

COMMENTS AND RESPONSE REPORT: I&APs & STAKEHOLDERS
Comments received during the review period of the Draft Basic Assessment Report

No.	Issue	Raised by	Response
1	If I live 2km away from a field of turbines will I hear them?	Johan Triegaardt (farmer), Comment at Public Meeting, 16 Nov 2011	The buffer recommended by the noise specialist would mitigate any potential nuisance impact from the noise of the machines. Modern turbines are also much quieter than older models where noise was more of an issue. The sound of the wind is generally louder than the sound of the turbines, so the ambient sounds often mask the sounds of the turbines.
2	Is shadow flicker a major impact?	Johan Triegaardt (farmer), Comment at Public Meeting, 16 Nov 2011	Shadow flicker is not a major impact and only occurs for a very short time-period (normally a few minutes or hours per year). One can actually work out exactly when this will occur and plan or mitigate for it. Generally it is not a significant visual impact. The major potential impact of flicker is actually on radar systems. The visual nuisance impact is of very low significance.
3	What about the noise impacts on animals?	Johan Triegaardt (farmer), Comment at Public Meeting, 16 Nov 2011	There is no observed impacts on animals from the noise of the turbines. Wind energy facilities are quite commonly integrated with farming activities.
4	What percentage of the components will be produced locally?	Charles Brett, Bedford Resident, Comment at Public Meeting, 16 Nov 2011	This is a high-spec area and the industry is mostly offshore. Sections of the tower and possibly the blades can be manufactured locally. The industry is still in its infancy in this country and only when there is a critical mass will the turbine manufacturers push to set up factories here. There is also a push from government to get us to employ as many local people as possible. Suszlon is the only turbine company at present who are working on setting up facilities in South Africa.

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5	How long does it take to install a turbine once the foundation is put in?	Charles Brett, Bedford Resident, Comment at Public Meeting, 16 Nov 2011	3-4 days.
6	I believe this will boost tourism for the area and the wind turbines are a beautiful symbol.	Catherine Knox, Bedford Resident, Comment at Public Meeting, 16 Nov 2011	Comment noted.
7	Social upliftment should not just be focused in the Blue Crane municipal area but should focus on the greater region.	Kim van Niekerk, Comment at Public Meeting, 16 Nov 2011	The government specifies that communities within a 50km radius of the site can be part of the social upliftment. Somerset East, Cookhouse and Bedford have been targeted by ACED. It is not restricted by municipal boundaries.
8	I support the project – this is sustainable development.	Sabelo Mjekula, Comment via reply form, 16 Nov 2011	Comment noted.
9	Aviation warning lights must be mounted on the turbines and masts.	Chris Troskie, Bedford Farmer, Comment in FGM, 17 Nov 2011	The Civil Aviation Authority will specify what needs to be done in this regard. An abstacle approval application will be submitted to CAA once a final layout is approved.
10	The Draft BAR (page 9) states that proposed Amakhala Emoyeni Wind Energy Facility is awaiting Environmental Authorisation. Environmental Authorisation for this project (a 350 turbine wind farm development which is immediately adjacent to the proposed Cookhouse II site (to the south)) was received by Windlab Developments South Africa (Pty) Ltd (Windlab) on 02 September 2011.	Katherine Degenaar, Windlab Systems, Comment via Email, 7 Dec 2011	This has been corrected for the final report – both the Amakhala Emoyeni and Terrapower Cookhouse sites have been authorized and this is noted in the Final BAR.

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11	<p>The approved Amakhala Emoyeni Wind Farm should be considered as existing environment and therefore turbines in the Cookhouse II project should not be located in positions that will create wake turbulence effects and loss of energy at any turbine locations within the Amakhala Emoyeni wind farm. It should be a condition of any authorisation issued in relation to the Cookhouse II wind farm that the layout needs to satisfy this "zero wake" requirement. The condition should read: Amakhala Emoyeni wind farm has approval to erect up to 350 turbines on the Amakhala Emoyeni wind farm site and has the right to establish its proposal to its full extent unimpeded. Cookhouse II must, if necessary to avoid, remedy or mitigate adverse effects of its proposal on Amakhala Emoyeni wind farm, adjust the design of its proposal so that there is adequate upwind/downwind separation between turbines so as not to create wake turbulence effects and loss of energy at any turbine locations within the Amakhala Emoyeni Wind Farm.</p>	<p>Katherine Degenaar, Windlab Systems, Comment via Email, 7 Dec 2011</p>	<p>This is a technical issue which should be the subject of a discussion between Windlab and any neighbouring developers.</p>
12	<p>Why is GN 544 Activity 22 (ii) triggered if the access roads are only up to 6m wide as noted on page 11?</p>	<p>Katherine Degenaar, Windlab Systems, Comment via Email, 7 Dec 2011</p>	<p>Temporary access roads may be wider during construction to allow for crawler crane to erect the turbines.</p>
13	<p>It is important to undertake a thorough assessment of potential cumulative and in-combination impacts given the close proximity of a number of other proposed wind farm development in the immediate area.</p>	<p>Katherine Degenaar, Windlab Systems, Comment via Email, 7 Dec 2011</p>	<p>Cumulative impacts have been addressed in the Basic Assessment report.</p>

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14	Please provide clarification whether cement batching will occur on site or not.	Katherine Degenaar, Windlab Systems, Comment via Email, 7 Dec 2011	Cement batching is likely to take place on-site.
15	Please complete the required CAA obstacle approval application form, submit electronically, scan & mail me.	Chris Isherwood, Civil Aviation Authority, comment via email, 18 Nov 2011.	The applicant (ACED) will complete the application and submit directly to the CAA.