public meeting 10 May 2011.	Low volumes of water would be used for cleaning. Only if water is required. INCA De Aar intends to use high pressure compressed air cleaners to clean the panels. INCA are considering cleaning the panels with water once a year and proposed that the water for cleaning be sourced from a borehole on the farm.
<b>Owenship of Farms</b>			
30.	Are you buying the farms?	Raymond Swanson, Resident De Aar, comment at public meeting 10 May 2011.	INCA De Aar would be renting the property on a long term lease.
<b>Carrying Capacity of Farms</b>			
31.	Are you saying that the farms to be used are of a low yield and are no longer suitable for agricultural purposes?	Andre Theron, De Aar Agri, comment at public meeting 10 May 2011.	The carrying capacity of the farms is extremely low and the area is crossed by a large amount of Eskom transmission lines in and out of the Hydra substation. The farms were used extensively in the past for a quarry and for brickworks by a brick manufacturing company.
<b>Visual Impact</b>			
32.	Will it be visible from the N10 highway?	Raymond Swanson, Resident De Aar, comment at public meeting 10 May 2011.	No, the facility would not be as it would be located behind the hills.
33.	At what angle are your panels mounted and do they track?	Raymond Swanson, Resident De Aar, comment at public meeting 10 May 2011.	The panels will be at 25 degrees facing North, and will be static.
34.	Do these panels reflect?	Raymond Swanson, Resident De Aar, comment at public meeting 10 May 2011.	No, it's not a mirror. The panel itself is dark and absorbs the sun's energy, so any reflection is limited.  A full visual impact assesment has been done in the environmental impact assessment phase of the project to clarify any concerns about reflection and glare (Refer to appendix H).

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<b>Security</b>			
35.	Will your solar plant have security?	Andre Theron, De Aar Agri, comment at public meeting 10 May 2011.	Yes it would have a security system similar to Eskom standards.
<b>Supply of Solar Panels</b>			
36.	Where would you source your solar panels from?	Raymond Swanson, Resident De Aar, comment at public meeting 10 May 2011.	They are planned to be made in Cape Town by Tenorsol which is involved and a partner in the INCA Energy Group. This company will provide all of the panels for the INCA South African projects.
<b>Timeframe &amp; Lifespan</b>			
37.	When do you hope to have the plant operational?	Andre Theron, De Aar Agri, comment at public meeting 10 May 2011.	Inca De Aar hopes to start operations between October and December 2012, provided there are no delays.  Inca De Aar is currently busy with all the parallel applications, such as obtaining a generation license and looking at rezoning of each of the sites they are investigating.
38.	What is the lifespan of the project? What do you do with the facility after 20 years?	Raymond Swanson, Resident De Aar, comment at public meeting 10 May 2011.	It's 20 years and Inca De Aar can then either reomove and rehabilitate the plant or refit it with new technology and continue to generate energy.
<b>Climate</b>			
39.	Do these panels reflect? Will the size of the site affect the microclimate of the area?	Raymond Swanson, Resident De Aar, comment at public meeting 10 May 2011.	At this point there is no evidence of this. It should not change anything in this remote, highly industrialised area.
<b>Effectiveness</b>			
40.	Is concentrated solar power (CSP) more effective than solar photovoltaic (PV)?	Raymond Swanson, Resident De Aar, comment at public meeting 10 May 2011.	CSP is a different type of solar technology that requires large volumes of water. It's more expensive and is quite specilised. Inca De Aar is working with solar photovoltaic as it would be easier to manufacture and build, and does not require large volumes of water.

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<b>Heritage</b>			
41.	The specialist consulted with both research reports undertaken previously in the area, and with existing databases and archives of heritage resources. Maps and aerial photographs were also employed.	Mariagrazia Galimberti, Head Archaeologist, SAHRA, comment received via email, 14 June 2011.	Comment noted.
42.	From previous research it is known that the area is characterised by a long sequence of Stone Age occupation and therefore material from the Early Stone Age through the Middle and Later Stone Age. Engravings are also likely to be identified on this property even it, so far, no rock art has been recorded in this area. It is however important to remind that the archaeological research in the Northern Cape has not been very extensive as yet.	Mariagrazia Galimberti, Head Archaeologist, SAHRA, comment received via email, 14 June 2011.	Comment noted. The Heritage Impact Assessment has taken this into consideration (Refer to appendix I).
43.	It is also expected that from the historic period houses and other structures, farming infrastructures and graves and cemeteries might also be identified.	Mariagrazia Galimberti, Head Archaeologist, SAHRA, comment received via email, 14 June 2011.	The EIA phase takes these concerns into consideration (Refer to heritage report contained in Appendix I). Should any graves be discovered during the construction phase- all activities will stop (as the EMP will make note of this) and the heritage authorities will be notified.
44.	The geology of the area was identified by the specialist as Aeolian sand intruded by dolerite. Previous studies undertaken in these two formations have shown that the fossiliferous potential of the two is almost negligible.	Mariagrazia Galimberti, Head Archaeologist, SAHRA, comment received via email, 14 June 2011.	Comment noted.
45.	SAHRA supports the recommendations of the author and requires that a Heritage Impact Assessment be undertaken for the EIA phase of the development. This will include an assessment of the archaeology, undertaken in collaboration with a Stone Age expert,	Mariagrazia Galimberti, Head Archaeologist, SAHRA, comment received via email, 14 June 2011.	Comment noted. A Heritage Impact Assessment, as well as a palaeontology study will be carried out for the EIA phase of the project as recommended in the final scoping report. A Phase I Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) (in accordance of Section 38 of the NHRA) will be undertaken to determine the presence of any heritage

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	palaeontology, Built Environment (eg. Structures over 60 years), Cultural Landscapes and associated Living Heritage(eg. Sacred sites). Decisions on Built Environment and Cultural Landscapes and associated Living Hertiage must be made by the Provincial Heritage Resources Authority of the Northern Cape (Mr Joas Sinthumule, <a href="mailto:jsinthumule@ncpg.gov.za">jsinthumule@ncpg.gov.za</a> ).		resources that may occur in the development area.
<b>Vegetation</b>			
46.	The second paragraph under number 4.5.1 on page 41 of the Final Scoping Report (FSR) contains the sentence: "At a national scale this (Northern Upper Karoo) vegetation type has been transformed only a small amount (approximately 4%) and none is conserved..." Although it is true that about 4% has been transformed, it is the highest proportion of any vegetation type in the Nama- Karoo biome that has been irreversibly transformed and none of it is conserved in statutory conservation areas.	J Mans, Chief Forester, Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, comment received via email, 4 July 2011.	Comment noted.
47.	The Ecological specialist once again only considered so-called Red List Plant species in the study area when assessing the potential impact on plant species, besides the tree species listed as 'protected' in terms of the National Forests Act, Act 84 of 1998 as amended. The Department of Forestry is concerned about the lack of consideration given to other protected plant species with a high conservation value that might be present on site, such as those species listed as protected	J Mans, Chief Forester, Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, comment received via email, 4 July 2011.	Consideration has been given to all protected and/or threatened plant species which could occur on the proposed site.

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	in terms of the Northern Cape Nature Conservation Act, Act 9 of 2009.		
48.	No indication is given of the extent of the impact on <i>Boscia albitrunca</i> , except to say that about 60 hectares out of the available 170 hectares will be affected by this proposed development. If the impact on protected trees cannot be avoided, mitigation would be required and if the residual impact cannot be mitigated sufficiently, a biodiversity offset might be required to compensate for the permanent loss of these extremely slow-growing species that maintain biodiversity in this arid ecosystem.	J Mans, Chief Forester, Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, comment received via email, 4 July 2011.	No protected tree species were recorded on site.
49.	<i>B. albitrunca</i> is considered to be a keystone species upon which many other plant and animal species depends for survival and is often the missing component in systems that have become unsustainable. Therefore, by removing the <i>B. albitrunca</i> , many other plant and animal species will be affected negatively. The Department of Forestry is very interested in the proposed mitigation measures to compensate for the permanent negative impact on the environment and is therefore requesting a copy of the draft Environmental Management Programme (EMP). The Department should also be allowed to comment on it should it be deemed necessary.	J Mans, Chief Forester, Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, comment received via email, 4 July 2011.	No protected tree species were recorded on site. A copy of the draft EIA report containing the draft EMP has been couriered to the Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries on the 16 November 2011 for comment and review.
50.	Figure 2 on page viii of the FSR refers. Areas identified as potentially sensitive should be avoided and no development should be allowed	J Mans, Chief Forester, Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries,	All areas identified as sensitive in the FSR have been taken into consideration for the proposed layout in the draft EIA report. These areas have been avoided.

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	<p>in such areas. Buffer zones should be created next to sensitive areas and no development should take place within 32 m of natural drainage lines. Trees, shrubs and other plants along the drainage lines should be protected.</p>	<p>comment received via email, 4 July 2011.</p>	
51.	<p>The Directorate: Forestry and Natural Resource Management in the Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (DAFF) would hereby like to make the following comments on the above-mentioned proposed development:</p> <p>1. Thank you for supplying this office with a C.D. of the draft Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIR). Unfortunately it contained nothing but the draft EIR. None of the specialist studies or Appendices referred to were on the C.D. The Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (DAFF) is therefore kindly requesting a copy of the final ecological survey (if amended based on comments made during the scoping phase) and a copy of the draft Environmental Management Programme (EMP). Without these two documents, the Directorate: Forestry and Natural Resource Management cannot make useful comments except to point out some minor issues. We are also requesting additional time to enable us to study the requested documentation prior to submitting our final comments.</p>	<p>J Mans, Chief Forester, Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, comment received via email, 09 December 2011.</p>	<p>Comment noted. Apologies were made to J. Mans about the incomplete cd. The requested files, Appendix F- Ecology; Appendix E3- Comments and response report and Appendix K- Draft EMP was emailed to J. Mans on 13 December 2011 as per request.</p>
52.	<p>2. The DAFF supports the recommendation made in the draft EIR that the 1.6 km 132kV</p>	<p>J Mans, Chief Forester, Department of Agriculture,</p>	<p>Comment noted</p>

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	power line with servitude width of 30 m will not cleared of all vegetation, except where trees could interfere with the operation of the power line. The DAFF suggested that this recommendation be included as a condition in the in the Environmental Authorization, as well as in the mitigation measures to reduce the impact on natural vegetation.	Forestry and Fisheries, comment received via email, 09 December 2011.	
53.	3. Page 3 (26 of 151 of the electronic document) of the draft EIR refers to underground cabling to be laid between project components. What will be the distance, depth and the impact of this activity on the natural vegetation?	J Mans, Chief Forester, Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, comment received via email, 09 December 2011.	Cables are usually laid about 1 m below ground level. These cables will all fall within the PV panel area which has been assessed within the EIA report. Impacts on natural vegetation are assessed in the ecological specialist study.
54.	4. Page 4 of the draft EIR stated that according to the "desktop sensitivity map" protected trees such as Boscia albitrunca (Shepard's Tree)" has a high chance of occurring on the site. Please check the spelling. It should be "Shepherd's Tree".	J Mans, Chief Forester, Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, comment received via email, 09 December 2011.	Comment noted. Changes to the misspell has been corrected throughout the Final EIA report.
55.	5. Page 37 (or 60 of 151 in the electronic format) of the draft Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIR) refers to section 5(1) of the National Forests Act, Act 84 of 1998 (NFA) as amended. Section 5(1) of the NFA is about the promotion of research. It should read Section 15(1) which is about the effect of the declaration of protected trees.	J Mans, Chief Forester, Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, comment received via email, 09 December 2011.	Relevant changes made in the Final EIA report
56.	6. Page 38 of the draft EIR stated that the list of protected trees is listed in GN 1042. Please note the most recent list of protected tree species was published in Government	J Mans, Chief Forester, Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, comment received via email,	Relevant changes made in the Final EIA report

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	Gazette 34595, Notice Number 734 of 16 September 2011.	09 December 2011.	
57.	7. Page 37 of the draft EIR indicated that the "National Department of Forestry" is the regulating authority of the NFA. It should read: "Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries".	J Mans, Chief Forester, Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, comment received via email, 09 December 2011.	Relevant changes made in the Final EIA report
58.	8. Page 37 of the draft EIR indicated that the Department of Water Affairs is the regulating authority of the National Veld and Forest Fires Act, Act 101 of 1998 (NVFFA). Please note the regulating authority of the NVFFA is the Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries.	J Mans, Chief Forester, Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, comment received via email, 09 December 2011.	Relevant changes made in the Final EIA report
59.	9. Page 37 of the draft EIR stated that "in terms of S21 [of the NVFFA] the applicant would be obliged to burn firebreaks..." Please note that S21 of the NVFFA refers to the procedure for making regulations. It should read "section 12" which refers to the duty to prepare and maintain firebreaks.	J Mans, Chief Forester, Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, comment received via email, 09 December 2011.	Relevant changes made in the Final EIA report
60.	10. Page 59 (82 of 151 of the electronic document) of the draft EIR mentioned that endemic species known to occur in the Northern Upper Karoo Vegetation type include Lithops hookeri; Stomatium pluridens; Atriplex spongiosa; Galenia exigua; Manulea deserticola, some of which are listed as 'protected'. 'Page 71 (94 of 151 of the electronic copy) of the draft EIR, the 2nd bullet under 6.3.1 stated that "no populations of threatened plants were found on site. The	J Mans, Chief Forester, Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, comment received via email, 09 December 2011.	Comment noted. According the ecological specialist who undertook a site visit, no threatened plant species were observed on the proposed site. A copy of the ecological report prepared for the EIA phase has been emailed to the DAFF on the 13 December 2011.

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	<p>potential impact on threatened plants is therefore not evaluated further..." Page 60 (83 of 151) stated under Red List Plant Species that "there are no plant species of conservation concern that are considered likely to occur on site". The DAFF cannot agree with this statement, since the Northern Upper Karoo Vegetation type is known to support endemic species which might include species of conservation concern. Also, nothing is said about the potential impact on protected plant species. The DAFF would like to study the ecological survey to comment on the assessment ratings.</p>		
61.	<p>11. Page 60 of the draft EIR stated that the only protected tree species that has a geographical distribution that includes the study area is <i>Boscia albitrunca</i>. Please note that isolated pockets of protected trees such as <i>Acacia haematoxylon</i> and <i>Acacia erioloba</i> are known to occur in nearby areas such as Hopetown. Please ensure that no protected trees will be affected by the proposed development, unless if authorized through a Forest Act License.</p>	<p>J Mans, Chief Forester, Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, comment received via email, 09 December 2011.</p>	<p>No protected tree species were recorded within the development footprint on the site during the site visit undertaken by the ecological specialist.</p>
62.	<p>12. Pages 122 and 123 (145 and 146 of the electronic document) of the draft EIR refers to permit requirements and stated that all the necessary permits must be obtained from the relevant regulating authorities including permits for "disturbance of protected vegetation". Why is this applicable if no plant species of</p>	<p>J Mans, Chief Forester, Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, comment received via email, 09 December 2011.</p>	<p>Relevant changes made in the Final EIA report. Recommendation now reads as follows: "Applications for all other relevant and required permits required to be obtained by INCA must be submitted to the relevant regulating authorities. This includes permits for the transporting of all components (abnormal loads) to site, disturbance to heritage sites, disturbance of protected</p>

<b>No.</b>	<b>Issue</b>	<b>Raised by</b>	<b>Response</b>
	conservation concern are present on site and therefore the impact were not evaluated?		vegetation (should any protected species of concern be observed on site during the construction period), and disturbance to any drainage lines.”