**Appeal decision by Dr Dion T George, MP, Minister of Forestry, Fisheries, and the Environment, on "Appeals lodged against the decision of the DFFE to grant environmental authorisation to CRES (Pty) Ltd for the proposed BESS"**

On 18 November the DFFE Minister released his decisions concerning the appeals lodged by Willem Snyman, Liz Pattison, Chris Angles, and the Grassland Stewardship Alliance (GSA) against the decision of the DFFE to grant environmental authorisation to CRES (Pty) Ltd for the proposed installation named as BESS.

To summarise the Appeal decision:

> All the grounds of appeal presented were dismissed with exception of the GSA's reasoning of appeal. Dr Dion George at point 2.7.15 of his evaluation clarified that: *"It is my considered view that nothing precludes development (including the applicant's proposed project) in the CRR, provided that the requisite written approval is obtained from the management authority."*
> In addition, the Minister recognized that a "Traffic Impact Assessment" report was an identified shortcoming of the EA application.
> The applicant was given the opportunity to remedy the identified shortcomings of the EA application. He therefore clarified that: "*I accordingly remit the matter to the CD:IEA, and I direct that the BAR must include the following:*
>
> - *3.3.1 Proof of consultation and approval by the GSA; and*
> - *3.3.2 A Traffic Impact Assessment. "*

The DFFE misconstrued the approval that the GSA gave to the applicant to undertake an EIA, which was presented as approval for the full BESS application. This ruling confirms that the application does not have proof of consultation and approval by the GSA and reaffirms the validity of the NEM:PAA regulations on which the appeal was based.