



LANDSCAPE AND VISUAL COMPLIANCE STATEMENT REPORT
PROPOSED ACWA POWER REDSTONE PV



LANDSCAPE AND VISUAL COMPLIANCE STATEMENT REPORT
PROPOSED ACWA POWER SOLAR RESERVE REDSTONE
PHOTOVOLTAIC POWER PLANT ON THE REMAINING EXTENT OF
THE FARM NO. 469, HAY REGISTRATION DIVISION,
TSANTSABANE LOCAL MUNICIPALITY, ZF MGCWU DISTRICT
MUNICIPALITY, NORTHERN CAPE PROVINCE

Submitted to:

Environmental Impact Management Services (EIMS)

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Signed:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'G. Young', written over a light blue horizontal line.

Reference: 193_2026: Redstone Solar PV

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1. INTRODUCTION

The project applicant, ACWA Power Solar Reserve Redstone Solar Thermal Power Plant RF (Pty) Ltd, proposes the construction of a solar photovoltaic (PV) power plant on the Remaining Extent of the Farm No. 469, Hay Registration Division, Tsantsabane Local Municipality, ZF Mgcwu Municipality, Northern Cape, referred to as Redstone Solar PV power plant (the Project). Refer to **Figure 1** below.

Environmental Impact Management Services (EIMS) is the Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP) for the project and is required to compile and submit a Basic Assessment report for Environmental Authorisation. Graham Young Landscape Architect (GYLA) have been appointed to prepare a Landscape and Visual Compliance Statement for the project, which forms part of this process.

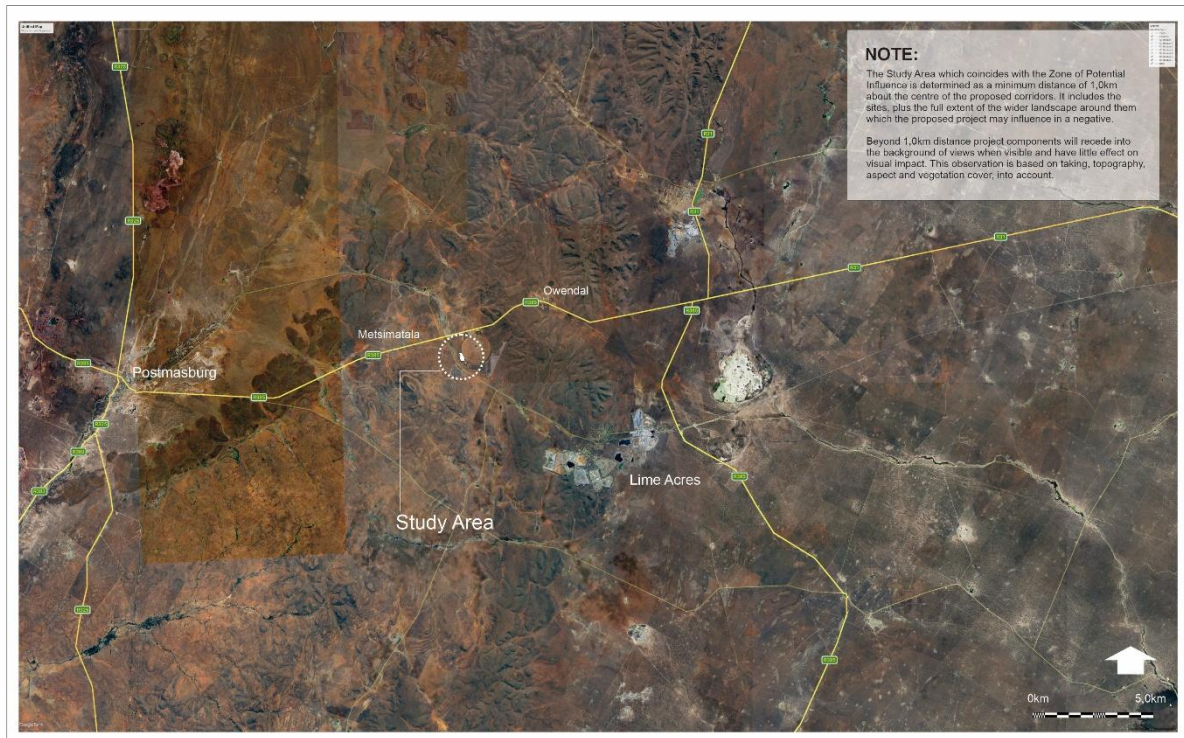


Figure 1: Locality plan of the proposed Redstone Solar PV power plant

The study area is approximately a 3,0km radius around the proposed Project site. It includes the project site and the full extent of the surrounding landscape within the study area. Given the nature of the receiving landscape, beyond this distance, visible project components will recede significantly into the background of views, have minimal impact on the visual environment, or be screened by topography and/or vegetation.

1.1 SCOPE OF WORK

A Landscape and Visual Compliance Statement is a specialist report confirming that a proposed development's visual impact is low or that it complies with regulatory guidelines (e.g., GN 320 of 2020), usually required when the national screening tool identifies low-to-medium sensitivity. It verifies site conditions, evaluates the project's aesthetic implications, and recommends mitigation measures. This report will be submitted alongside the relevant assessment report, in accordance with the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations (EIA Regulations).

The Screening Tool did not identify landscape and visual considerations as an environmental theme for this project or assign a sensitivity rating to them. Refer to **Appendix A**. A Visual Specialist Compliance Statement is therefore required in terms of the General Assessment Protocol.

1.2 APPLICABLE LEGISLATION

There are no specific legal requirements, nor is there any direct reference to the visual environment in the legislation. However, general environmental legislation is contained in the National Environmental Management Act (NEMA) (Act No. 107 of 1998).

- The National Environmental Management Principles, as contained in NEMA, require that sustainable developments require the following considerations (amongst others):
 - 2(4)(ii) that pollution and degradation of the environment are avoided, or where they cannot be altogether avoided, are minimised and remedied; and
 - 2(4)(iii) that the disturbance of landscapes and sites that constitute the nation's cultural heritage is avoided, or where it cannot be altogether avoided, is minimised and remedied.
- The Western Cape DEA&DP have produced 'A Guideline for Involving Visual and Aesthetic Specialists in EIA Processes.'

Per Government Gazette 43110, GN 320 (20 March 2020)¹ a site sensitivity verification must be undertaken before commencing a specialist assessment to confirm the current land use and environmental sensitivity of the proposed project area/receptors, as identified by the National Web-Based Environmental Screening Tool (i.e., the Screening Tool). However, as stated above, the Screening Tool did not identify landscape/visual as an environmental theme and did not assign a sensitivity rating. A Landscape and Visual Compliance Statement has been mandated by the EAP.

2. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The project envisages the establishment of a solar power plant with a maximum generation capacity at the delivery point (Maximum Export Capacity) of 19,5 MW with 30KWH BESS. The construction timeframe is estimated to be approximately 18months.

Typical technical solutions envisage:

- PV modules, i.e. mono/polycrystalline PV modules, mono or bi-facial.
- Mounting systems for the PV arrays (single-axis horizontal trackers or fixed structures) and related foundations.

2.1 TYPICAL PROJECT COMPONENTS

The proposed development (the Photovoltaic (PV) Power Plant and its connection infrastructure) consists of the installation of the following equipment and connecting infrastructure:

- PV modules, i.e. mono/polycrystalline PV modules, mono or bi-facial.
- Mounting systems for the PV arrays (single-axis horizontal trackers or fixed structures) and related foundations.
- Internal cabling and string boxes.
- Medium voltage stations, hosting DC/AC inverters, and LV/MV power transformers.
- Medium voltage receiving station(s).
- Workshops and warehouses.
- On-site high-voltage substation with step-up transformers, and a 132 kV busbar (switching station) with metering and protection devices and control buildings.
- Electrical system and Uninterruptible Power Supply (UPS) devices with a lighting system and a grounding system.
- Access roads and internal roads.
- Fencing of the site and alarm and video-surveillance system.
- Water access point, water supply pipelines.

Figure 2 indicates the layout of the project components.

¹ GN 320 (20 March 2020): Procedures for The Assessment and Minimum Criteria for Reporting on Identified Environmental Themes in terms of Sections 24(5)(A) and (H) and 44 of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998, when applying for Environmental Authorisation.

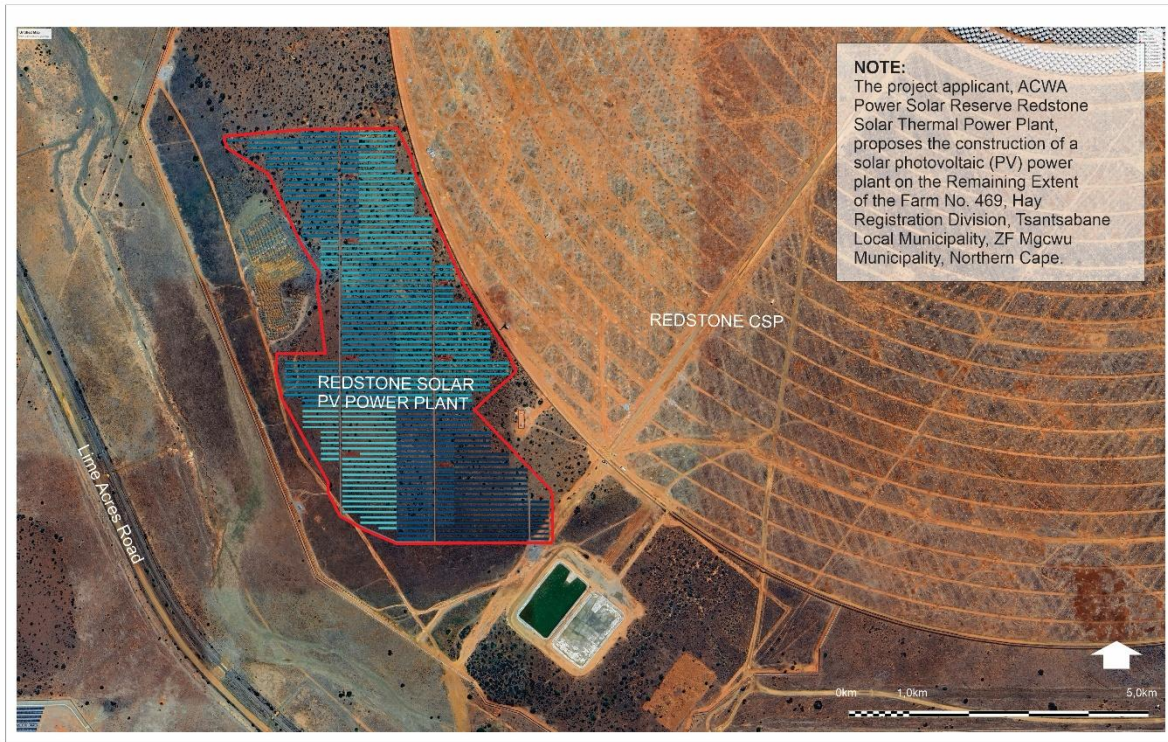


Figure 2: Layout of the proposed Redstone Solar PV power plant

3. SITE SENSITIVITY VERIFICATION

The EAP prepared a screening report using the DEFF Screening Tool. This report features several maps developed for the proposed project; however, landscape and visual considerations were not listed as an environmental theme, nor were they assigned a sensitivity rating by the tool. Refer to the table below. The screening did identify landscape and visual as requiring a specialist assessment to be included in the final report. It is ultimately the EAP's responsibility to verify this list and, in the assessment report, document the reasons for excluding any recommended specialist studies, including photographic evidence of the site conditions.

3.1 PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT AREA ENVIRONMENTAL SENSITIVITY

The following summary of the development site environmental sensitivities is identified. Only the highest environmental sensitivity is indicated. The footprint environmental sensitivities for the proposed development footprint, as identified, are indicative only and must be verified on site by a suitably qualified person before the specialist assessments identified below can be confirmed.

Theme	Very High sensitivity	High sensitivity	Medium sensitivity	Low sensitivity
Agriculture Theme			X	
Animal Species Theme			X	
Aquatic Biodiversity Theme	X			
Archaeological and Cultural Heritage Theme	X			
Avian Theme				X
Civil Aviation (Solar PV) Theme				X
Defense Theme				X
Paleontology Theme			X	
Plant Species Theme				X
RFI Theme				X
Terrestrial Biodiversity Theme	X			

The confirmation sensitivity statement of the proposed development areas was established through the following methodology:

- A desktop analysis using satellite (Google) imagery.

- On-site inspection conducted on 16 June 2026.
- Any other available and relevant information from available databases.

References to Google Earth and fieldwork findings were used to identify potential sensitive landscapes and visual receptors. This information was verified during the site visit to:

- Determine the extent of the potential visibility of the proposed Project
- Photograph and map the receiving environment, and
- Confirm or dispute current land use and the visual sensitivity identified by the EIA screening tool.

4. FIELD SURVEY

The field survey involved travelling along the R385 Provincial Road and the Lime Acres District Road in the areas adjacent to and surrounding the Project site to determine the nature and character of the landscape. The site visit was undertaken on 16 June 2026. Panoramas illustrating the landscape character from key viewing sites (see Figure 3 for their locations) within the study area are shown in Figures 4 and 5.

4.1 LANDSCAPE CHARACTER AND SENSITIVITY

Most of the study area's original landscape was covered by Olifantshoek Plains Thornveld (Mucina and Rutherford 2006:522) on open plains with a shrub layer. According to Mucina and Rutherford (2006:523), this landscape type is the least threatened. The proposed Project site falls within this landscape type. At the far eastern section of the study area, east of the Redstone CSP, lies Kuruman Mountain Bushveld in relatively good condition. Refer to **Figure 3** below.

However, almost half of the study area's original landscape has been transformed in recent years by solar power projects, including the Redstone CSP, the Jasper Solar PV power plant, and the Lesedi Solar power plant.

The result is a mixed natural and infrastructural landscape, characterised by open, rolling land as the backdrop to solar power installations. The CSP, however, dominates the visual environment and the sense of place of the study area. Refer also to the panoramas in **Figures 4 and 5**.

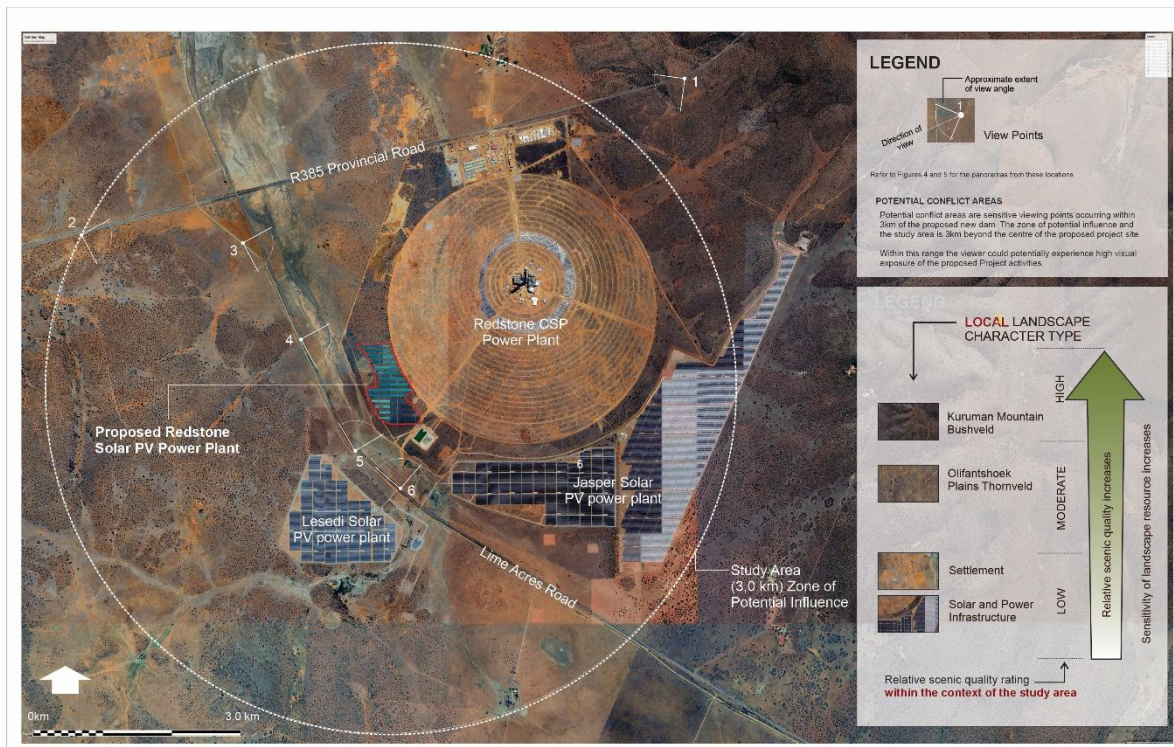


Figure 3: Location of panorama viewpoints and landscape context



Figure 4: Views 1, 2 and 3



Figure 5: Views 5, 6 and 7

4.2 SENSE OF PLACE

The study area spans an expansive semi-arid plateau characterised by broad horizons, ancient geology, sparse shrublands, and immense skies. Historically defined by its remoteness, simplicity, and pastoral character, the landscape has been increasingly transformed by large-scale solar energy developments. Extensive photovoltaic arrays and associated infrastructure introduce a contemporary technological layer that reflects the region's strategic role in South Africa's renewable energy transition. The resulting landscape is one of dynamic contrast, where enduring natural processes and agricultural land use have

transitioned to a renewable energy production landscape, with mining influences, and where cumulative solar development has become one of the defining visual characteristics of the study area.

4.3 RECEPTOR SENSITIVITY

Visual receptors include people living in, visiting, or travelling through or adjacent to the study area. The primary public roads that cross the study area are the R385 Provincial Road and the Lime Acres District Road. Users of these roads, along with residents and visitors to the farmsteads, as shown in **Figure 6**, would have varying views of the proposed solar PV park from different distances and angles. However, due to the area's topography, the proposed Project would be largely screened from the R385 and other sensitive viewing areas, except for Lime Acres Road, where it would be most visible. Refer to the viewshed in **Figure 7**.

The main potentially sensitive receptor viewpoints are from nearby farmsteads (north and south of the Project site), the R385 and Lime Acres roads, and the residential areas associated with a settlement north-west of the study area.

Notwithstanding the above, the original natural/rural landscape has been dramatically transformed to the point that the study area is dominated by solar power infrastructure. Potentially sensitive viewers would most likely not be alarmed by the addition of the proposed Redstone Solar PV facility.

It is therefore anticipated that receptor sensitivity would be low for the proposed Project.

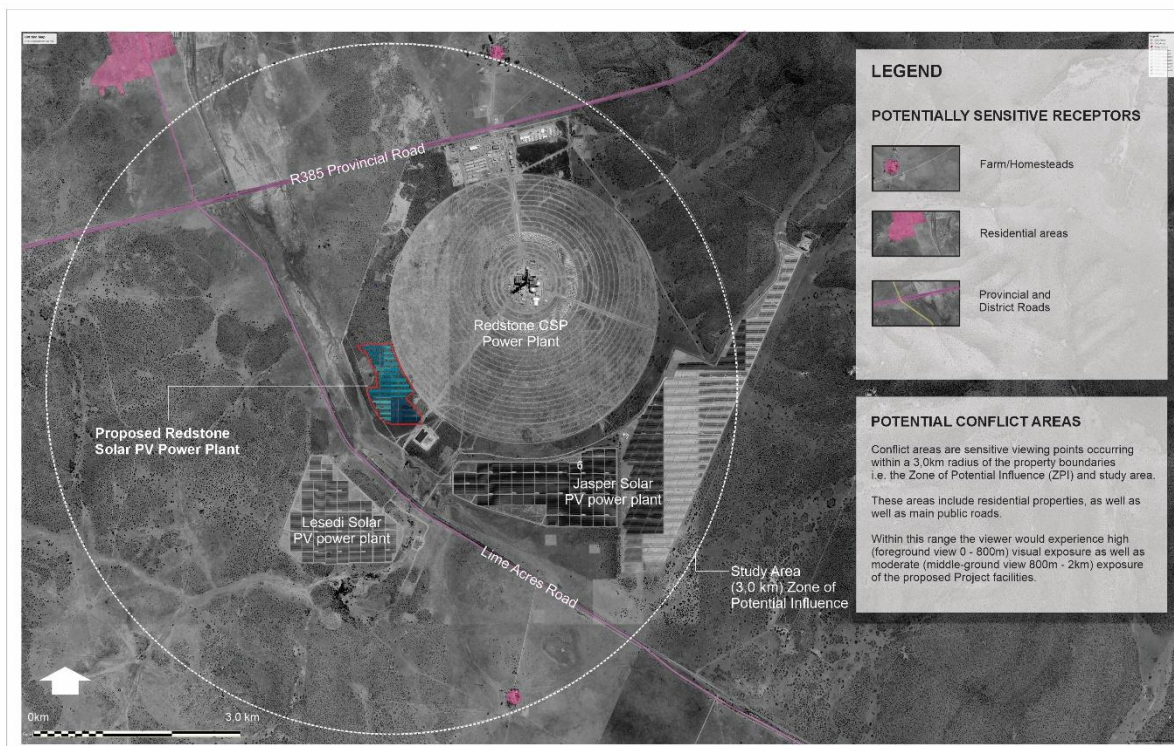


Figure 6: Receptor Sensitivity

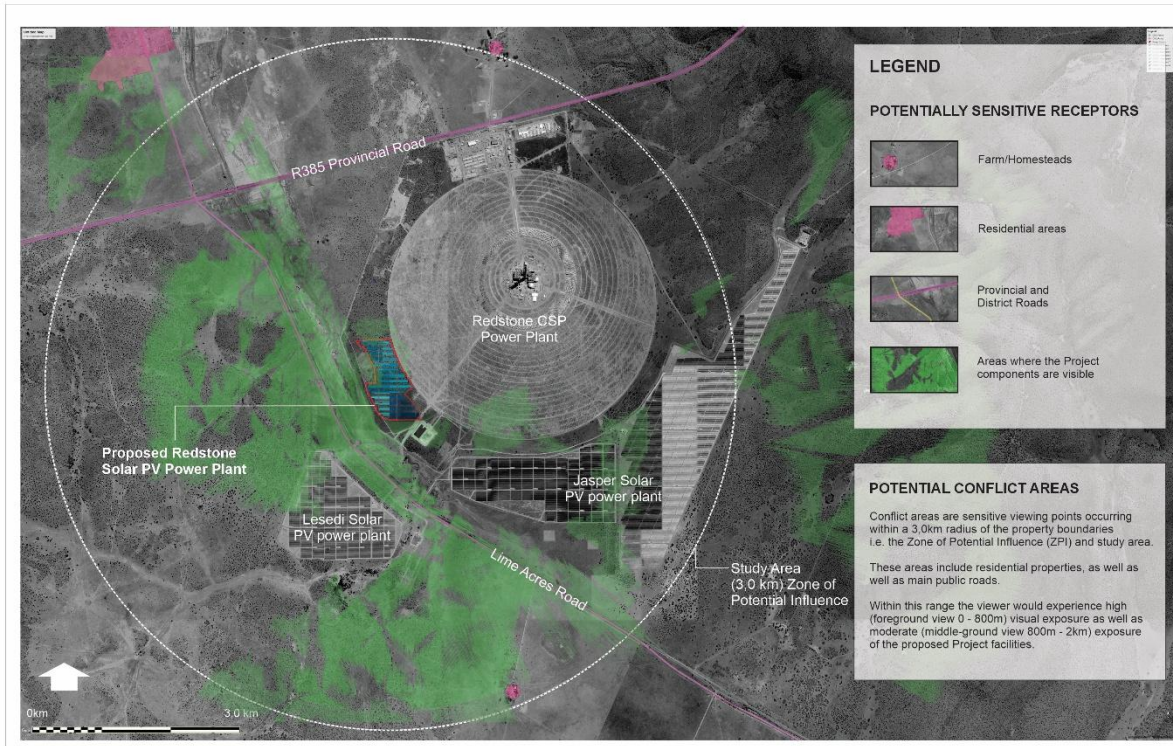


Figure 7: Viewshed Analysis

5. MANAGEMENT MEASURES

Considering these findings, although the Project's elements are not expected to cause significant disruption (apart from a relatively short period during the construction phase when activities will be particularly noticeable from the Lime Acres road), careful mitigation can further ensure that any visual intrusion remains minimal.

Cumulative effects, while not pronounced, could become more apparent if vegetation is unnecessarily cleared or if new structures are visually discordant with the broader landscape palette. Reducing unnecessary exposure of soil and structural elements will help safeguard the qualities that define the area's scenic value.

It is therefore proposed that the following generic management measures be considered for the Project.

- Earthworks should be executed so that only the footprint and a small 'construction buffer zone' around the proposed activities are exposed, i.e. the buffer and the construction area must be below 20ha as well as staying within the approved footprint. In all other areas, the existing vegetation should be retained, especially along the periphery of the construction footprint.
- All cut and fill slopes (if any) and areas affected by construction work should be progressively topsoiled and re-vegetated with indigenous species as soon as possible.
- Disturbed soil must be exposed for the minimum time possible once cleared of vegetation to avoid prolonged exposure to wind and water erosion and to minimise dust generation.
- Minimise the number of light fixtures to the bare minimum, including security lighting along the boundary of the property.

6. OUTCOME OF LANDSCAPE AND VISUAL SITE SENSITIVITY VERIFICATION

The Screening Tool did not identify landscape and visual considerations as an environmental theme for this project or assign a sensitivity rating to them.

Given the surrounding land uses and the study area's high capacity to absorb visual changes (see the viewshed in Figure 7), the landscape would largely shield, or at least partially conceal, the project's potential visual impacts. While the site's landscape will undergo a moderate transformation, this change may be perceived neutrally by sensitive viewers.

The proposed development is unlikely to have a major effect on visual, sense-of-place, or landscape qualities, as it would result in limited changes to the main features of the existing landscape. Consequently, the project poses little risk to the sensitive aspects of the surrounding environment, and any impact on the area's scenic value will be minimal.

The proposed new solar PV power plant would recede into the landscape, i.e., it would not be visually intrusive or appear out of place within the sub-region. Visibility, visual intrusion, and receptor sensitivity are, therefore, **low (-) to negligible (-)** as the Project would:

- Have a minimal effect on the visual quality of the landscape
- Contrasts minimally with the patterns that define the structure of the landscape and
- Be mostly compatible/visually acceptable with current land use and enclosure patterns

A low to negligible change in landscape character and sense of place is predicted, as the Project would cause minimal change to potentially sensitive receptors and areas. Refer to the impact assessment table in **Appendix A**.

7. CONCLUSION

The outcome of the compliance statement process confirms that:

- The study area has a potentially low (-) to negligible visual and landscape sensitivity risk.
- The report is to be submitted alongside the relevant assessment report prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations, and
- No fatal flaws, from a visual perspective, are preventing the project from moving forward.

*** GYLA ***

8. APPENDIX A

Identifier	Discipline	Impact	Alternative	Phase	Event	Pre-Nature	Pre-Extent	Pre-Duration	Pre-Magnitude	Pre-Reversibility	Consequence	Pre-Probability	Pre-Mitigation Significance Score	Pre-Mitigation Significance	Post-Nature	Post-Extent	Post-Duration	Post-Magnitude	Post-Reversibility	Consequence2	Post-Probability	Post-mitigation Significance Score	Post-Mitigation Significance	Confidence	Cumulative Impact	Irreplaceable loss	Priority Factor	Final score	Final Significance
VIS1	Visual	Physical presence of Redstone PV Power Project and impact of sensitive views (construction) including cumulative impacts	Preferred	Construction	Normal operations or events	-1	2	1	1	1	-1,25	2	-2,5	Low -	-1	2	1	1	1	-1,25	2	-2,5	Low -	High	1	1	1,00	-2,50	Low -
VIS2	Visual	Physical presence of the Redstone PV Power Project and impact of sensitive views (operation) including cumulative impacts	Preferred	Operation	Normal operations or events	-1	2	4	1	1	-2	2	-4	Low -	-1	2	4	1	1	-2	2	-4	Low -	High	1	1	1,00	-4,00	Low -
VIS3	Visual	Physical presence of Redstone PV Power Project and impact of sensitive views (decommissioning & rehabilitation) including cumulative impacts	Preferred	Decommissioning	Normal operations or events	-1	2	1	1	1	-1,25	2	-2,5	Low -	-1	2	1	1	1	-1,25	2	-2,5	Low -	High	1	1	1,00	-2,50	Low -

9. APPENDIX B

CURRICULUM VITAE: GRAHAM A. YOUNG, LANDSCAPE ARCHITECT



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Graham Young is a professionally registered landscape architect (SACLAP) with expertise and experience in landscape architecture, urban design, and environmental planning. He holds degrees in landscape architecture from the University of Toronto (Bachelor of Landscape Architecture) and the University of Pretoria (Master of Landscape Architecture). Graham has conducted visual impact assessments in Canada and Africa. He has served as President of the Institute of Landscape Architects of South Africa (ILASA), President of the International Federation of Landscape Architects (IFLA), Africa Region, and Vice President of the IFLA World.

He manages his practice, Graham Young Landscape Architect (GYLA), a Level Four (4) contributor with full B-BBEE procurement recognition. The firm specialises in visual impact assessments, for which Graham was honoured with an ILASA Merit Award in 1999. This includes landscape characterisation and sensitivity studies, computer modelling, and visualisation. He has completed over 450 visual impact specialist reports for projects in South Africa, Canada, and other African nations, and has reviewed numerous specialist reports. Graham has functioned as a specialist witness in legal cases concerning visual impact issues. He contributed to the development of the Guideline for Involving Visual and Aesthetic Specialists in EIA Processes (with Oberholzer 2005). He co-authored a research document for Eskom, The Visual Impacts of Power Lines (2009). In 2011, he drafted the 'Guidelines for involving visual and aesthetic specialists' for the Aapravasi Ghat Trust Fund Technical Committee, which oversees a World Heritage Site in Mauritius, along with the Visual Impact Assessment Training Module Guideline Document for the same entity.

During his 40+ year career, he has written extensively and presented on landscape architectural and visual impact issues, with projects published in design journals and books both locally and internationally. In 2018, he retired as a Senior Lecturer from the University of Pretoria, Department of Architecture, where he taught landscape architecture and urban design at postgraduate and undergraduate levels. He has also lectured at other universities in South Africa and around the world, including the University of Witwatersrand, the University of Cape Town, Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology in Kenya, and the University of Rhode Island and Harvard Graduate School of Design in the USA.

Graham is a Fellow of ILASA. In 2022, he was awarded ILASA's Lifetime Achievement Award. He is the managing editor of the online journal African Journal of Landscape Architecture (AJLA), the President of the International Federation of Landscape Architects, Africa Region (IFLA Africa), and the immediate past Vice President of IFLA World.

*** GYLA ***

10.APPENDIX C

SACLAP REGISTRATION: GRAHAM A. YOUNG

REGISTRATION CERTIFICATE

THIS IS TO CERTIFY THAT

Graham Albert Young

IS REGISTERED AS A

Professional Landscape Architect

In terms of the regulations of Section 19(2)(a) of the Landscape Architectural Profession Act, 2000 (Act No.45 of 2000)

REGISTER PARTICULARS

REGISTRATION NUMBER: 87001
ID NUMBER: 5302235681082
REGISTRATION RENEWAL DATE: 1 August 2030
CERTIFICATE SERIAL NUMBER: PRCL 2008077
CERTIFICATE DATE OF ISSUE: 2020-08-24

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REGISTRAR

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