

Mrs Wendy Rippon
Buffalo Kloof Private Game Reserve,
Southwell Road
Makhanda
6140

CES
Objections to Albany Wind Farm
EIA Review Board,
67 African Street,
P.O. Box 934,
Grahamstown
6140

29th August 2021.

FOR ATTENTION: MS CAROLINE EVANS

Re: Objection to the construction of The Albany Wind Farm, Makhanda

This second letter of objection serves to further record the objections of family and staff of Buffalo Kloof Private Game Reserve to the construction of the above-mentioned facility.

It is noted with some great concern that there are several significant omissions of the recently presented Environmental Impact Assessment as produced by the consultants CES Environmental and Social Advisory Services, matters that have previously been raised by several interested and effected parties, that have not been addressed in the revised draft EIA.

The area of the proposed development is a rapidly diminishing biodiverse habitat that is being sacrificed for a relatively short-term gain in power production that is neither efficient nor reliable. The availability factor for wind turbines is no better than 30%, thus there is a continued reliance on fossil burning fuels to make the required power generation when the proposed wind turbines are not available for power production. This reliance on fossil fuels to make up the lack of power generation by the wind turbines results in a significant increase in the cost of power generation. In effect it is necessary to pay for a dual power generation. This is demonstrated daily by the elevated carbon dioxide releases from Germany. The longevity of wind turbines is very questionable, and after decommissioning it is impossible to recycle the turbines due to their process of manufacture. The only disposal option available for these constructions is to bury the turbines in already overcrowded disposal facilities.

Due to various comments in the EIA there proves to be a significant lack of data pertaining to the proposed windfarm.

1. The concerns about **noise pollution** during construction and during the operational phase have not been addressed adequately. No effort has been made to consider the impact of turbine vibration on the subsonic communication of elephant herds within the region. It is recognised that this ability to communicate by elephants over long distances has a material impact on the behaviour of these animals.
2. The **biodiversity survey** that has been completed makes little or no mention of a range of indigenous animals, birds, reptiles and amphibia. There is little understanding of the diversity of the biota in the region given the omission of animals as large as leopards from the survey work. If this is indicative of the work completed, then this calls into question the completeness and correctness of the work completed. As such then on this basis alone the draft EIA should be rejected.
3. The proposed Albany WEF is sited in the proposed Albany Mega Reserve and Albany Biodiversity Corridor, also referred to as Addo to Great Fish. The construction of this WEF would compromise this landscape corridor (which Buffalo Kloof is apart of) within the Albany and would fatally compromise the possibility of the formation of a massive wilderness/conservancy area in the Eastern Cape. This would be far more financially viable, the jobs this type of formation could create would highly benefit all the local community spread out from Addo to great fish.
4. **Destruction of the visual amenity** in the region. The greater Makhanda region relies heavily on the tourism industry for income and both direct and indirect employment of the local population. Many of **these visitors to the region come from overseas bringing significant spending power with them.** **They** come to the region expecting to see the genuine wild Africa experience, and not to see the skyline littered with wind turbines. These overseas visitors are prepared to pay significant money for this privilege. It should not be forgotten that these overseas visitors have chosen to visit this area over many other available options both here and on the African continent. Does the short-term, short-lived gain in expensive power generation justify the loss of the significant tourist trade, especially in these seriously financially constrained conditions, where unemployment has reached more than 30%? Buffalo Kloof's overall severity of impact from the wind turbine is deemed as HIGH. The turbines will be in full view from both of our main lodges, we cannot express enough how this will adversely affect our livelihoods.

In the visual impact assessment, it is stated "The study area to the north and northwest includes a number of public nature reserves (such as the Great Fish

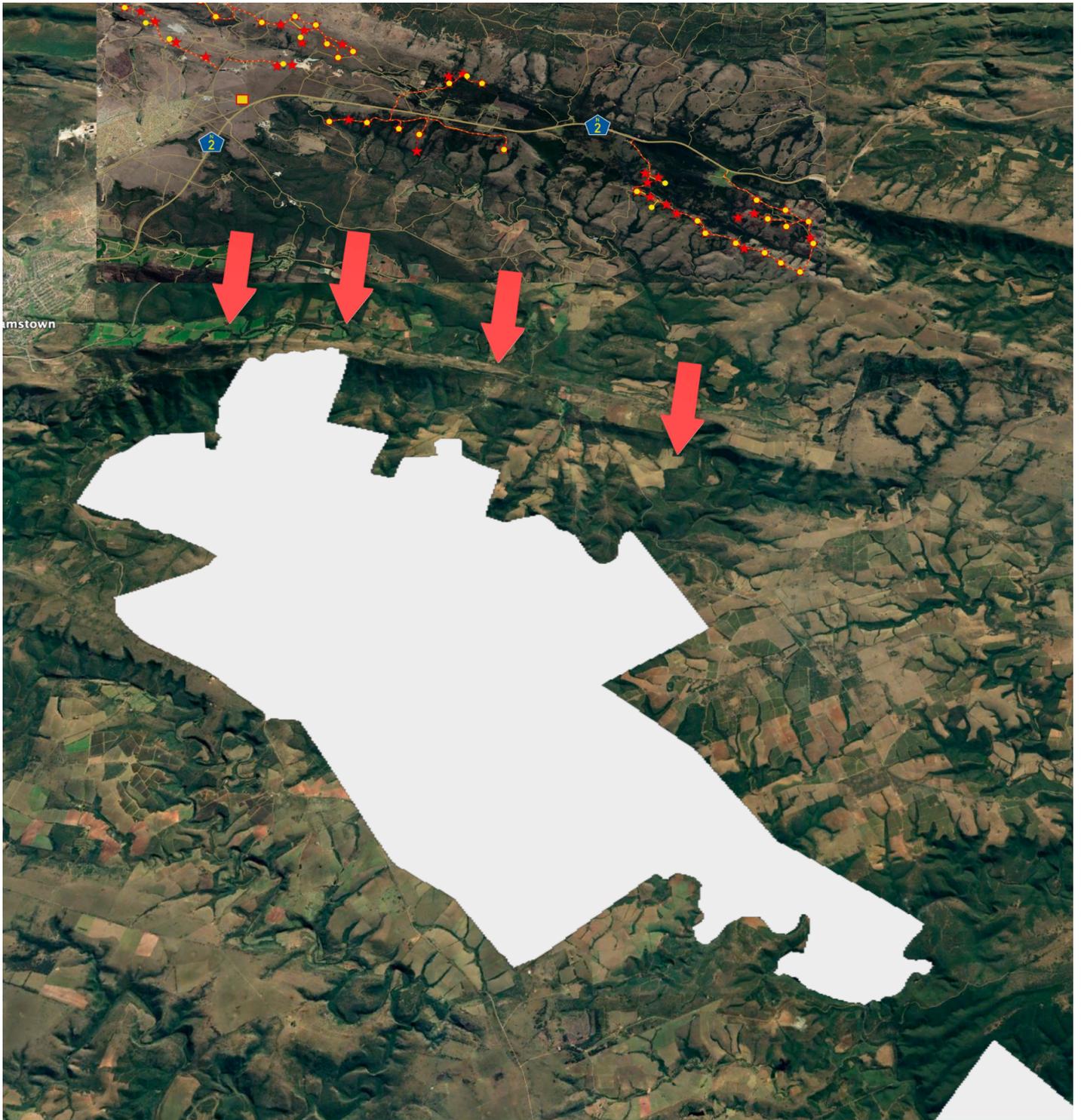
River Nature Reserve) and private game reserves (such as Kwandwe Private Game Reserve) which are sensitive receptors in the surrounding landscape. However, the majority of the land in the study area consists of agricultural land, particularly to the north east and east, and towns and villages, which are a less sensitive visual receptors. The majority of the landscape in the study area has been transformed to some degree by historical agricultural activities. Man-made structures, activities and effects are present in most views of the landscape. The scenic value could be described as HIGH (but not pristine or unique) due to presence of good condition Fish Arid and Fish Valley thicket vegetation. It is concluded that the surrounding landscape will have a MODERATE overall visual sensitivity for agricultural and residential areas to HIGH overall visual sensitivity for the nature and game reserves.”

How can it be that Buffalo Kloof Private Game Reserve is not mentioned in the above write up? It is mentioned in the table below, we are HIGH on the severity of impact visually??

It is projected that the proposed Albany WEF will have a HIGH severity visual impact on the following sensitive receptors.

Visual Receptors	Overall severity of impact
Provincial and Municipal Nature Reserves	
Ecca Nature Reserve	HIGH
Private Protected Environment	
Kwandwe Private Game Reserve North (Indalo)	MODERATE to HIGH
Kwandwe West Indalo Protected Environment	HIGH western cluster
Buffalo Kloof Protected Environment	HIGH
Private reserves and game farms	
Kwandwe Private Game Reserve (non Indalo)	MODERATE to HIGH

The map below clearly shows Buffalo Kloof (filled in white) will be severely impacted by the visual impact, let alone the impact this will have on our tourism base and larger wildlife such as our elephant. Buffalo Kloof has been, and is adding more land to the existing Buffalo Kloof property, changing land use from agriculture to a wild protected area, making it an even worse HIGH land mass for visual sensitivity.



Once again, we are highly objecting to the proposition of your windfarm. The presented EIA is a pathetic reply to the objections already raised by multiple landowners. It is just regurgitated pages of non-substantive information that does not satisfy land owners.

Yours sincerely,

Mr Warne Rippon

Owner of Buffalo Kloof Private Game Reserve