Proposed Loskop Cellular Mast, Elias Motsoaledi Local Municipality, Limpopo Province

Draft Basic Assessment Report

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CORE Environmental Services
Anne-Mari Hitge *(Cert. Sci. Nat.)*
Professional Registration - SACNASP: 300067/15
EAPASA: 2020/602

LIMPOPO
PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

DEPARTMENT OF
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, ENVIRONMENT & TOURISM

BASIC ASSESSMENT REPORT - EIA REGULATIONS, 2014

Basic Assessment report in terms of the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations, 2014, promulgated in terms of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998), as amended.

File Reference Number:	
	(For official use only)
NEAS Reference Number:	
Date Received:	
Due date for acknowledgement:	
Due date for acceptance:	
Due date for decision	

Kindly note that:

1. The report must be compiled by an independent Environmental Assessment Practitioner.

2. The report must be typed within the spaces provided in the form. The size of the spaces provided is not necessarily indicative of the amount of information to be provided. The report is in the form of a table that can extend itself as each space is filled with typing.

3. Where applicable **tick** the boxes that are applicable in the report.

4. The use of "not applicable" in the report must be done with circumspection because if it is used in respect of material information that is required by the Department of Economic Development, Environment and Tourism as the competent authority (Department) for assessing the application, it may result in the rejection of the application as provided for in the regulations.

5. An incomplete report may be returned to the applicant for revision.

6. Unless protected by law, all information in the report will become public information on receipt by the department. Any interested and affected party should be provided with the information contained in this report on request, during any stage of the application process.

7. The Act means the National Environmental Management Act (No. 107 of 1998) as amended.

8. Regulations refer to Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations of 2014.

9. The Department may require that for specified types of activities in defined situations only parts of this report need to be completed. No faxed or e-mailed reports will be accepted.

10. This application form must be handed in at the offices of the Department of Economic Development, Environment and Tourism:-

Postal Address:	**Physical Address**:
Central Administration Office Environmental Impact Management P. O. Box 55464 **POLOKWANE** 0700	Central Administration Office Environmental Affairs Building Cnr Suid and Dorp Streets **POLOKWANE** 0699

Queries should be directed to the Central Administration Office: Environmental Impact Management:-

For attention: Mr E. V. Maluleke
Tel: (015) 290 7138/ (015) 290 7167
Fax: (015) 295 5015
Email: malulekeev@ledet.gov.za

View the Department's website at http://www.ledet.gov.za/ for the latest version of the documents.

SECTION A: ACTIVITY INFORMATION

Has a specialist been consulted to assist with the completion of this section?	~~YES~~	**NO**

If YES, please complete the form entitled "Details of specialist and declaration of interest" or appointment of a specialist for each specialist thus appointed:

Any specialist reports must be contained in Appendix D.

1. ACTIVITY DESCRIPTION

Describe the activity, which is being applied for, in detail[1]:

Fortis Towers is proposing to establish a lattice mast of 36m in height with a footprint of 64m^2, directly adjacent to an existing signal tower of 15m in height, which only acts as a signal booster when receiving signal from surrounding cell towers. Please refer to the design below which indicates the structure proposed for the 36m telecommunication mast. (Figure 1)

Due to the height of the telecommunication mast and the fact that the mast is proposed on the boundary of the Loskop Nature Reserve which is classified as a Critical Biodiversity Area in terms of the Sekhukhune Bioregional Plan of 2019, Environmental Authorisation is required in accordance with the National Environmental Management Act 107 of 1998, GNR 985 of 2014 (as amended in 2017), before the construction activities of the proposed mast may commence. In accordance with GNR953, 2014 (as amended), the following listed activity is triggered and subsequently applied for:

Table 1: Listed activities applied for in terms of NEMA 107, of 1998

Indicate the number and date of the relevant notice: e.g. R. 983, 08 December 2014	**Activity No (s) (in terms of the relevant notice) e.g. 1(a)**	**Describe each listed activity as per project description[2]: e.g. Construction of a 600 mW generator**
R985 of 2014 (as amended)	3	*GNR 985, Activity 3:* *The construction of masts or towers of any material or type used for telecommunication, broadcasting or radio transmission purposes where the mast:* *(a) Is to be placed on a site not previously used for this purpose; and* *(b) Will exceed 15m in height but excluding attachments to existing buildings and masts on rooftops.* *Within (e) Limpopo, a (ee) Critical Biodiversity Area as identified in systematic biodiversity plans adopted by the Competent Authority or in Bioregional Plans.*

[1] Please note that this description should not be a verbatim repetition of the listed activity as contained in the relevant Government Notice, but should be a brief description of activities to be undertaken as per the project description.

[2] Please note that this description should not be a verbatim repetition of the listed activity as contained in the relevant Government Notice, but should be a brief description of activities to be undertaken as per the project description

			Fortis Towers is proposing to construct a telecommunication mast of 36m in height within an area classified as a Critical Biodiversity Area in accordance with the Bioregional Plans.

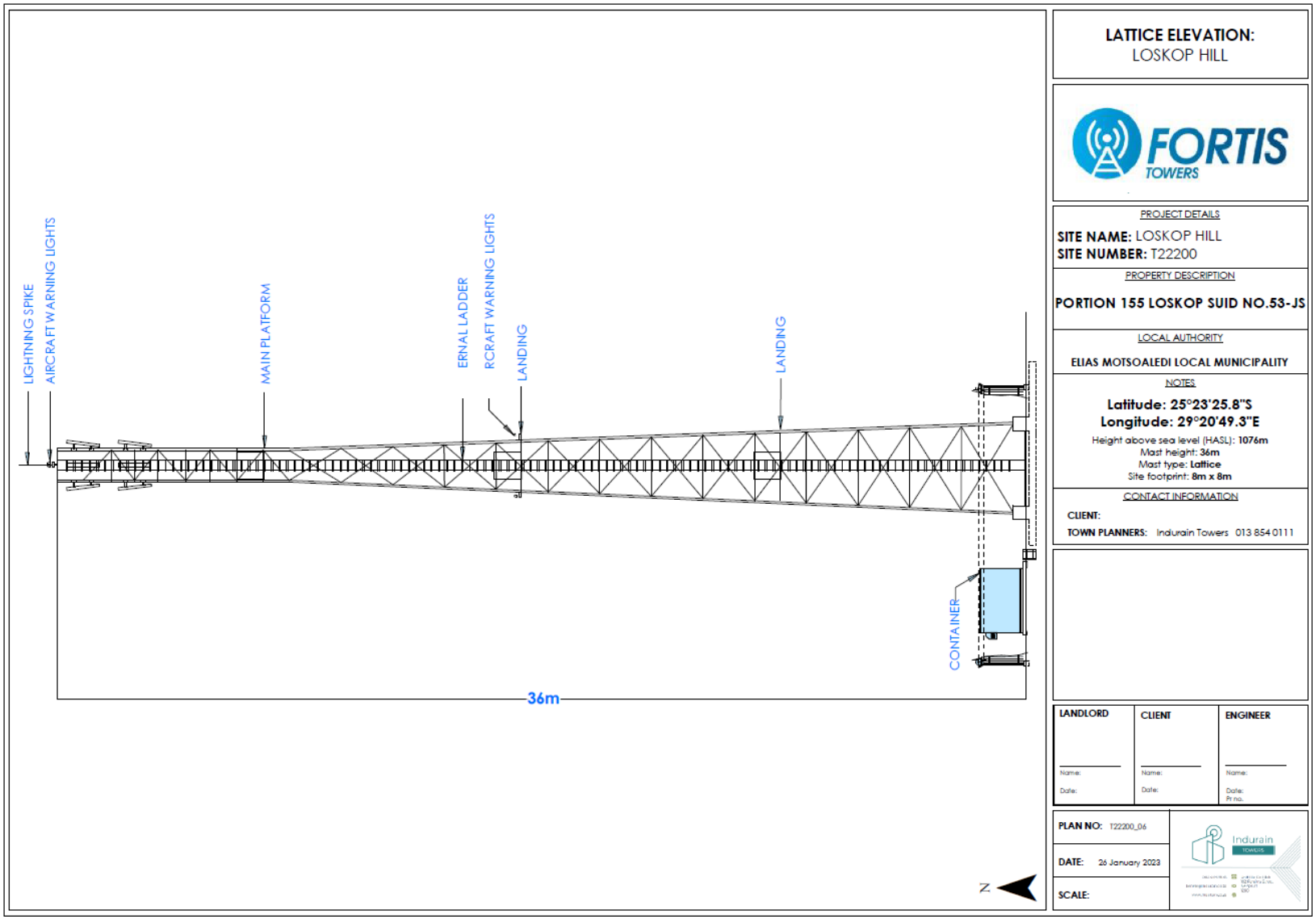

Figure 1: Proposed lattice design for the telecommunication mast

2. FEASIBLE AND REASONABLE ALTERNATIVES

2.1 Location alternatives

Various factors are considered by Fortis Towers prior to the identification of a proposed location. These factors include the area where coverage is to be provided, the topography and identifying the highest point within the area, agreement with the landowner on which the mast is proposed, access to the identified site, as well as the availability of electricity to the mast. All of the above factors are considered prior to the commencement of the Environmental Authorisation process and subsequently other location alternatives were found not to be feasible. For this reason, only one location alternative was found to be feasible and is included within the Basic Environmental Impact Assessment conducted.

2.2 Design alternatives

There are three important criteria considered when investigating the design of a cellular mast. Most cellular mast designs include either a lattice or monopole structures.
The criteria used to consider the preferred design include the following:

- Aesthetical;
- Efficiency, technical value, and the functional requirements; and
- Economic aspects

Table 2: Monopole and lattice structure comparison

Aspect	***Lattice Structure***	***Monopole Structure***
Aesthetical	Highly transparent	Solid structure
Additional antennas	Can accommodate heavy loading of antennas and microwave dishes	Loading of additional antennas and dishes are limited
Establishment/Construction	Modelling and design and establishment of lattice structures are relatively easy. Lattice structures are easy to transport as the sizes and weight of the sections are less when compares to monopole structure	Monopole structures requires a crane for installation. A flatbed is required for delivery of the monopole structure
Economical	More economical – can easily be erected within the use of a crane	Requires specialised plate bending which increase establishment cost. Higher freight costs as a flatbed in required to transport the structure to the site. Crane is required for establishment

In terms of the aesthetical value, efficiency and technical aspect, as well as the cost implications detailed above, the lattice structure design is found to be the most preferred.

2.3 No-Go alternative

The no-go alternative would be to not authorise the application for the cellular mast. Should this alternative be favourable, the issues concerning connectivity within the area will remain.

No impact was identified to be so severe in order for the no-go alternative to be further investigated.

Paragraphs 3 – 13 below should be completed for each alternative.

3. ACTIVITY POSITION

The proposed site is located on Portion 155 of the farm Loskop Suid 53-JS, approximately 3km north of Loskop Dam, within the Elias Motsoaledi Local Municipality, Limpopo Province. (Please refer to Figure 2 and for the location of the proposed mast)

List alternative sites, if applicable.

	Latitude (S):			**Longitude €:**		
Alternative:						
Alternative S1[3] (preferred or only site alternative)	25˚	’3'	25.8”"	29˚	2’'	4”.3"
Alternative S2 (if any)						
Alternative S3 (if any)						

~~**In the case of linear activities:**~~

~~**Alternative:**~~	~~**Latitude (S):**~~			~~**Longitude(E):**~~		
~~Alternative S1 (preferred or only route alternative)~~						
~~• Starting point of the activity“~~	~~°~~	~~‘~~	~~“~~	~~°~~	~~'~~	~~"~~
~~• Middle/Additional point of the activity“~~	~~°~~	~~‘~~	~~“~~	~~°~~	~~'~~	~~"~~
~~• End point of the activity“~~	~~°~~	~~‘~~	~~“~~	~~°~~	~~'~~	~~"~~
~~Alternative S2 (if any)~~						
~~• Starting point of the activity“~~	~~°~~	~~‘~~	~~“~~	~~°~~	~~'~~	~~"~~
~~• Middle/Additional point of the activity“~~	~~°~~	~~‘~~	~~“~~	~~°~~	~~'~~	~~"~~
~~• End point of the activity“~~	~~°~~	~~‘~~	~~“~~	~~°~~	~~'~~	~~"~~
~~Alternative S3 (if any)~~						
~~• Starting point of the activity“~~	~~°~~	~~‘~~	~~“~~	~~°~~	~~'~~	~~"~~
~~• Middle/Additional point of the activity“~~	~~°~~	~~‘~~	~~“~~	~~°~~	~~'~~	~~"~~
~~• End point of the activity“~~	~~°~~	~~‘~~	~~“~~	~~°~~	~~'~~	~~"~~

For route alternatives that are longer than 500m, please provide an addendum with co-ordinates taken every 250 meters along the route for each alternative alignment.

[3] “Alternative S..” refer to site alternatives.

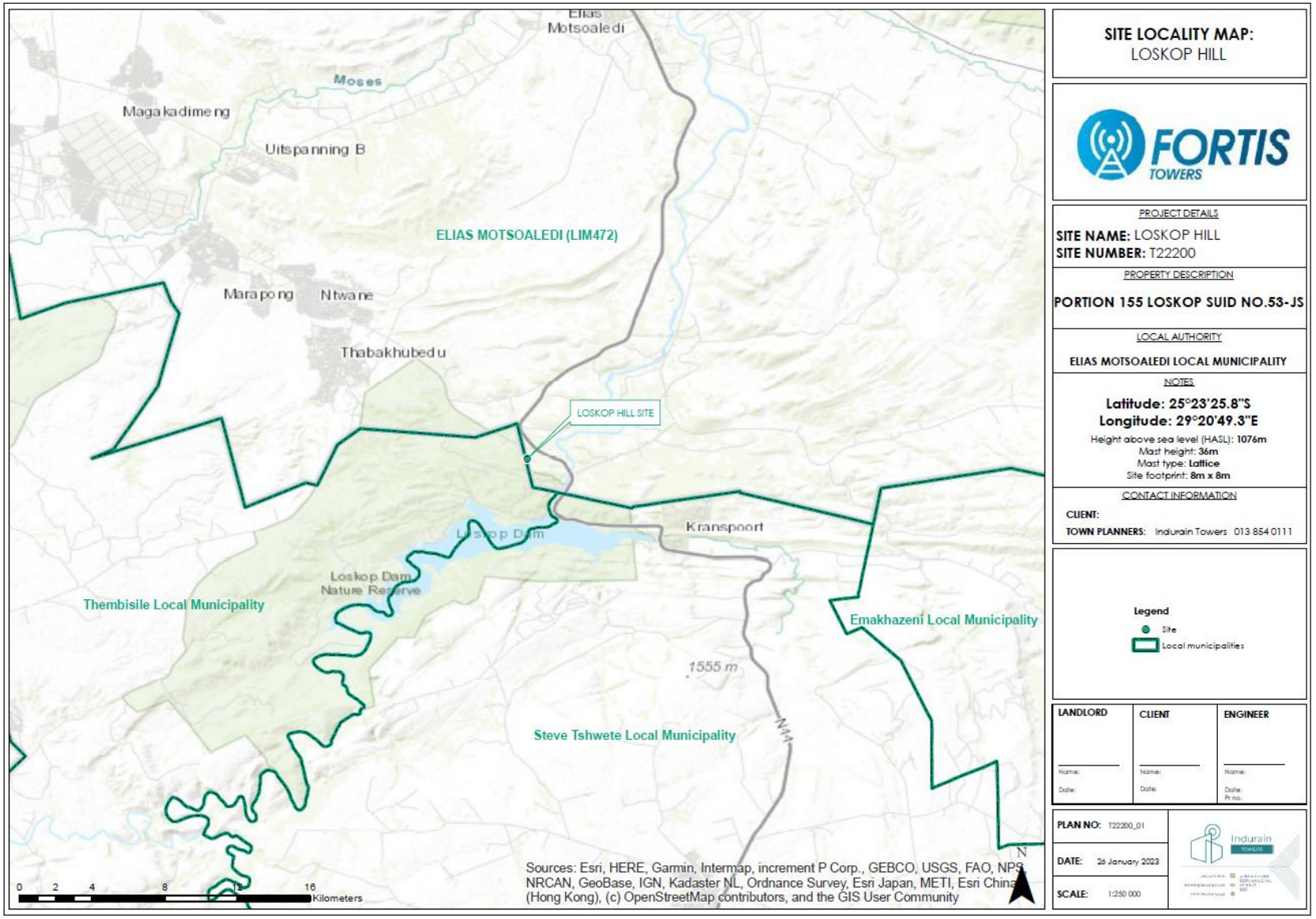

Figure 2: Locality Map: Proposed Loskop Cellular Mast

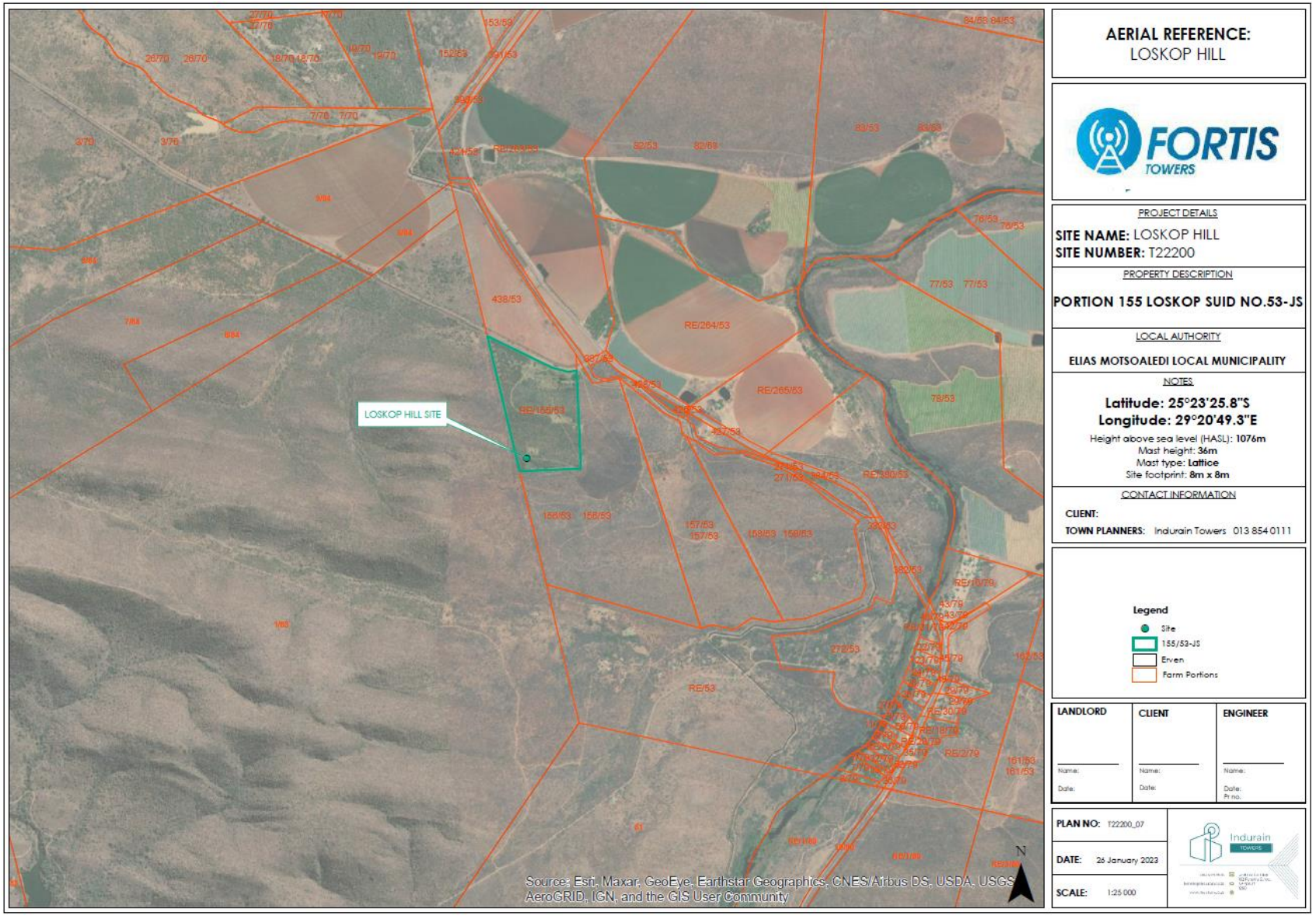

Figure 3: Locality Map with Areial Imagery of proposed Loskop Cellular Mast

4. PHYSICAL SIZE OF THE ACTIVITY

Indicate the physical size of the preferred activity/technology as well as alternative activities/technologies (footprints):

Alternative:	**Size of the activity:**
Alternative A1[4] (preferred activity alternative)	64m^2
Alternative A2 (if any)	
Alternative A3 (if any)	

or,

<u>for linear activities:</u>

~~**Alternative:**~~	~~**Length of the activity:**~~
~~Alternative A1 (preferred activity alternative)~~	~~m~~
~~Alternative A2 (if any)~~	~~m~~
~~Alternative A3 (if any)~~	~~m~~

Indicate the size of the alternative sites or servitudes (within which the above footprints will occur):

~~**Alternative:**~~	~~**Size of the site/servitude:**~~
~~Alternative A1 (preferred activity alternative)~~	~~m^2~~
~~Alternative A2 (if any)~~	~~m^2~~
~~Alternative A3 (if any)~~	~~m^2~~

5. SITE ACCESS

Does ready access to the site exist?	**YES**	~~NO~~
If NO, what is the distance over which a new access road will be built	N/A	

Describe the type of access road planned:

For the preferred alternative, there is an existing access road which will be utilised.

[4] "Alternative A.." refer to activity, process, technology or other alternatives.

Include the position of the access road on the site plan and required map, as well as an indication of the road in relation to the site.

6. SITE OR ROUTE PLAN

A detailed site or route plan(s) must be prepared for each alternative site or alternative activity. It must be attached as Appendix A to this document.

The site or route plans must indicate the following:

6.1 the scale of the plan which must be at least a scale of 1:500;
6.2 the property boundaries and numbers of all the properties within 50 metres of the site;
6.3 the current land use as well as the land use zoning of each of the properties adjoining the site or sites;
6.4 the exact position of each element of the application as well as any other structures on the site;
6.5 the position of services, including electricity supply cables (indicate above or underground), water supply pipelines, boreholes, street lights, sewage pipelines, storm water infrastructure and telecommunication infrastructure;
6.6 all trees and shrubs taller than 1.8 metres;
6.7 walls and fencing including details of the height and construction material;
6.8 servitudes indicating the purpose of the servitude;
6.9 sensitive environmental elements within 100 metres of the site or sites including (but not limited thereto):
- rivers;
- the 1:100 year flood line (where available or where it is required by Department of Water Affairs);
- ridges;
- cultural and historical features;
- areas with indigenous vegetation (even if it is degraded or invested with alien species);

6.10 for gentle slopes the 1 meter contour intervals must be indicated on the plan and whenever the slope of the site exceeds 1:10, the 500mm contours must be indicated on the plan; and
6.11 the positions from where photographs of the site were taken.

7. SITE PHOTOGRAPHS

Colour photographs from the centre of the site must be taken in at least the eight major compass directions with a description of each photograph. Photographs must be attached under Appendix B to this form. It must be supplemented with additional photographs of relevant features on the site, if applicable.

8. FACILITY ILLUSTRATION

A detailed illustration of the activity must be provided at a scale of 1:200 as Appendix C for activities that include structures. The illustrations must be to scale and must represent a realistic image of the planned activity. The illustration must give a representative view of the activity.

9. ACTIVITY MOTIVATION

9(a) Socio-economic value of the activity

What is the expected capital value of the activity on completion?	Unknown	
What is the expected yearly income that will be generated by or as a result of the activity? *The telecommunication mast is proposed to improve connectivity within the area and will therefore not have any impact in the direct generation of additional income.*	N/A	
Will the activity contribute to service infrastructure?	**YES**	~~NO~~
Is the activity a public amenity?	**YES**	~~NO~~
How many new employment opportunities will be created in the development phase of the activity?	N/A	
What is the expected value of the employment opportunities during the development phase?	R 500 000.00	
What percentage of this will accrue to previously disadvantaged individuals?	95%	
How many permanent new employment opportunities will be created during the operational phase of the activity?	N/A	
What is the expected current value of the employment opportunities during the first 10 years?	N/A	
What percentage of this will accrue to previously disadvantaged individuals?	95%	

9(b) Need and desirability of the activity

Cellular phones have become an important part of the South African way of life and fulfil an important role in our daily lives in terms personal and business activities. Cellular masts are however required and must be placed at optimal locations for cell phones to have signal and be operational. From communications with the farm owner it was noted that cellular signal is very limited and that it is currently a huge safety concern as this aspect isolates farmers from each other when there is an emergency.

The benefits that the activity will have for society in general are:

- Better cell phone network or signal coverage
- Socio-economic development; and
- Improved medical response in case of an emergency.

NEED:			
i.	Was the relevant municipality involved in the application?	**YES**	~~NO~~
ii.	Does the proposed land use fall within the municipal Integrated Development Plan?	**YES**	~~NO~~
iii.	If the answer to questions 1 and / or 2 was NO, please provide further motivation / explanation:		

DESIRABILITY:			
i.	Does the proposed land use / development fit the surrounding area?	**YES**	~~NO~~
ii.	Does the proposed land use / development conform to the relevant structure plans, Spatial development Framework, Land Use Management Scheme, and planning visions for the area?	**YES**	~~NO~~
iii.	Will the benefits of the proposed land use / development outweigh the negative impacts of it?	**YES**	~~NO~~
iv.	If the answer to any of the questions 1-3 was NO, please provide further motivation / explanation:		
	Although none of the above answers provided was NO, it is important to note that the application is made for a telecommunication mast. Although it does not necessarily fit the surrounding area, it is imperative to improve connectivity within the area and as there is an existing mast at the proposed location, it will fit within the immediate surroundings. In terms of the SDF, the improvement of connectivity is important and therefore the application is in line with the SDF and planning visions for the area.		
v.	Will the proposed land use / development impact on the sense of place?	~~YES~~	**NO**
vi.	Will the proposed land use / development set a precedent?	~~YES~~	**NO**
vii.	Will any person's rights be affected by the proposed land use / development?	~~YES~~	**NO**
viii.	Will the proposed land use / development compromise the "urban edge"?	~~YES~~	**NO**
ix.	If the answer to any of the question 5-8 was YES, please provide further motivation / explanation.		

BENEFITS:			
i.	Will the land use / development have any benefits for society in general?	**YES**	~~NO~~
ii.	Explain:		
	Improved connectivity within the area will ensure: • Better cell phone network or signal coverage • Socio-economic development; and Improved medical response in case of an emergency.		
iii.	Will the land use / development have any benefits for the local communities where it will be located?	**YES**	~~NO~~
iv.	Explain:		
	The telecommunication mast is located on a position which will ensure the most possible coverage in order to connect most of the people residing within the area as well as road users making use of the surrounding roads.		

10. APPLICABLE LEGISLATION, POLICIES AND/OR GUIDELINES

List all legislation, policies and/or guidelines of any sphere of government that are applicable to the application as contemplated in the EIA regulations, if applicable:

Table 3: Legislation Applicable to the Project

Applicable legislation, policies, plans, guidelines, spatial tools, municipal development planning frameworks and instruments considered	**Project application and type (permit / licence / authorisation / comment)**
The Constitution of South Africa, Act No. 108 of 1996	Fortis Towers will be required to adhere to the Environmental Management Programme (EMPr) requirements to ensure that social and environmental management considerations are considered and implemented. As per Section 25 the Constitution, a public participation process (PPP) was and will continue to be undertaken, as this is considered to be an essential mechanism for informing stakeholders of their rights and obligations in terms of the project.
National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998)	The following listed activities are triggered with the proposed establishment of the cellular mast: *GNR 985, Activity 3:* *The construction of masts or towers of any material or type used for telecommunication, broadcasting or radio transmission purposes where the mast:* *(c) Is to be placed on a site not previously used for this purpose; and* *(d) Will exceed 15m in height but excluding attachments to existing buildings and masts on rooftops.* *Within (e) Limpopo, a (ee) Critical Biodiversity Area as identified in systematic biodiversity plans adopted by the Competent Authority or in Bioregional Plans.* Environmental Authorisation will subsequently be applied for by means of conducting a Basic Environmental Authorisation process as regulated within GNR982 of 2014 (as amended in 2017).
National Biodiversity Act, 2004 (Act No. 10 of 2004)	The act provides for the management and conservation of South Africa's biodiversity within the framework of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998; the protection of species and ecosystems that warrant national protection; the sustainable use of indigenous biological resources, the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from bioprospecting involving indigenous biological resource; the establishment and functions of a South African National Biodiversity Institute; and for matters

	connected therewith. The site on which the cellular mast is proposed is located within a Critical Biodiversity Area (Optimal) as identified within the Sekhukhune Bioregional Plan of 2019 and for this reason the area is of high biodiversity sensitivity. The National Biodiversity Act, 2004, must therefore be considered prior to the establishment of the mast and measures must be included to minimise the impact on the terrestrial biodiversity.
National Environmental Management Waste, 1998 (Act 59 of 1998)	The waste act provides reasonable measures for the prevention of pollution and ecological degradation and for securing ecological sustainable development. During construction and decommissioning, waste will be created, and it is essential that all waste is stored and disposed of according to the regulations provided within the National Environmental Management Waste Act 59 of 1998.
Occupational Health and Safety Act, 1998 (Act No. 85 of 1998)	The Act provides for the health and safety of people at work and for the health and safety of people using plant and machinery. During construction and decommissioning, work must be conducted with strict adherence to the Occupational Health and Safety Act 85 of 1998.
National Heritage Resources Act, 1999 (Act No 25 of 1999)	This legislation aims to promote good management of the national estate, and to enable and encourage communities to nurture and conserve their legacy so that it may be bequeathed to future generations. The initial site survey did not identify any artefacts which could be of historical or cultural importance, however, should any items of significance be discovered during construction, a Heritage Specialist must be contacted immediately, and work must cease until confirmation from the Specialist is received. For this reason, the applicant must adhere to the regulations stipulated within the National Heritage Resources Act, 1999.
Civil Aviation Act, 2009 (Act No. 13 of 2009)	The Act provide for additional measures directed at more effective control of the safety and security of aircraft, airports and the like and to provide for matters connected thereto. Due to the height of the cellular mast (36m), the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) must ensure that the mast will have no unacceptable impact on civil aviation installations. The CAA approved the construction of the 36m cellular mast. Approval is attached as Appendix E.
Elias Motsoaledi Integrated Development Plan (IDP) (2023 - 2024)	The IDP of local municipality stated that the following issues are of high priority to be addressed: • *Poverty;* • *Health;*

	• *Water;* • *Road Infrastructure; and* • *Telecommunication.* The construction of the telecommunication mast will assist with addressing telecommunication within the area where signal is currently poor. The proposed project is therefore in line with the IDP of the Local Municipality.

11. WASTE, EFFLUENT, EMISSION AND NOISE MANAGEMENT

11(a) Solid waste management

Will the activity produce solid construction waste during the construction/initiation phase?	**YES**	~~NO~~
If yes, what estimated quantity will be produced per month?	5 m^3	

How will the construction solid waste be disposed of (describe)?

A subcontractor will be contracted to remove all solid waste to the nearest authorized landfill site.

Where will the construction solid waste be disposed of (describe)?

Groblersdal landfill site

Will the activity produce solid waste during its operational phase?	~~YES~~	**NO**
If yes, what estimated quantity will be produced per month?	N/A	

How will the solid waste be disposed of (describe)?

N/A

Where will the solid waste be disposed if it does not feed into a municipal waste stream (describe)?

N/A

If the solid waste (construction or operational phases) will not be disposed of in a registered landfill site or be taken up in a municipal waste stream, then the applicant should consult with the department to determine whether it is necessary to change to an application for scoping and EIA.

Can any part of the solid waste be classified as hazardous in terms of the relevant legislation?	~~YES~~	**NO**

If yes, inform the department and request a change to an application for scoping and EIA.

Is the activity that is being applied for a solid waste handling or treatment facility?	~~YES~~	**NO**

If yes, then the applicant should consult with the Department to determine whether it is necessary to change to an application for scoping and EIA.

11(b) Liquid effluent

Will the activity produce effluent, other than normal sewage, that will be disposed of in a municipal sewage system?	~~YES~~	**NO**
If yes, what estimated quantity will be produced per month?		
Will the activity produce any effluent that will be treated and/or disposed of on site?	~~YES~~	**NO**

If yes, the applicant should consult with the Department to determine whether it is necessary to change to an application for scoping and EIA.

Will the activity produce effluent that will be treated and/or disposed of at another facility?	~~YES~~	**NO**

If yes, provide the particulars of the facility:

Facility name:			
Contact person:			
Postal address:			
Postal code:			
Telephone:		Cell:	
E-mail:		Fax:	

Describe the measures that will be taken to ensure the optimal reuse or recycling of waste water, if any:

11(c) Emissions into the atmosphere

Will the activity release emissions into the atmosphere?	~~YES~~	**NO**
If yes, is it controlled by any legislation of any sphere of government?	~~YES~~	~~NO~~

If yes, the applicant should consult with the competent authority to determine whether it is necessary to change to an application for scoping and EIA.

If no, describe the emissions in terms of type and concentration:

N/A

11(d) Generation of noise

Will the activity generate noise?	~~YES~~	**NO**
If yes, is it controlled by any legislation of any sphere of government?	~~YES~~	~~NO~~

If yes, the applicant should consult with the competent authority to determine whether it is necessary to change to an application for scoping and EIA.
If no, describe the noise in terms of type and level:

N/A

12. WATER USE (ONLY APPLICABLE DURING CONSTRUCTION)

Please indicate the source(s) of water that will be used for the activity by ticking the appropriate box(es)

municipal	water board	Groundwater	river, stream, dam or lake	other	the activity will not use water
		X			

If water is to be extracted from groundwater, river, stream, dam, lake or any other natural feature, please indicate

the volume that will be extracted per month:	10m^3
Does the activity require a water use permit from the Department of Water Affairs?	~~YES~~ **NO**

If yes, please submit the necessary application to the Department of Water Affairs and attach proof thereof to this application if it has been submitted.

13. ENERGY EFFICIENCY

Describe the design measures, if any, that have been taken to ensure that the activity is energy efficient:

The telecommunication mast will be connected with ESKOM

Describe how alternative energy sources have been taken into account or been built into the design of the activity, if any:

N/A

SECTION B: SITE/AREA/PROPERTY DESCRIPTION

Important notes:

1. For linear activities (pipelines, etc) as well as activities that cover very large sites, it may be necessary to complete this section for each part of the site that has a significantly different environment. In such cases please complete copies of Section C and indicate the area, which is covered by each copy No. on the Site Plan.

Section C Copy No. (e.g. A):	

2. Paragraphs 1 - 6 below must be completed for each alternative.

3. Has a specialist been consulted to assist with the completion of this section?

~~YES~~	**NO**

If YES, please complete the form entitled "Details of specialist and declaration of interest" for each specialist thus appointed:

All specialist reports must be contained in Appendix D.

Property description/physical address:	**Portion 155 of the farm Loskop Suid 53-JS, near Loskop Dam, Elias Motsoaledi Local Municipality Limpopo Province**
	(Farm name, portion etc.) Where a large number of properties are involved (e.g. linear activities), please attach a full list to this application.
	As above
	In instances where there is more than one town or district involved, please attach a list of towns or districts to this application.
Current land-use zoning:	**Agricultural – Game farming**
	In instances where there is more than one current land-use zoning, please attach a list of current land use zonings that also indicate which portions each use pertains to, to this application.

Is a change of land-use or a consent use application required?	**YES**	~~NO~~
Must a building plan be submitted to the local authority?	~~YES~~	**NO**

Locality map:

An A3 locality map must be attached to the back of this document, as Appendix A. The scale of the locality map must be relevant to the size of the development (at least 1:50 000. For linear activities of more than 25 kilometres, a smaller scale e.g. 1:250 000 can be used. The scale must be indicated on the map.) The map must indicate the following:

- an indication of the project site position as well as the positions of the alternative sites, if any;
- road access from all major roads in the area;
- road names or numbers of all major roads as well as the roads that provide access to the site(s);
- all roads within a 1km radius of the site or alternative sites; and
- a north arrow;
- a legend; and
- locality GPS co-ordinates (Indicate the position of the activity using the latitude and longitude of the centre point of the site for each alternative site. The co-ordinates should be in degrees, minutes and seconds. The projection that must be used in all cases is the WGS84 spheroid in a national or local projection)

1. GRADIENT OF THE SITE

Indicate the general gradient of the site.

Alternative S1:

Flat	1:50 – 1:20	**1:20 – 1:15** √	1:15 – 1:10	1:10 – 1:7,5	1:7,5 – 1:5	Steeper than 1:5

Alternative S2 (if any): N/A

Flat	1:50 – 1:20	1:20 – 1:15	1:15 – 1:10	1:10 – 1:7,5	1:7,5 – 1:5	Steeper than 1:5

Alternative S3 (if any): N/A

Flat	1:50 – 1:20	1:20 – 1:15	1:15 – 1:10	1:10 – 1:7,5	1:7,5 – 1:5	Steeper than 1:5

The topography of the area where the cellular mast is proposed, is approximately 1070m above mean sea level. The proposed location is also the highest point within a 1.5km radius from the site.

2. LOCATION IN LANDSCAPE

Indicate the landform(s) that best describes the site:

2.1 Ridgeline		2.6 Plain	
2.2 Plateau		2.7 Undulating plain / low hills	
2.3 Side slope of hill/mountain	**X**	2.8 Dune	
2.4 Closed valley		2.9 Seafront	
2.5 Open valley			

3. GROUNDWATER, SOIL AND GEOLOGICAL STABILITY OF THE SITE

Is the site(s) located on any of the following (tick the appropriate boxes)?

	Alternative S1:		**Alternative S2 (if any):N/A**		**Alternative S3 (if any):N/A**	
Shallow water table (less than 1.5m deep)	YES	**NO**	YES	NO	YES	NO
Dolomite, sinkhole or doline areas	~~YES~~	**NO**	YES	NO	YES	NO
Seasonally wet soils (often close to water bodies)	~~YES~~	**NO**	YES	NO	YES	NO
Unstable rocky slopes or steep slopes with loose soil	~~YES~~	**NO**	YES	NO	YES	NO
Dispersive soils (soils that dissolve in water)	~~YES~~	**NO**	YES	NO	YES	NO
Soils with high clay content (clay fraction more than 40%)	~~YES~~	**NO**	YES	NO	YES	NO
Any other unstable soil or geological feature	~~YES~~	**NO**	YES	NO	YES	NO
An area sensitive to erosion	~~YES~~	**NO**	YES	NO	YES	NO

Geology includes mudstone, sandstone, conglomerate and volcanic rocks of the Loskop Formation. Soils are vertic, melanic clays, plinthic catena, red-yellow apedal, and freely drained soils. The geology will not be affected by this proposed cellular mast.

The only water resource within a close proximity of the proposed project site is the Olifants River, located approximately 2km east of the project site and the Loskop Dam located approximately 3.5km south of the project site.

No water resources will therefore be affected by the proposed construction of the Loskop Cellular Mast.

4. **GROUNDCOVER**

Indicate the types of groundcover present on the site:

The location of all identified rare or endangered species or other elements should be accurately indicated on the site plan(s).

Natural veld - good condition[E]	~~Natural veld with scattered aliens~~[E]	~~Natural veld with heavy alien infestation~~[E]	~~Veld dominated by alien species~~[E]	~~Gardens~~
~~Sport field~~	~~Cultivated land~~	~~Paved surface~~	~~Building or other structure~~	~~Bare soil~~

The project area falls within the Loskop Thornveld (Mucina & Rutherford, 2006). The vegetation and landscape of this vegetation type consist of valleys and plains or parts of the upper Olifants River Catchment. The vegetation type is characterised by open, deciduous to semideciduous, tall, thorny woodland, usually dominated by Acacia species.

According to the Sekhukhune Bioregional Plan of 2019, the site falls within a Critical Biodiversity Area 1 which implies that such areas must be safeguarded in their natural or near-natural state as they are critical for conserving biodiversity and maintaining ecosystem functioning. Please refer to Figure 4 below:

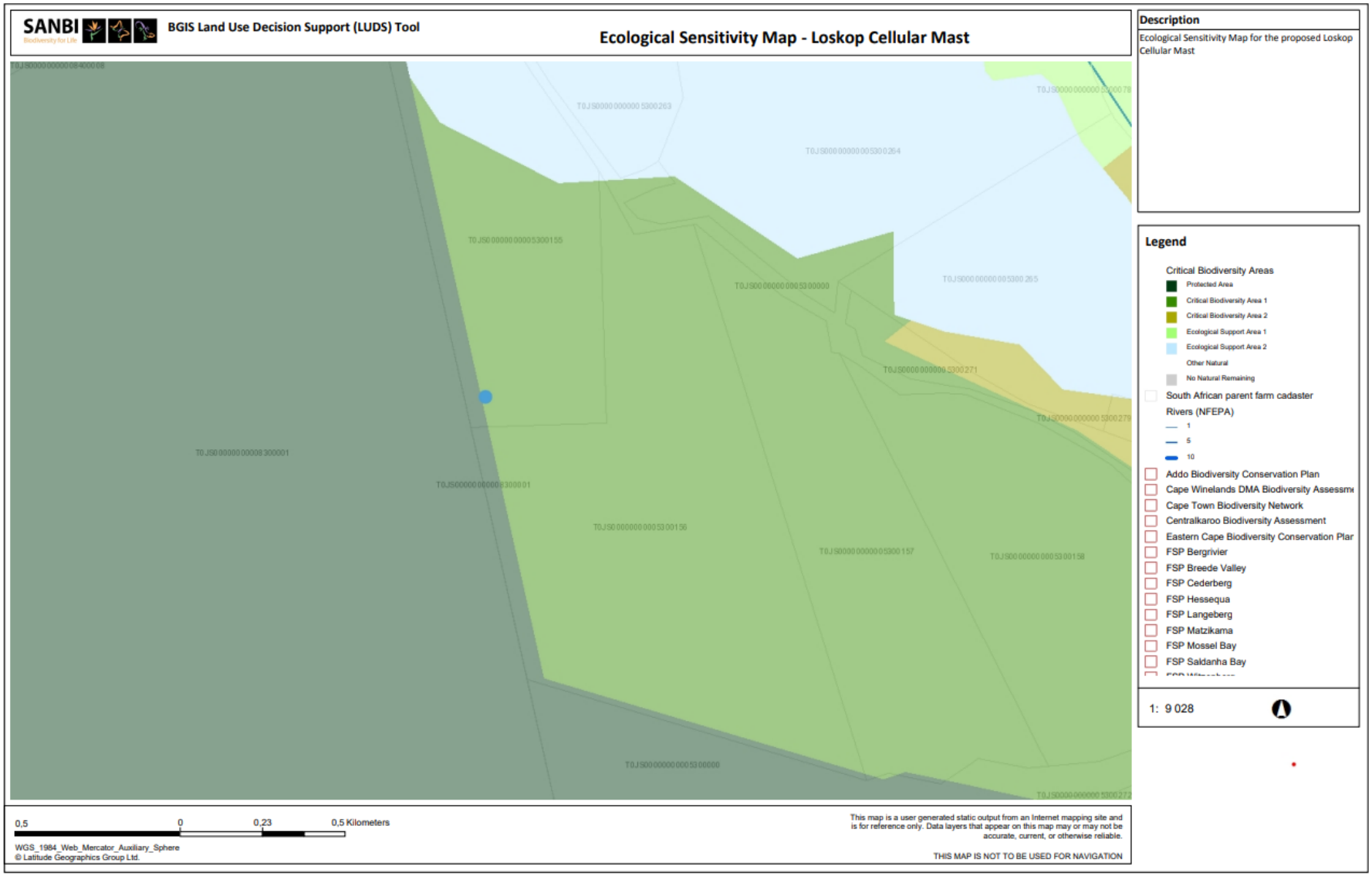

Figure 4: Ecological Sensitivity Map for the Loskop Cellular Mast, Elias Motsoaledi Local Municipality, Limpopo

5. LAND USE CHARACTER OF SURROUNDING AREA

At present, there is a cellular booster tower directly adjacent to the proposed site and a house located approximately 50m north-east of the proposed site. Other homesteads are also located approximately 100-300m from the proposed site, while the surrounding area is currently used for game farming purposes.

Indicate land uses and/or prominent features that does currently occur within a 500m radius of the site and give description of how this influences the application or may be impacted upon by the application:

Alternative 1:

5.1 Natural area	**X**	~~5.22 School~~	
5.2 Low density residential	**X**	~~5.23 Tertiary education facility~~	
~~5.3 Medium density residential~~		~~5.24 Church~~	
~~5.4 High density residential~~		~~5.25 Old age home~~	
~~5.5 Medium industrial~~ [AN]		~~5.26 Museum~~	
~~5.6 Office/consulting room~~		~~5.27 Historical building~~	
~~5.7 Military or police base/station/compound~~		**5.28 Protected Area**	**X**
~~5.8 Spoil heap or slimes dam~~ [A]		~~5.29 Sewage treatment plant~~ [A]	
~~5.9 Light industrial~~		~~5.30 Train station or shunting yard~~ [N]	
~~5.10 Heavy industrial~~ [AN]		~~5.31 Railway line~~ [N]	
~~5.11 Power station~~		~~5.32 Major road (4 lanes or more)~~	
~~5.12 Sport facilities~~		~~5.33 Airport~~ [N]	
~~5.13 Golf course~~		~~5.34 Harbour~~	
~~5.14 Polo fields~~		~~5.35 Quarry, sand or borrow pit~~	
~~5.15 Filling station~~ [H]		~~5.36 Hospital/medical centre~~	
~~5.16 Landfill or waste treatment site~~		~~5.37 River, stream or wetland~~	
~~5.17 Plantation~~		**5.38 Nature conservation area**	**X**
5.18 Agriculture	**X**	~~5.39 Mountain, koppie or ridge~~	
~~5.19 Archaeological site~~		~~5.40 Graveyard~~	
~~5.20 Quarry, sand or borrow pit~~		~~5.41 River, stream or wetland~~	
~~5.21 Dam or Reservoir~~		~~5.42 Other land uses (describe)~~	

If any of the boxes marked with an "N "are ticked, how will this impact / be impacted upon by the proposed activity?

N/A

If any of the boxes marked with an "An" are ticked, how will this impact / be impacted upon by the proposed activity?

If YES, specify and explain:	**N/A**
If NO, specify:	**N/A**

If any of the boxes marked with an "H" are ticked, how will this impact / be impacted upon by the proposed activity.

If YES, specify and explain:	**N/A**
If NO, specify:	**N/A**

6. CULTURAL/HISTORICAL FEATURES

Are there any signs of culturally or historically significant elements, as defined in section 2 of the National Heritage Resources Act, 1999, (Act No. 25 of 1999), including	~~YES~~	**NO**
Archaeological or palaeontological sites, on or close (within 20m) to the site?	Please see below	
If YES, explain:	N/A	
If uncertain, conduct a specialist investigation by a recognised specialist in the field to establish whether there is such a feature(s) present on or close to the site.		
Briefly explain the findings of the specialist:	N/A	
Will any building or structure older than 60 years be affected in any way?	~~YES~~	**NO**
Is it necessary to apply for a permit in terms of the National Heritage Resources Act, 1999 (Act 25 of 1999)?	~~YES~~	**NO**

If yes, please submit or, make sure that the applicant or a specialist submits the necessary application to SAHRA or the relevant provincial heritage agency and attach proof thereof to this application if such application has been made.

1. SECTION C: PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

1. ADVERTISEMENT

The person conducting a public participation process must take into account any guidelines applicable to public participation as contemplated in section 24J of the Act and must give notice to all potential interested and affected parties of the application which is subjected to public participation by—

(a) fixing a notice board (of a size at least 60cm by 42cm; and must display the required information in lettering and in a format as may be determined by the department) at a place conspicuous to the public at the boundary or on the fence of—

  (i) the site where the activity to which the application relates is or is to be undertaken; and

  (ii) any alternative site mentioned in the application;

(b) giving written notice to—

  (i) the owner or person in control of that land if the applicant is not the owner or person in control of the land;

  (ii) the occupiers of the site where the activity is or is to be undertaken or to any alternative site where the activity is to be undertaken;

  (iii) owners and occupiers of land adjacent to the site where the activity is or is to be undertaken or to any alternative site where the activity is to be undertaken;

  (iv) the municipal councillor of the ward in which the site or alternative site is situated and any organisation of ratepayers that represent the community in the area;

  (v) the municipality which has jurisdiction in the area;

  (vi) any organ of state having jurisdiction in respect of any aspect of the activity; and

  (vii) any other party as required by the department;

(c) placing an advertisement in—

  (i) one local newspaper; or

  (ii) any official *Gazette* that is published specifically for the purpose of providing public notice of applications or other submissions made in terms of these Regulations;

(d) placing an advertisement in at least one provincial newspaper or national newspaper, if the activity has or may have an impact that extends beyond the boundaries of the local municipality in which it is or will be undertaken: Provided that this paragraph need not be complied with if an advertisement has been placed in an official *Gazette* referred to in subregulation 54(c)(ii); and

(e) using reasonable alternative methods, as agreed to by the department, in those instances where a person is desiring of but unable to participate in the process due to—

  (i) illiteracy;

  (ii) disability; or

  (i) any other disadvantage.

2. CONTENT OF ADVERTISEMENTS AND NOTICES

A notice board, advertisement or notices must:

(a) indicate the details of the application which is subjected to public participation; and

(b) state—

(i) that the application has been submitted to the department in terms of these Regulations, as the case may be;

(ii) whether basic assessment or scoping procedures are being applied to the application, in the case of an application for environmental authorisation;

(iii) the nature and location of the activity to which the application relates;

(iv) where further information on the application or activity can be obtained; and

(v) the manner in which and the person to whom representations in respect of the application may be made.

3. PLACEMENT OF ADVERTISEMENTS AND NOTICES

Where the proposed activity may have impacts that extend beyond the municipal area where it is located, a notice must be placed in at least one provincial newspaper or national newspaper, indicating that an application will be submitted to the department in terms of these regulations, the nature and location of the activity, where further information on the proposed activity can be obtained and the manner in which representations in respect of the application can be made, unless a notice has been placed in any *Gazette* that is published specifically for the purpose of providing notice to the public of applications made in terms of these Regulations.

Advertisements and notices must make provision for all alternatives.

4. DETERMINATION OF APPROPRIATE MEASURES

The practitioner must ensure that the public participation is adequate and must determine whether a public meeting or any other additional measure is appropriate or not based on the particular nature of each case. Special attention should be given to the involvement of local community structures such as Ward Committees, ratepayers associations and traditional authorities where appropriate. Please note that public concerns that emerge at a later stage that should have been addressed may cause the department to withdraw any authorisation it may have issued if it becomes apparent that the public participation process was inadequate.

5. COMMENTS AND RESPONSE REPORT

The practitioner must record all comments and respond to each comment of the public before the application is submitted. The comments and responses must be captured in a comments and response report as prescribed in these Regulations and be attached to this application. The comments and response report must be attached under Appendix E.

6. AUTHORITY PARTICIPATION

Please note that a complete list of all organs of state and or any other applicable authority with their contact details must be appended to the basic assessment report or scoping report, whichever is applicable.

Authorities are key interested and affected parties in each application and no decision on any application will be made before the relevant local authority is provided with the opportunity to give input.

Name of Authority informed:	**Comments received (Yes or No)**
Department of Water and Sanitation	No
Department of Economic Development, Environment and Tourism	No
Department of Rural Development and Land Reform	No
Department of Mineral Resources	No
Limpopo Tourism and Parks Agency (Loskop Dam Nature Reserve)	No
SAHRA	No
Elias Motsoaledi Local Municipality	Yes
Sekhukhune District Municipality	No

7. CONSULTATION WITH OTHER STAKEHOLDERS

Note that, for linear activities, or where deviation from the public participation requirements may be appropriate, the person conducting the public participation process may deviate from the requirements of that subregulation to the extent and in the manner as may be agreed to by the department.

Proof of any such agreement must be provided, where applicable.

In effort to engage potential stakeholders, different communication methods were used to inform them about the project and how to get involved in the BA process. These methods include:

- Distributing English Background Information Documents (BIDs) to all registered I&APs, proof of which is attached in **Annexure C.2**;
- Placement of media advert in a local newspaper (The Daller as well as the Daller Express) on 20 October 2023 (see **Annexure C.4**).
- Placing of a notice at the proposed site took place on 13 October 2023 (see **Annexure C.5**);

The draft Basic Assessment Report will be made available for public review from 5 February – 6 March 2024.

Has any comment been received from stakeholders?	**YES**	~~NO~~

If "YES", briefly describe the feedback below (also attach copies of any correspondence to and from the stakeholders to this application):

2. SECTION D: IMPACT ASSESSMENT

The assessment of impacts must adhere to the minimum requirements in the EIA Regulations, 2014, and should take applicable official guidelines into account. The issues raised by interested and affected parties should also be addressed in the assessment of impacts.

1. ISSUES RAISED BY INTERESTED AND AFFECTED PARTIES

I&AP / DEPARTMENT OR STAKEHOLDER COMMENT	EAP REPSONSE
Civil Aviation Authority: Good day, kindly find and extract from the Obstacle regulations and information on Development for your respected information and screening. Kindly follow the obstacle application procedure and process as published on the SACAA website. Kindly include the EIA documentation attached to this e-mail to the application to indicate the location near the Nature reserve to consider the Marking requirements. More information can be obtained at https://www.caa.co.za/industry-information/obstacles/ click	**EAP Response:** Good day Lizell Trust you are well. I just want to confirm if the process which you have required is still applicable if CAA approval have already been obtained as attached? We are currently undertaking the EIA process and the CAA is included within the

on information for industry under 'Obstacles' to access the application form. On the application form (CA139-27 form): The form must be sent to obstacles@caa.co.za, if not accessible kindly complete the bulk application.	Stakeholder database for comment purposes only. Core Environmental Services is not responsible for any application to be submitted to the CAA. If my understanding of the below email is in correct, please assist.
Elias Motsoaledi Local Municipality Mr. Masego: Kindly notify this office with all environmental management related activities prior and during the process. This office will also do compliance monitoring on routine basis.	**EAP Response:** Comment is noted.
Adjacent Property Owner: Mr. Samual Thomas Anne-Mari, I acknowledge the location and have no concerns. (Only concern is that the co-ordinates in the letter attached is incorrect.)	**EAP Response:** Dear Mr. Thomas Thank you for picking that up, apologies, it will be corrected and resent.

2. IMPACTS THAT MAY RESULT FROM THE PLANNING AND DESIGN, CONSTRUCTION, OPERATIONAL, DECOMMISSIONING AND CLOSURE PHASES AS WELL AS PROPOSED MANAGEMENT OF IDENTIFIED IMPACTS AND PROPOSED MITIGATION MEASURES

2.1 Impacts during construction and decommissioning

The construction and decommissioning of the cellular mast are likely to result in environmental and socio-economic impacts. The alternative of not establishing the mast is also assessed and discussed within this section of the report.

The identified impacts are listed below and discussed thereafter:

- *Biodiversity Impact;*
- *Visual;*
- *Generation of dust;*
- *Erosion;*
- *Soil Pollution;*
- *Waste Management;*
- *Noise; and*
- *Socio-economic impact.*

2.1.1 Biodiversity Impact

Description of the potential impact

The affected footprint of the site will be restricted to approximately 64m^2. According to the Sekhukhune Bioregional Plan, 2019, the proposed site falls within a Critical Biodiversity Area. These are areas that are critical for meeting biodiversity targets and for this reason, construction and decommissioning activities must be undertaken in such a manner to ensure that the impact on the biodiversity is minimised. The activities which could impact the biodiversity during the construction and decommissioning phase include the following:

- Clearance of vegetation; and
- Fragmentation of habitat;

Significance of the impacts

During the initial site investigation, no significant plant species was identified which could be impacted by the proposed cellular mast. The project is however located within a Critical Biodiversity Area and therefore the magnitude of the impact is regarded as medium. Due to the small footprint of the site to be affected, the short construction timeframe as well as the sensitivity of the site identified during the initial site investigation, the impact is regarded to be of low significance.

As for the No-Go Option: It is noted that if the proposed mast is not established, there will be no impact on the biodiversity of the area and therefore the impact is regarded as neutral.

IMPACT	BEFORE MITIGATION					AFTER MITIGATION
	Magnitude	Extent	Duration	Probability	Impact Rating	Impact Rating
Impact on biodiversity (Construction and decommissioning) **[NEGATIVE]**	Medium	Site Specific	Short-term	Definite	Low	Very Low
Impact on biodiversity (No-Go Option)	Neutral	N/A	N/A	N/A	Neutral	Neutral

Mitigation measures

- Movement of machinery and equipment must be restricted to current access roads;
- An Invasive Species Management Programme must be compiled and complied with during the construction operational phase of the project;
- Stipulations of the Environmental Management Program (EMPr) should be adhered to during the establishment and operational phases of the project.

2.1.2 Visual Impact

Description of the potential impact

During the construction and decommissioning phase of the project, the site might become very untidy. The proposed site will be visible to the adjacent homestead located on the property and therefore an untidy construction site could negatively impact the visual receptors.

Significance of the impact

Due to the isolated location of the project site, the visual impact during construction and decommissioning phases are of low significance but can be mitigated to be of very low significance.

As for the No-Go Alternative, it is noted that if the mast is not established, it will have no additional visual impact on the surrounding environment and therefore the impact is neutral.

IMPACT	BEFORE MITIGATION					AFTER MITIGATION
	Magnitude	Extent	Duration	Probability	Impact Rating	Impact Rating
Visual Impact (Construction and decommissioning) **[NEGATIVE]**	Low	Site-specific	Short-term	Probable	Low	Very Low
Visual Impact (No-Go Option)	Neutral	N/A	N/A	N/A	Neutral	Neutral

Mitigation Measures

- The contractor must ensure that the site is tidy during the life of construction and decommissioning and no waste may be visible to residents or motorists passing by.

2.1.3 Generation of dust

Description of the potential impact

As soil will be disturbed during the construction and decommissioning period and heavy moving vehicles will be travelling to and from the site, dust could be generated and could affect adjacent owners and road users.

Significance of the impact

Due to the scale of the project and the short construction and decommissioning timeframe, the significance of the impact is of low significance. Mitigation measures must however be implemented to minimise the possibility of the impact occurring.

For the no-Go Alternative, it is noted that should the mast not be established, there will be no dust generation and therefore the impact is neutral.

IMPACT	BEFORE MITIGATION					AFTER MITIGATION
	Magnitude	Extent	Duration	Probability	Impact Rating	Impact Rating
Dust generation (Construction and decommissioning) **[NEGATIVE]**	Low	Site-specific	Short-term	Probable	Low	Very Low
Dust generation (No-Go option)	Neutral	N/A	N/A	N/A	Neutral	Neutral

Mitigation measures

- Areas may not be disturbed and left for unattended for long periods of time. The establishment of the mast must take place immediately after the area is cleared and disturbed;
- Heavy moving vehicles and other construction vehicles must adhere to a speed limit of 40km/h.

2.1.4 Impact on soil

Description of the potential impact

The cellular mast is proposed on a slope at the highest point of the hill and therefore the possibility of erosion occurring is increased when vegetation is cleared and soil is disturbed. Mitigation measures to minimise the possibility of erosion is therefore imperative.

Other activities which could have an impact on soil, include the uncontrolled use of hazardous substances and/or heavy machinery. Hazardous substances such as oil, diesel etc., could be spilled during construction, leading to the pollution of soil which can alter microbial processes and be toxic to soil organisms.

Significance of the impact

During construction and decommissioning, soil could be impacted by the following:

- Erosion; and

- Contamination with the use and possible spillage of hazardous substances.

Due to the slope of the proposed project area, the possibility of erosion occurring is likely. The impact is subsequently classified to be of High magnitude, site specific extent and short-term duration and therefore the impact is regarded to be of medium significance prior to the implementation of mitigation measures.

Another factor impacting soil would be the possible spillage of hazardous substances. This impact is of medium magnitude, site specific and short duration and for this reason the impact is also of low significance prior to the implementation of mitigation measures.

Should the mast not be established, there will be no impact on soil (erosion and/or pollution) and therefore the impact of soil erosion and soil contamination associated with the No-Go Alternative, is neutral.

IMPACT	**BEFORE MITIGATION**					**AFTER MITIGATION**
	Magnitude	**Extent**	**Duration**	**Probability**	**Impact Rating**	**Impact Rating**
Erosion (Construction and decommissioning) **[NEGATIVE]**	High	Site-specific	Short-term	Probable	Medium	Low
Erosion (No-Go Option)	Neutral	N/A	N/A	N/A	Neutral	Neutral
Soil pollution (Construction and decommissioning) **[NEGATIVE]**	Medium	Site-specific	Short-term	Probable	Medium	Low
Soil pollution (No-Go Option)	Neutral	N/A	N/A	N/A	Neutral	Neutral

Mitigation measures

- To minimise the possibility of erosion, it is recommended that no disturbed areas be left unattended.
- Disturbance and clearance of vegetative cover must be restricted to the development footprint.
- Measures to reduce the velocity of water, must be taken on areas prone to erosion.
- Should there be any spillage of hazardous substances during the construction phase, soil must be removed up to a depth of 300mm and be disposed of at a registered hazardous waste disposal facility. Proof of such disposal must be kept on file.

2.1.5 Noise generation

Description of the potential impact

During construction and decommissioning, activities will generate noise which could affect surrounding land users. The nearest receptors are located approximately m north of the proposed site and therefore the adjacent noise receptor could be impacted negatively during the construction phase.

Significance of the impact

Due to the short timeframe of construction and decommissioning, the impact of noise causing disturbance to surrounding landowners or users were assessed to be of low significance.

If the mast were not to be established with the no-go alternative being preferred, there will be no change to the existing noise levels of the area.

IMPACT	BEFORE MITIGATION					AFTER MITIGATION
	Magnitude	Extent	Duration	Probability	Impact Rating	Impact Rating
Noise generation (Construction and decommissioning) **[NEGATIVE]**	Low	Site-specific	Short-term	Probable	Low	Very Low
Noise generation (No-Go Option)	Neutral	N/A	N/A	N/A	Neutral	Neutral

Mitigation measures

- Construction activities must be limited between 7:00 and 17:00 on weekdays and between 7:00 and 15:00 on Saturdays;
- Ensure that all equipment is in good working order.

2.1.6 Waste management

Description of the potential impact

During construction and decommissioning, domestic and construction waste will be generated, temporarily stored and will need to be disposed of in accordance with the National Environmental Management Waste Act 59 of 2008. The improper storage and disposal of construction and other domestic waste will have a significant impact on the surrounding environment.

As there are no sanitation facilities at the site, temporary sanitation facilities will have to be provided and managed accordingly to prevent any pollution to the surrounding area.

Significance of the impact

Although the construction period is short lived, improper sanitation as well as the storage and disposal of waste will have a long-lasting effect on the environment and therefore the impact is of medium significance prior to the implementation of mitigation measures.

As for the No-Go Alternative, should the mast not be established, no additional waste will be generated and the impact will therefore be neutral.

IMPACT	BEFORE MITIGATION					AFTER MITIGATION
	Magnitude	Extent	Duration	Probability	Impact Rating	Impact Rating
Improper waste storage and disposal (Construction and decommissioning) **[NEGATIVE]**	High	Site-specific	Short-duration	Probable	Medium	Low
Improper waste storage and disposal (No-Go Option)	Neutral	N/A	N/A	N/A	Neutral	Neutral

Mitigation measures

- Refuse bins with lids must be provided at the site during construction;
- A temporary waste storage area must be cordoned off at the construction site and must be accessible by a waste removal truck. Waste must be temporarily stored in a waste skip and be removed from site on a weekly basis, or at an acceptable frequency to be determined during the construction period.
- Good housekeeping practises must be implemented, and daily litter patrol undertaken to ensure that there is no littering on the construction site.
- Waste must be removed to a registered waste disposal facility and proof of such disposal must be kept on file;
- Hazardous waste must be stored and disposed of separately and a third-party contractor must be appointed to remove hazardous waste from the construction site;
- Chemical toilet facilities must be provided during construction, 1 toilet for every 15 workers. These facilities must be kept clean and inspected on a regular basis.

2.1.7 Socio-economic Impact

Description of the potential impact

During construction and decommissioning of the cellular mast, various job opportunities will be created, and local suppliers would benefit indirectly from the activities.

In terms of safety and security, there is always risk associated with construction activities and it is therefore essential that all workers comply with the Health and Safety Act 85 of 1993. Surrounding farm owners might also feel threatened and concerned about their safety during the construction period.

Significance of the impacts

Based on the methodology detailed in **Section 6**, the following ratings have been assigned to the 'employment opportunities' and impact associated with health and safety of employees and surrounding farm owners, respectively.

The job opportunities are short-lived and therefore the impact is only of medium (+) significance. In terms of the health and safety aspects of workforce as well as surrounding farm owners, the significance of the impact has been rated to be of low significance due to the short construction timeframe. Mitigation measures must however be adhered to.

Should the mast not be established, no job opportunities will be created for the construction and decommissioning phases of the mast en therefore there would be no change to the job opportunities for the area. In terms of health and safety, the impact would also be neutral as construction activities would not be undertaken and therefore there would be no impact on the health and safety of contractors.

IMPACT	BEFORE MITIGATION					AFTER MITIGATION
	Magnitude	Extent	Duration	Probability	Impact Rating	Impact Rating
Job opportunities **[POSITIVE]**	Medium	Local	Short-term	Definite	Neutral	Medium (+)
Job opportunities (Construction and decommissioning)	Neutral	N/A	N/A	N/A	Neutral	Neutral
Health and Safety **[NEGATIVE]**	Medium	Site-specific	Short-term	Probable	Low	Very Low
Health and Safety (No-Go Option)	Neutral	N/A	N/A	N/A	Neutral	Neutral

Mitigation measures

- The contractor must ensure that residents receive preference for job opportunities where local labour might be required.
- It is imperative that all construction personnel adhere to the Occupational Health and Safety Act 85 of 1998 and that no construction personnel enter any properties except where the mast is proposed to be constructed.

2.2 Operational Phase Impacts

During operation, the cellular mast is likely to result in the following environmental and socio-economic impacts:

- *Visual; and*
- *Socio-economic*

2.2.1 Visual Impact

Description of the potential impact

The area surrounding the proposed site is mostly used for agriculture (game farming purposes), while the Loskop Nature Reserve is located adjacent to the proposed site. The lattice mast is proposed to be 36m in height and therefore the cellular mast will be visible to the surrounding landowners as well as the N11 National Road located approximately 600m north-east of the proposed site.

Significance of the impact

The design proposed for the cellular mast is the lattice steel structure, which has less of a visual impact than the monopole structure. As the structure will however still be visible to surrounding landowners and other visual receptors, the impact is rated to be of medium magnitude. The impact is however of local extent and long-term duration and therefore the impact is of medium significance prior to the implementation of mitigation measures.

As for the No-Go Alternative, should the telecommunication mast not be erected, there will be no additional visual impact on the surrounding environment and therefore the impact is neutral.

IMPACT	**BEFORE MITIGATION**					**AFTER MITIGATION**
	Magnitude	**Extent**	**Duration**	**Probability**	**Impact Rating**	**Impact Rating**
Visual Impact (Operational) **[NEGATIVE]**	Medium	Local	Long-term	Probable	Medium	Medium
Visual Impact (No-go Option)	Neutral	N/A	N/A	N/A	Neutral	Neutral

Mitigation Measures

- The visual impact during the operational phase can unfortunately not be mitigated, however, the impact is already mitigated by the fact that the structure proposed is a lattice structure.

2.2.2 Socio-economic Impact

Description of the potential impact

Businesses and farmers depend on a network infrastructure for all aspects of daily operation and on a personal level, better connectivity enabled family and friends from all over the world to connect by means of the latest technology. During the operation of the cellular mast, residents of surrounding area will enjoy better network connectivity which will have a positive impact on their social and economic environment and will ensure connectivity in case of an emergency.

Significance of the impacts

When considering the social and economic impacts of the cellular mast at the Loskop area, it is evident that the mast will have a positive impact on the surrounding community and for this reason the impact is of high significance (positive).

Should it be found that the mast is not established, the current connectivity problems will remain and therefore the socio-economic impact would be negative and of high significance.

IMPACT	BEFORE MITIGATION					AFTER MITIGATION
	Magnitude	Extent	Duration	Probability	Impact Rating	Impact Rating
Socio-economic development (Operational) **[POSITIVE]**	High (+)	Regional	Long-term	Definite	High (+)	High (+)
Socio-economic development (No-Go Option) **[NEGATIVE]**	High (-)	Regional	Long-term	Definite	High (-)	High (-)

Mitigation measures

No mitigation measures required as the operational impact is positive. However, not establishing the mast, will have a highly negative impact on the socio-economic environment as connectivity is extremely important to improve

for social as well as the economic environment for the area. The only mitigation for the no-go alternative, would be to establish the telecommunication mast.

3. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

Taking the assessment of potential impacts into account, please provide an environmental impact statement that summarises the impact that the proposed activity and its alternatives may have on the environment after the management and mitigation of impacts have been taken into account, with specific reference to types of impact, duration of impacts, likelihood of potential impacts actually occurring and the significance of impacts.

Alternative 1 (preferred alternative)

IMPACT	SIGNIFICANCE BEFORE MITIGATION MEASURES	SIGNIFICANCE AFTER MITIGATION MEASURES
Construction and decommissioning Impacts		
Biodiversity Impact	Low	Very Low
Visual Impact	Low	Very Low
Generation of dust	Low	Very Low
Erosion	Medium	Low
Soil Pollution	Low	Very Low
Noise generation	Low	Very Low
Waste generation	Medium	Low
Job opportunities	Neutral	Medium (+)
Health and Safety	Low	Very Low
Operational Phase Impacts		
Visual Impact	Medium	Medium
Socio-economic Impact	High (+)	High (+)

No-go alternative

IMPACT	SIGNIFICANCE BEFORE MITIGATION MEASURES	SIGNIFICANCE AFTER MITIGATION MEASURES
Construction and decommissioning Impacts		
Biodiversity Impact	Neutral	Neutral
Visual Impact	Neutral	Neutral
Generation of dust	Neutral	Neutral
Erosion	Neutral	Neutral
Soil Pollution	Neutral	Neutral
Noise generation	Neutral	Neutral
Waste generation	Neutral	Neutral
Job opportunities	Neutral	Neutral
Health and Safety	Neutral	Neutral
Operational Phase Impacts		
Visual Impact	Neutral	Neutral
Socio-economic Impact	High (-)	High (-)

For more alternatives please continue as alternative D, E, etc.

SECTION E. RECOMMENDATION OF PRACTITIONER

Is the information contained in this report and the documentation attached hereto sufficient to make a decision in respect of the activity applied for (in the view of the environmental assessment practitioner)?	**YES**	~~NO~~

If "NO", indicate the aspects that should be assessed further as part of a Scoping and EIA process before a decision can be made (list the aspects that require further assessment):

N/A

If "YES", please list any recommended conditions, including mitigation measures that should be considered for inclusion in any authorisation that may be granted by the department in respect of the application:

The essence of all environmental assessment processes is aimed at ensuring informed decision-making and environmental accountability. Furthermore, it assists in achieving environmentally sound and sustainable development. The impact assessment for this project has been undertaken in line with the requirements prescribed in the NEMA regulations.
The assessment of the possible impacts associated with the construction, operation and decommissioning activities concluded that the impact on the surrounding environment is of low significance.

Recommendations have however been made to address the impacts which could affect the biophysical and socio-economic environment. These recommendations were included within the impact assessment above and also the Draft Environmental Management Plan attached.

The aspects which must be mostly considered during the construction phase includes the possibility of erosion as well as waste generation and removal. Mitigation measures to address these impacts have been discussed within the EMP, however, to summarise, it is imperative that the following mitigation measures are included as a condition of the Environmental Authorisation (EA), to ensure that the impacts are minimised:

- To minimise the possibility of erosion, it is recommended that no disturbed areas be left unattended.
- Disturbance and clearance of vegetative cover must be restricted to the development footprint.
- Measures to reduce the velocity of water, must be taken on areas prone to erosion.
- Refuse bins with lids must be provided at the site during construction;
- A temporary waste storage area must be cordoned off at the construction site and must be accessible by a waste removal truck. Waste must be temporarily stored in a waste skip and be removed from site on a weekly basis, or at an acceptable frequency to be determined during the construction period.

It is the opinion of the EAP that the EA for this project should be granted, and the proposed mitigation included as the conditions of the authorisation.

Is an EMPr attached? The EMPr must be attached as Appendix F.	**YES**	~~NO~~

SECTION F: APPENDIXES

The following appendixes must be attached as appropriate:

Appendix A: Site plan(s) and Facility Illustrations

Appendix B: Photographs

Appendix C: Public Participation Process

Appendix D: Environmental Management Plan

SECTION G: DECLARATION BY THE ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT PRACTITIONER

I, _____ declare that I –

(a) act as the independent environmental practitioner in this application;
(b) do not have and will not have any financial interest in the undertaking of the activity, other than remuneration for work performed in terms of the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations, 2014;
(c) do not have and will not have a vested interest in the proposed activity proceeding;
(d) have no, and will not engage in, conflicting interests in the undertaking of the activity;
(e) undertake to disclose, to the competent authority, any material information that has or may have the potential to influence the decision of the competent authority or the objectivity of any report, plan or document required in terms of the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations, 2006;
(f) will ensure that information containing all relevant facts in respect of the application is distributed or made available to interested and affected parties and the public and that participation by interested and affected parties is facilitated in such a manner that all interested and affected parties will be provided with a reasonable opportunity to participate and to provide comments on documents that are produced to support the application;
(g) will ensure that the comments of all interested and affected parties are considered and recorded in reports that are submitted to the Department in respect of the application, provided that comments that are made by interested and affected parties in respect of a final report that will be submitted to the Department may be attached to the report without further amendment to the report;
(h) will keep a register of all interested and affected parties that participated in a public participation process; and
(i) will provide the Department with access to all information at my disposal regarding the application, whether such information is favourable to the applicant or not.

Signature of the Environmental Assessment Practitioner:

Name of company:

Date: