

*enables one to enjoy time away from the urban/industrial environment in which we spend our lives – and to have the windfarm visible at all times would be a complete intrusion*

**How would the visibility of windfarms from within Kwandwe Game Reserve impact on your decision to visit Kwandwe?** - *yes it would – we would be devastated if we were unable to enjoy the experience of Kwandwe in its pristine state*

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- 1. Yes I think the visual/aesthetic nature of the Kwandwe experience is important – the largest private wilderness in the Eastern Cape (?) – a serious attraction.*
  - 2. Yes it will impact to varying degrees. Our ‘wilderness-style’ travelers will not book knowing this and this is a good portion of our guests. Other less serious bush people may tolerate it without enjoying it. I think that in fact the red night lights are worse than the day time impact. Night skies are a big part of the Kwandwe experience too.*
  - 3. Again yes – as above, I would have to screen and discuss this with potential guests without question. Sadly.*
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**Would the nature and type of infrastructure that is visible from Kwandwe be of relevance to your visual / aesthetic experience of the landscape?**

*Yes.*

**Would being able to see a windfarm during both the day and the night (due to red electronic aviation warning lights) impact on your choice of destination for a wildlife tourist experience in South Africa?**

*Yes.*

**How would the visibility of windfarms from within Kwandwe Game Reserve impact on your decision to visit Kwandwe?**

*The entire point of the safari experience is to get away from urbanisation and to experience animals in a pristine nature setting. Any form of man-made infrastructure is likely to impact this experience. Turbines have night lights will detract from the night sky and aside from bird-strikes on the turbines I am led to understand that the subsonic sounds resulting from the turbines moving through the air may have an impact on elephant communication and behaviour because elephants utilise their stomach cavities to transmit similar subsonic signals.*

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*We have been regular visitors to Kwandwe Private Game Reserve over the past 7 years, and have brought many international visitors with us as well. Kwandwe is unique in the Eastern Cape for a number of reasons, but particularly for it’s sense of isolation, and real connection to nature and wildness. It’s location between specific mountain ranges and bordering hills makes for this uniqueness and gives visitors a real sense of the past geography and splendour of Africa.*

*We have read with great concern the plan for a wind farm on the southern border of Kwandwe, and the potential impact of unsightly turbines on the horizon. If implemented this would mean that nearly every game drive would be punctuated by the distant, or close up, sight of turbines, and would certainly disturb the sense of isolation that is so unique to the Kwandwe experience.*

*We believe that this in turn will directly impact the attractiveness of Kwandwe to both foreign and local visitors, with further direct impact on the employment and community enhancement that Kwandwe provides, and ultimately on the wider conservation efforts that Kwandwe contributes to.*

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**Would the nature and type of infrastructure that is visible from Kwandwe be of relevance to your visual / aesthetic experience of the landscape?** *Sadly, it would have a huge impact. ☹️☹️☹️*

Would being able to see a windfarm during both the day and the night (due to red electronic aviation warning lights) impact on your choice of destination for a wildlife tourist experience in South Africa? **Nothing will change our love of Kwandwe and we certainly wont look for alternate destinations, but it will lessen the impact of a visit....you will feel that you just cannot escape the city** 😞😞😞

How would the visibility of windfarms from within Kwandwe Game Reserve impact on your decision to visit Kwandwe? **Same answer as 2 above** 😞😞😞

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*Yes, maybe the construction of a windfarm would have some short term effects, but in no way would that be a detriment to our returning to Kwandwe. If it did not affect the animals and their habits, seeing the windmills day or night would not be a hindrance to our return. I worked on oil drilling rigs for 25 years and these same things came up numerous times. As long as the animals were undisturbed, we would not object to seeing Kwandwe again. Thank you for your inquiry.*

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*We have been to Kwandwe twice now, The first time by ourselves and the second time with our two grandchildren. We have also been to Pumba twice and Shamwari. The real attraction of Kwandwe is the feeling that one is really in the Bush, with little of modern civilization to impact on the experience, so we would things to stay as they are. However, to answer your specific questions, seeing windmills on the horizon, breaking its line would really impact the enjoyment. Being against the background of other hills would be preferable. It also depends on the direction, being visible from the patio at Sunset and night-time would be bad, just occasionally seeing them during drives might be acceptable.*

*Their presence could possibly influence whether we visit again or not, though most other reserves also have the N2 visible.*

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*Further to the proposal in the vicinity of Kwandwe, a truly magnificent wildlife, breeding and Conservation reserve, we, as frequent guests, wish to contribute with great shock, that it would be of utmost interest to final outcome on wind turbines being finalised to please seriously consider that aesthetically this will completely change the unspoilt landscape of Kwandwe Game Reserve. These turbines in number, would be very relevant to this unspoilt natural landscape environment as will clearly visible to all who visit Kwandwe Game Reserve time and again. These proposed huge wind turbines would impact anyone wishing to visit this magnificent preserved land and true African Wildlife experience due to huge and obvious change to the visible landscape of the area.*

*Our future choice to visit Kwandwe Game Reserve and enjoy this amazing reserve would most certainly be impacted by fact that there could possibly be turbines visible day and night - being frequent visitors to the beautiful Eastern Cape, we are familiar with other turbines around the Eastern Cape - both the continual noise and red light shining off these at night would further put Kwandwe Game Reserve at the bottom of the list of the peace and tranquility a true Game Reserve offers. The proposed change huge turbines would make to this environment, would most certainly impact overseas tourists looking for the best true wildlife experience Kwandwe Game Reserve offers to guests. Future Tourism to Kwandwe Game Reserve, presently sought after as one of the best experiences in South Africa, would be seriously impacted from within and out of our Country and for one would look to alternative choices for a wildlife experience.*

*The greatest experience Kwandwe Game Reserve offers to their patrons is the magnificent Wildlife which would also be impacted by turbines as this is a huge disturbance to their natural instincts which everyone wishes to observe both during the day and on night drives, stopping during drives to observe the peace and beauty all around one and getting away from the maddening crowd of what is most people's daily lives! The disturbance to this natural habitat would be detrimental to the large bird and wildlife population with many high value animals Kwandwe Game Reserve produces in the ongoing conservation endeavour. As game farmers we are aware of wildlife behaviour and needs.*

*Kindly note that Kwandwe is a sought after destination with an amazing foundation supporting many families and all of this could be totally lost for mere fact that people who love to get away, do not want to be confronted with what is alien to the natural habitat of this part of the world. There is no doubt patrons loyal to Kwandwe will look for alternative destinations rather than see the changed landscape which will be a far cry from what is normal in this E.Cape countryside.*

*Please consider these factors in your E.I.A. of whether it is the right area to place wind farms around such landmarks in the Eastern Cape.*

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**Finally, one of Kwandwe's clients is Steve Lewis-Roberts, who has consented to the disclosure of his personal information:**

*Thank you for informing us about the proposed Albany Wind Energy Facility. By way of background, it is relevant to note that I am a Chartered Town Planner. I am Senior Director at Pegasus Group, one of the UKs leading planning consultancies, and I have extensive experience of preparing and assessing Environmental Impact Assessments for major development proposals.*

*My professional opinion is that the proposed WEF will have a significantly adverse visual impact on the Kwandwe Game Reserve. We have visited Kwandwe on many occasions to experience the natural wilderness of South Africa, and there is no doubt that the proposed wind farm will undermine this experience, for the following specific reasons:*

- 1. The scale and location of the wind turbines would appear as visually intrusive and alien features in an otherwise undisturbed landscape. This would be harmful to the special character and natural beauty of Kwandwe Game Reserve.*
- 2. The visual dominance of the wind turbines throughout the day and night would inevitably impact on my choice to visit Kwandwe as a tourist destination. To be blunt, the USP of Kwandwe would be undermined as a direct result of the proposed development.*
- 3. The visibility of windfarms from within Kwandwe would mean that unfortunately I would no longer visit Kwandwe to enjoy the unique tourist experience currently offered.*

*I acknowledge the contribution that wind farms can make in addressing climate change. Nevertheless, wind farm developments need to be sited in appropriate locations and avoid sensitive landscapes. In this instance, the benefits of wind power should be balanced against the harmful environmental impacts on the natural landscape and the harmful economic impacts on the local tourist industry.*

*I am content for my personal views to be incorporated into your objections to the proposed development which will result in long lasting damage to the tranquillity and natural beauty of this special area.*