



Volume III: Public Participation Report

Proposed Emvelo Wind Energy Facility
and Associated Grid Infrastructure,
near Ermelo, Mpumalanga

PREPARED FOR

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DRAFT EIA REPORT FOR DFFE
DECISION

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Volume III: Public Participation Report

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0684401



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1. INTRODUCTION

Emvelo Wind Energy Facility (Pty) Ltd ('the Project Applicant') is applying for EA to construct and operate the up to 260 MW Emvelo Wind Energy Facility (WEF) (the proposed Emvelo WEF) and its associated auxiliary infrastructure, which includes one on-site substation, with capacity of up to 132 kV, to facilitate the connection between the WEF and the electricity grid. As well as an up to 132 kV over-head powerline of approximately 30 km (300 m corridor), traversing 35 land parcels, be constructed to connect the proposed WEF to the new Camden B substation (Figure 1). Environmental Resources Management Southern Africa (Pty) Ltd ('ERM') has been appointed to act as the independent Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP) to undertake the Scoping and Environmental Impact Assessment (S&EIA) process for Environmental Authorisation under Chapter 5 of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act 107 of 1998 - NEMA) as amended, for the Proposed Development

The Emvelo WEF, as accepted pursuant to the scoping report phase by the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment ("DFFE") by letter dated 19 November 2024 and signed by Ms. Masina Morudu¹, will now include properties that were assessed as part of the scoping process for the Emvelo WEF and the Rochdale WEF.

In terms of Chapter 5 of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act 107 of 1998 – NEMA), and the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations, 2014 (as amended), the Project Applicant appointed Environmental Resources Management Southern Africa (Pty) Ltd (ERM), to act as the Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP) and to undertake the Scoping and Environmental Impact Assessment (S&EIA) process for Environmental Authorisation.

2. THE PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCESS

Engaging with external stakeholders on the project and associated Public Participation Process (PPP) is a key part of the overall S&EIA process. The PPP is key in that it provides the public the opportunity to have meaningful input into the decision-making process. The primary aims of the PPP are:

- To inform Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) of the proposed development;
- To identify and respond to issues, comments and concerns as raised by I&APs;
- To promote transparency of the project and its potential consequences and ensure I&APs understanding of the proposed development;
- To facilitate open dialogue and liaison with all I&APs;
- To assist in identifying potential environmental (biophysical and socio-economic) impacts associated with the proposed development; and
- To ensure that all I&AP issues and comments are accurately recorded, addressed and documented in a Comments & Response Report.

This Public Participation Report has been compiled as Volume III to the respective Volume I – Final Scoping Report. This report has been updated to include all comments received throughout

¹ Ms. Morudu is the Designated Control Environmental Officer: National Integrated Authorisation, and at the behest of Dr. Sabelo Malaza the Chief Director: Integrated Environmental Authorisations in DFFE.

the application process up until submission of the Final Scoping Report (FSR) to Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE) for decision.

The sharing of I&AP information complies with the Protection of Personal Information Act, 2013 (POPI Act 4 of 2013). The following steps have been and will continue to be undertaken throughout the PPP to ensure compliance:

- The contact details, e-mail address and postal address of the public will not be made available for public review, however this will be made available to the Department and to any I&AP who may wish to appeal; and
- The contact details, e-mail address and postal address of I&APs will be blacked out in the Comments and Responses Report and Public Participation Documents.

3. METHODOLOGY

The PPP follows the requirements of Section 24 (5) and Chapter 6 (41, 42, 43, and 44) of GN R. 326 of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act 107 of 1998) (NEMA) Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations, 2014 (as amended), as well as the Public Participation Guidelines in terms of NEMA, 1998 EIA Regulations, 2014.

3.1 IDENTIFICATION OF POTENTIAL INTERESTED AND AFFECTED PARTIES

The I&AP database (Appendix 1) was created by ERM, in consultation with the Applicant and was used as the baseline for the pre-identified I&APs list.

Pre-identified / Registered I&APs included:

- Pre-identified I&APs who are identifiable affected landowners and surrounding landowners. Landowners and surrounding landowners will also be requested to inform the occupiers of their properties regarding the project.
- Government organisations, NGOs, relevant municipalities, ward councilors and other key stakeholders and organ of states that might be affected.
- Registered I&APs who responded to the advertisements (i.e., newspapers, notices, and e-mails) and requested to be registered or request to register any other person/s.

This database will be updated throughout the duration of the scoping process and will continue to be updated through to the EIA phase. Anyone with an interest in the proposed development and/or associated EIA process are encouraged to register.

3.2 INITIAL NOTIFICATION PHASE

Initial Notification was conducted prior to the completion of the Draft Scoping Report (DSR). Notification during this phase was undertaken in the following manner:

- Site notices were erected on the site boundary in July 2023;
- Notices were erected in the towns of Ermelo, Amsterdam and Sheepmoor in July 2023;
- Advertisements were placed in the Highveld Newspaper and the Mpumalanga News Newspaper in July 2023; and
- Initial notification e-mails were distributed on to all pre-identified I&APs, including the affected landowner and occupiers of the site, municipal councillor(s), ratepayers in the area, affected district and local municipalities, and organs of state. I&APs who responded to the newspaper and notices were also sent an initial notification email.

The public notices and initial notification contained sufficient information on the proposed application and afforded pre-identified and interested I&APs the opportunity to submit their issues / queries / concerns and indicate the contact details of any other potential I&APs that should be contacted and registered. The contact person at ERM, contact number and email details were clearly stated on the notifications.

3.3 SCOPING PHASE

3.3.1 AVAILABILITY OF THE DRAFT SCOPING REPORT (DSR) FOR PUBLIC REVIEW

Notification regarding the availability of the DSR for public review and comment (Appendix 4) were sent to all registered I&APs (pre-identified key I&APs, I&APs registered during the initial period, as well as affected landowners, surrounding landowners and their occupiers) via e-mail. SMS notifications were sent to I&APs and / or land occupiers that have supplied mobile phone numbers and who did not have an email. The written notification also advised registered I&APs of the following:

- How and where they could access the DSR (electronic and hardcopy);
- The duration that the DSR was made available for public comment, and the date by when comments must be submitted; and
- To submit their comment / questions / queries / concerns regarding the development and content of the DSR.

The Emvelo WEF projects have previously undergone a Public Review and Comment process that ran from Friday, 19 July 2024 until the Tuesday, 20 August 2024 (both days inclusive). Due to the lapse of the previous application, the proposed development underwent a new application process.

Therefore, an additional 30-day scoping Public Participation period was undertaken from 22 August to 21 September 2024, to ensure compliance with the regulations and will augment the public participation process that was undertaken during the lapsed application process.

Furthermore, advertisements were placed in the Highveld Newspaper and the Mpumalanga News Newspaper in March 2025 to inform

The table below presents the respective locations the DSR was made available for public review and comment.

Location	Physical Address
Hard Copy Location	
Ermelo Public Library	Msukaligwa Municipality Civic Centre, corner of Church and Smuts street, Ermelo, 2350, Mpumalanga
CD copies were available upon request.	
Electronic Copy Locations	
ERM Website	https://www.erm.com/public-information-sites/proposed-amsterdam-wind-energy-facility-and-auxiliary-infrastructure-cluster-mpumalanga/
Electronic Transfer	Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) could request for copies to be shared via a One Drive folder.

3.3.2 SUBMISSION OF THE FINAL SCOPING REPORT (FSR)

Notification regarding the submission of the FSR to DFFE for a decision was sent to all registered I&APs in the following manner:

- Written Notification was sent to all registered I&APs via e-mail.

4. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT (EIA) PHASE PP PROCESS

During the EIA phase, the following tasks will be undertaken for public participation:

- Written Notification regarding the application process (English and / or Afrikaans) will be sent to all registered I&APs via e-mail. SMS notifications will be sent to I&APs and / or land occupiers that have supplied mobile phone numbers and who do not have a postal or email addresses.
- If written notification cannot be sent to an I&AP, notification will be provided telephonically.
- Notification to inform registered I&APs of the availability of the Draft EIA Report for public review and comment (which is a mandatory 30 days);
- A public event will be held in order to explain the findings of the EIA, if requested;
- The Comments and Responses Report will be updated, to record comments and / or queries received and the responses provided. This report will be included in a Final EIA Report for submission to the DFFE;
- Authority review and decision; and
- Notification of all registered I&APs, key stakeholders, and organs of state of the decision by the DFFE and the appeal procedure.

Focus Group Meetings or One-on-One meetings will be held if necessary, throughout the EIA process. Furthermore, I&APs will also be able to register throughout the duration of the EIA process. Once registered, I&APs will be informed about the EIA process as it progresses.

5. DECISION AND APPEAL PHASE

All registered I&APs will be provided with access to the decision on the EIA Report and the reasons for such decision. Registered I&APs will also be notified of the appeal process and that appeals can be lodged against the decision in terms of the NEMA, 1998, National Appeal Regulations, 2014 (as amended).

Notifications regarding the DFFE decision will be provided in the following manner to all registered I&APs:

- Via e-mail, which will include an attachment of the decision, reasons for the decision, and appeal procedure;
- Via SMS, which will be sent to I&APs and land occupiers that have supplied mobile phone numbers and who do not have a postal or email addresses. The SMS will advise the I&AP that access to the decision, reasons for the decision, and appeal procedure must be accessed from the ERM website: <https://www.erm.com>; and
- Courtesy telephone calls will be made to those who cannot be contacted by either of the above-mentioned methods to advise them of the decision made by the DFFE and to confirm

if and / or how they wish to receive access to the decision, reasons for decision, and appeal procedure.

I&APs will be provided with access to the decision, reasons for the decision by the DFFE and the process for appeals within 14 days of date of receipt of the decision.

6. SUMMARY OF COMMENTS

During the initial notification phase, no comments / queries / questions / concerns were received from I&APs.

During the DSR PPP comment were received from the DFFE, DARDLEA, MTPA, other authorities and I&APs. Follow-up e-mails were sent to all registered I&APs, stakeholder and authorities, and no further comments were received.

Responses to comments received during the PP period is provided in Section 7, Table 7.1 below, with EAP / specialist / applicant responses, and the original comment and responses has been appended to the PP report which will be submitted with the FSR for DFFE decision.

7. COMMENTS AND RESPONSES REPORT

This comments and responses table has been updated throughout the duration of the scoping process and comments has been collated by thread and not by date.

TABLE 7-1 COMMENTS AND RESPONSES FOR FINAL SCOPING PHASE RECEIVED FROM DFFE (19 NOVEMBER 2024)

Ref	Name of Organisation	Date and Method	Phase of PP	Comment	Response
General Comments					
1.	DFFE Ms Masina Morudu	19 November 2024 Per email	Final Scoping Phase	The meeting minutes in Appendix 6 of the Public Participation Report refers. The discussions during the meeting with the Mpumalanga Department of Agriculture, Rural Development, Land and Environmental Affairs (DARDLEA) and the Mpumalanga Tourism & Parks Agency (MTPA) on 11 September 2024 are noted.	Comment has been acknowledged.
2.				The table of coordinates on page x of the SR is noted. The EIAr must include: a. The corner coordinates for the Battery Energy Storage System. b. Bend point coordinates for the 132kV powerline alternatives; and the main access roads.	Coordinates of the bend points for the 132kV alternatives and main access roads have been included in the Draft EIA Report.
3.				The EIAr must include the approximate length of each grid connection alternative route, and these grid connection routes must be discussed in the "Alternatives" section of the EIAr.	The EIAr includes the approximate length of each grid connection alternative route and discussed in the alternative section accordingly
4.				You are requested to provide the estimated operational lifespan of the proposed Emvelo WEF and details of future plans for the site and infrastructure after decommissioning, as well as the possibility of upgrading the proposed infrastructure to more advanced technologies.	Lifespan of the proposed WEF is 25 – 30 years. There are several sustainable plans and strategies that can be implemented for decommissioning, repowering, or transitioning to new uses such as decommissioning and recycling, repowering and upgrading

					technology, Land restoration/biodiversity enhancements.
5.				The EIAr must confirm the availability of services identified on pages 124 to 126 of the final SR.	Water and waste services will be requested from the local municipality, or where services are not available, they will be outsourced to private contractors.
6.				If the EIAr contains listed activities and/or other information that differs from the application form, the application form must be amended accordingly and submitted to the Department with the EIAr.	The listed activities in Table 3.1 of the EIAr Report correspond with the listed activities in the application form.

Battery Energy Storage System (BESS)

No.				Comment from DFFE	EAP Response
7.				Applicable BESS technologies must be included under the Technology Alternatives section of the EIAr.	Not Applicable as BESS has been removed from final layout.
8.				A risk assessment study is not required for the Battery Energy Storage System (BESS), however, impacts associated with the risks must be identified, considered, and assessed as part of the EIAr.	BESS is no longer included in the final layout.

Public Participation

No.				Comment from DFFE	EAP Response
9.				Comments on the draft EIAr must be obtained from this Department's Biodiversity Conservation Directorate at BCAdmin@dfpe.gov.za and Protected Areas section (regarding the NPAES) at Tnethononda@dfpe.gov.za. Further to that, these comments must be addressed and incorporated in the final EIAr.	When the EIA phase commences, the Draft EIA report and all appendices, including the public participation documentation will be submitted to the Directorate Biodiversity Conservation at Email; BCAdmin@dfpe.gov.za and Protected Areas section (regarding the NPAES) at Tnethononda@dfpe.gov.za
10.				Proof of correspondence with the various stakeholders must be included in the EIAr. This must	Please refer to Volume III – PP Report, which includes written notice

				indicate that this draft EIAr has been subjected to 30 days public participation process, stating the start and end date of the PPP.	for the availability of the draft EIAr for comment
11.				Please ensure that comments from all relevant stakeholders are submitted to the Department with the EIAr.	Original copies of comments from stakeholders have been included as an appendix to Volume III – PP Report
12.				Should you be unable to obtain comments, proof should be submitted to the Department of the attempts that were made to obtain comments. Please provide proof of written notice for the availability of the draft EIAr for comment.	Please refer to Volume III – PP Report, which includes written notice for the availability of the draft EIAr for comment
13.				All issues raised and comments received must be incorporated into the Comments and Response Report (CRR).	All comments and issues raised are addressed in this CRR.
14.				Comments from I&APs must not be split and arranged into categories. Comments from each submission must be responded to individually.	Comments from each submission has been responded to individually
15.				Please refrain from summarising comments made by I&APs. All comments from I&APs must be copied verbatim and responded to clearly. Please note that a response such as “noted” is not regarded as an adequate response to an I&AP’s comments.	Comments have been captured verbatim and not summarised. All comments have been responded to clearly and ‘noted’ has been avoided in all responses.
16.				The CRR addresses comments on the draft SR, which have been received from organs of state, however, copies of these comments are not included in the report. Copies of original comments received from I&APs and organs of state, which have jurisdiction in respect of the proposed activity must be submitted to the Department with the EIAr.	Original copies of comments from I&APs and organs of state have been included as an appendix to Volume III – PP Report
17.				If applicable, the attendance registers and minutes of any meetings held by the Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP) with Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) and other role players must be included in the EIAr.	Attendance registers and minutes of any meetings held by the Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP) with Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) and

					other role players been included as an appendix to Volume III – PP Report
18.				The newspaper advert proof in Appendix C of the Public Participation Report refers. Please submit a full page of the newspaper(s) containing the advertisement, ensuring that the name of the newspaper and date are visible.	This has been included as an Appendix in Volume III.

Specialist Assessments

No.				Comment from DFFE	EAP Response
19.				Interim and final comments from the South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA) must be addressed and incorporated in the EIAr.	Please note comments from SAHRA was not provided during scoping phase. Comments received from SAHRA during EIA phase will be incorporated in the EIAr
20.				Specialist assessments must be conducted in accordance with the Government Notice No. 320 of 20 March 2020 (i.e. "the Protocols"), and Government Notice No. 1150 of 30 October 2020 (i.e. protocols for terrestrial plant and animal species).	Specialist assessments have been conducted in accordance with the Government Notice No. 320 of 20 March 2020 (i.e. "the Protocols"), and Government Notice No. 1150 of 30 October 2020.
21.				The following specialist studies will form part of the EIAr as indicated in Section 12.6 of the FSR: a. Soil and Agriculture Potential Impact Assessment; b. Freshwater and Wetlands (Aquatics) Impact Assessment; c. Terrestrial Biodiversity (Flora and Fauna) Impact Assessment; d. Avifauna Impact Assessment; e. Bat Impact Assessment; f. Visual / Landscape and Flicker Impact Assessment; g. Heritage, Archaeology and Palaeontology Impact Assessment; h. Noise Impact Assessment; i. Socio-economic Impact Assessment; and j. Traffic and Transportation Impact Assessment.	The EIAr report encompasses all studies outlined

22.				Please note that the Department considers a 'no-go' area, as an area where no development of any infrastructure is allowed; therefore, no development of associated infrastructure including access roads is allowed in the 'no-go' areas.	The term "no-go" is often applied to various types of infrastructure by different specialists, however, its application can vary based on the specific environmental concerns being addressed. In the context of avifauna, certain areas may be designated as "no turbine areas" to protect sensitive bird species, while still permitting the development of other types of infrastructure.
23.				Should the specialist definition of 'no-go' area differ from the Departments definition; this must be clearly indicated. The specialist must also indicate the 'no-go' area's buffer if applicable.	The EAP acknowledges that the departments definition of a 'no-go' area is for any infrastructure, including the associated infrastructure such as access roads. Applicable buffer zones are shown on the sensitivity figures.
24.				Should the specialist studies provide more detail regarding any of the project activity thresholds, please ensure that the project activity descriptions are amended accordingly in the application form and EIAr.	Project activity descriptions was amended in the application form and EIAr according to the specialist studies.
25.				All specialist studies must be final, and provide detailed/practical mitigation measures for the preferred alternative and recommendations, and must not recommend further studies to be completed post EA.	Specialist studies are final, with no further studies recommended.
26.				Should a specialist recommend specific mitigation measures, these must be clearly indicated.	Specific mitigation measures as recommended by specialists are clearly indicated the EIAr and EMPr.
27.				Should the appointed specialists specify contradicting recommendations, the EAP must clearly indicate the most reasonable recommendation and substantiate this with defensible reasons; and were necessary, include further expertise advice.	No contradicting recommendations were provided by specialists. Specialists' recommendations have been considered and included Section 13 of the EIAr to be included in EA

					and / or in the EMPr for implementation.
28.				Where applicable, each specialist study must provide a preferred grid connection alternative.	Three grid connection alternatives have been considered.

Layout & Sensitivity Maps

No.				Comment from DFFE	EAP Response
29.				<p>Please provide a layout map which indicates the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Wind turbine positions (numbered) and its associated infrastructure; b. Permanent laydown area footprint; c. Internal roads indicating width (construction period width and operation period width) and with numbered sections between the other site elements which they serve (to make commenting on sections possible); d. Wetlands, drainage lines, rivers, stream and water crossing of roads and cables indicating the type of bridging structures that will be used; e. The location of sensitive environmental features on site e.g. CBAs, heritage sites, wetlands, drainage lines etc. that will be affected by the facility and its associated infrastructure; f. Substation(s) and/or transformer(s) sites including their entire footprint; g. All existing infrastructure on the site, especially roads; h. Buildings proposed within the substation footprint; i. Buffer areas; and j. All "no-go" areas. 	A layout map detailing the proposed layout of the facility, adhering to specialist recommendations have been included in Volume I of the EIAr.

Cumulative Assessments

30.				<p>Regarding the identified similar projects within a 30km radius of the proposed development site, the cumulative impact assessment for all identified and assessed impacts must indicate the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Identified cumulative impacts must be clearly defined, and where possible the size of the identified 	A preliminary assessment of cumulative impacts was made in the Scoping Phase and has been assessed further in the EIA Phase where a detailed process flow and
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				<p>impact must be quantified and indicated, i.e., hectares of cumulatively transformed land.</p> <p>b. Identified cumulative impacts associated with the proposed development must be rated with the significance rating methodology used in the process.</p> <p>c. Detailed process flow and proof must be provided, to indicate how the specialist's recommendations, mitigation measures and conclusions from the various similar developments in the area were taken into consideration in the assessment of cumulative impacts and when the conclusion and mitigation measures were drafted for this project.</p> <p>d. The cumulative impacts significance rating must also inform the need and desirability of the proposed development.</p> <p>e. A cumulative impact environmental statement on whether the proposed development must proceed.</p>	methodology has been defined as recommended.
WEF Environmental Management Programme (EMPr)					
31.				A construction and operational phase EMPr for the WEF, which includes mitigation and monitoring measures must be submitted with the EIAR.	A construction and operational phase EMPr for the WEF, which includes mitigation and monitoring measures has been drafted and will be submitted with the EIAR.
32.				<p>The EMPr must be developed in terms of Appendix 4 of the EIA Regulations, 2014 as amended and must include (but not limited to) the following plans and measures:</p> <p>a. A Re-vegetation and habitat rehabilitation plan to be implemented during the construction and operation of the facility. Restoration must be undertaken as soon as possible after completion of construction activities to reduce the amount of habitat converted at any one time and to speed up the recovery to natural habitats;</p> <p>b. A Weed and invader plant management plan, to be implemented during construction and operation of the facility. The plan must include mitigation measures to</p>	The content of the EMPr produced for the proposed development is in compliance in terms of Appendix 4 of the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations, 2014, as amended, and includes, where relevant the plans and measures recommended by the Department.

			<p>reduce the invasion of alien species and ensure that the continuous monitoring and removal of alien species is undertaken;</p> <p>c. A Plant rescue and protection plan, which allows for the maximum transplant of conservation important species from areas to be transformed. This plan must be compiled by a vegetation specialist familiar with the site and be implemented prior to commencement of the construction phase;</p> <p>d. An Open space management plan, to be implemented during the construction and operation of the facility;</p> <p>e. A Traffic management plan for the site access roads to ensure that no hazards would result from the increased truck traffic and that traffic flow would not be adversely impacted. This plan must include measures to minimize impacts on local commuters e.g. limiting construction vehicles travelling on public roadways during the morning and late afternoon commute time and avoid using roads through densely populated built-up areas so as not to disturb existing retail and commercial operations;</p> <p>f. A Transportation plan for the transport of components, main assembly cranes and other large pieces of equipment;</p> <p>g. A Stormwater management plan, to be implemented during the construction and operation of the facility. The plan must ensure compliance with applicable regulations and prevent off-site migration of contaminated storm water or increased soil erosion. The plan must include the construction of appropriate design measures that allow surface and subsurface movement of water along drainage lines so as not to impede natural surface and subsurface flows. Drainage measures must promote the dissipation of storm water run-off;</p> <p>h. A Fire management plan to be implemented during the construction and operation of the facility;</p> <p>i. An Erosion management plan for monitoring and rehabilitating erosion events associated with the facility. Appropriate erosion mitigation must form part</p>
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				<p>of this plan to prevent and reduce the risk of any potential erosion;</p> <p>j. An effective monitoring system to detect any leakage or spillage of all hazardous substances during their transportation, handling, use and storage. This must include precautionary measures to limit the possibility of oil and other toxic liquids from entering the soil or storm water systems;</p> <p>k. Measures to protect hydrological features such as streams, rivers, pans, wetlands, dams and their catchments, and other environmental sensitive areas from construction impacts including the direct or indirect spillage of pollutants;</p> <p>l. Dust management measures;</p> <p>m. Waste management measures;</p> <p>n. Emergency response; and,</p> <p>o. All recommendations and mitigation measures recorded in the EIAR and the specialist studies conducted. This includes the management and monitoring plans and procedures appended in the specialist studies.</p>	
33.				The decommissioning chapter of the EMPr for the facility must contain information relating to the handling, repurposing or disposal of dysfunctional, severely damaged batteries, module and containers.	The decommissioning phase section of the EMPr for the facility contains information relating to the handling, repurposing or disposal of dysfunctional, severely damaged batteries, module and containers
34.				The EMPr must distinguish between impact management actions and impact management outcomes.	The EMPr ensures a structured approach, distinguishing between impact management actions and impact management outcomes.
35.				The EMPr must not contain any ambiguity. Where applicable, statements containing the word "should" or "may" are to be amended to "must".	Where applicable, statements containing the words 'should' or 'may' have been removed.
Generic Environmental Management Programme (EMPr)					
36.				The proposed development triggers Activity 11 of Listing Notice 1 (as amended). The relevant generic	Applicable Generic EMPr(s) have been included in Volume I.

				EMPr(s) must be included in the EIAr, over and above the EMPr for the WEF.	
37.				Part B: Section 2 of the generic EMPr(s) must be completed, and a copy of the signed EMPr(s) must be submitted with the EIAr. Please note that Point 7.1.1 in Part B: Section 2 needs to match the details of the applicant as contained in the application form. The generic EMPr(s) must be signed by the applicant and submitted with the EIAr. An unsigned Generic EMPr is regarded as incomplete.	Signed Generic EMPr(s) have been included in Volume I.
38.				If any specific environmental sensitivities/attributes are present on the site which require more specific impact management outcomes and impact management actions, not included in the pre-approved generic EMPr template, to manage impacts, those impact management outcomes and actions must be included in Part C of the generic EMPr.	Specific impact management outcomes and impact management actions have been included in Part C of the Generic EMPr(s).

TABLE 7-2 COMMENTS AND RESPONSE TABLE FOR IAPS ON DRAFT SCOPING PHASE 22 AUGUST 2024 (RESUBMISSION)

Ref	Name and Organisation	Date and Method	Phase of PPP	Comment	Response
1.	Nrateng Mashiloane Aviation Environmental Compliance Department	22 August 2024 Per email	Draft Scoping Phase	<p>[REDACTED];</p> <p>Subject: RE: Notification of Submission: Draft scoping Report Mulilo Amsterdam WEFs, near Ermelo, Mpumalanga</p> <p>Good day,</p> <p>I hope this email finds you well. Kindly note that the SACAA has transferred all obstacle assessments and applications responsibilities to Air Traffic and Navigation Services (ATNS) as published on the SACAA website: www.caa.co.za/industryinformation/obstacles/. A formal application must be lodged with Air Traffic and Navigation Services (ATNS) for a formal obstacles assessment to be conducted. The list and contact details of the approved obstacles assessment services providers can be obtained from the CAA website: www.caa.co.za.</p> <p>Kind regards,</p>	The EAP acknowledges that the SACAA has transferred all application responsibilities to Air Traffic and Navigation Services (ATNS). The applicant confirms that a formal application has been lodged with Air Traffic and Navigation Services (ATNS) for a formal obstacles assessment to be conducted.
2.	Sindy Mbuyane DARDLEA	23 August 2024 Per email	Draft Scoping Phase	<p>[REDACTED]</p>	<p>Good day Sindy,</p> <p>Thank you for your query.</p> <p>The report content of the versions you have has not changed with the resubmission, other than the amendment of the dates of public participation</p>

				<p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>Subject: Re: Notification of Submission: Draft scoping Report Amsterdam WEFs, near Ermelo, Mpumalanga</p> <p>Good day Stephanie,</p> <p>Thank you for the resubmission notification. Are the reports submitted to our Office the updated versions or we need to await submission of the updates before considering receipt of such reports? I recall an email by Lloyd that there will be updates on the reports.</p> <p>Kind Regards, SIndi</p>	<p>(PP), and thus the versions you have can be used to confirm receipt if you are happy to do so. Additional copies of the reports (including the amended dates for PP) have been couriered to you and should be with you soon.</p> <p>Please let me know if you have any queries regarding the above.</p> <p>Kind regards,</p>
3.	Pamela Madondo Environment Compliance Specialist	26 August 2024 Per email	Draft Scoping Phase	<p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>Subject: RE: Notification of Submission: Draft scoping Report Amsterdam WEFs, near Ermelo, Mpumalanga</p> <p>Good day,</p> <p>I hope this email finds you well. Kindly note that the SACAA has transferred all obstacle assessments and applications responsibilities to Air Traffic and Navigation Services (ATNS) as published on the SACAA website: www.caa.co.za/industryinformation/obstacles/ . A formal application must be lodged with Air</p>	<p>The EAP acknowledges that the SACAA has transferred all application responsibilities to Air Traffic and Navigation Services (ATNS). The applicant confirms that a formal application has been lodged with Air Traffic and Navigation Services (ATNS) for a formal obstacles assessment to be conducted.</p>

				<p>Traffic and Navigation Services (ATNS) for a formal obstacles assessment to be conducted. The list and contact details of the approved obstacles assessment services providers can be obtained from the CAA website: www.caa.co.za.</p> <p>Kind regards,</p> <p>Pamela Madondo</p>	
4.	<p>Tebego Kgaphola</p> <p>Branch: Biodiversity and Conservation</p>	<p>26 August 2024</p> <p>Per email</p>	<p>Draft Scoping Phase</p>	<p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>Subject: RE: Notification of Submission: Draft scoping Report Amsterdam WEFs, near Ermelo, Mpumalanga</p> <p>Good morning</p> <p>Kindly note that our comments still stands.</p>	<p>The EAP acknowledges that Biodiversity and Conservations comment still stands.</p>
5.	<p>Salome Mambane</p> <p>Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE)</p> <p>Integrated Environmental Authorisations</p>	<p>26 August 2024</p> <p>Per email</p>	<p>Draft Scoping Phase</p>	<p>[REDACTED] 11:49 AM</p> <p>To: ERM Arcus Amsterdam <ERM.ArcusAmsterdam@erm.com>; Stephanie Gopaul <Stephanie.Gopaul@erm.com></p> <p>Cc: EIAadmin <EIAadmin@dfpe.gov.za>; [REDACTED]</p> <p>Ncube <BNcube@dfpe.gov.za></p> <p>Subject: 14/12/16/3/3/2/2611</p> <p>Dear Sir/Madam</p> <p>ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF RECEIPT OF THE NEW APPLICATION FORM AND DRAFT SCOPING REPORT FOR THE PROPOSED PROPOSED</p>	<p>EAP acknowledges receipt of the comment from the Department on the Draft Scoping Report for the Emvelo WEF.</p>

			<p>DEVELOPMENT OF THE EMVELO WIND ENERGY FACILITY AND AUXILIARY INFRASTRUCTURE, NEAR ERMELO, WITHIN THE MSUKALIGWA LOCAL MUNICIPALITY, AND GERT SIBANDE DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY, MPUMALANGA PROVINCE.</p> <p>The Department confirms having received the Application Form and Draft Scoping Report for Environmental Authorisation for the abovementioned project on 22 August 2024. You have submitted these documents to comply with the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations, 2014, as amended.</p> <p>Kindly note that your application for Environmental Authorisation falls within the ambit of an application applied for in terms of Part 3 of Chapter 4 of the EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended. You are therefore referred to Regulation 21 of the EIA Regulations, 2014 as amended.</p> <p>Please take note of Regulation 40(3) of the EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended, which states that potential Interested & Affected Parties, including the Competent Authority, may be provided with an opportunity to comment on reports and plans contemplated in Regulation 40(1) of the EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended, prior to the submission of an application but must be provided an opportunity to comment on such reports once an application has been submitted to the Competent Authority.</p> <p>Note that in terms of Regulation 45 of the EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended, this application will lapse if the applicant fails to meet any of the time-frames prescribed in terms of these Regulations, unless an extension has been granted by the Department in terms of</p>	
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				<p>Regulation 3(7) of the EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended.</p> <p>You are hereby reminded of Section 24F of the National Environmental Management Act, Act No. 107 of 1998, as amended, that no activity may commence prior to an Environmental Authorisation being granted by the Department.</p>	
6.	Mpilo Masondo NTCSA	2 September 2024 Per email	Draft Scoping Phase	<p>From: Mpilo Masondo [REDACTED] Sent: Monday, September 2, 2024 9:58 PM To: ERM Arcus Amsterdam [REDACTED] Subject: RE: [CAUTION:EXTERNAL EMAIL] Notification of Submission: Draft scoping Report Amsterdam WEFs, near Ermelo, Mpumalanga</p> <p>Good day,</p> <p>Please could you send the kmz files of the proposed projects to see whether any of our current or future projects will be affected.</p> <p>Regards, Mpilo</p>	<p>Good day,</p> <p>Please see attached KMZ files as requested.</p> <p>Kind Regards</p>
7.	Josua Meyer Interest and Affected Party	10 September 2024 Per email	Draft Scoping Phase	<p>From: Josua Meyer [REDACTED] Sent: Tuesday, September 10, 2024 8:22 PM To: ERM Arcus Amsterdam [REDACTED] Subject: Re: VOORGESTELDE ERMELO WINDPLASE</p> <p>Dankie vir uit maar EIENDOM GRENSE word nie getoon nie. Uitleg dus nutteloos aangesien grense noodsaaklik is om enige kommentaar te lewer voor periode daarvoor verstryk (20/9/24)</p>	<p>Good day Josua,</p> <p>I have attached a copy of the form for your perusal, please do complete and send back to me so that I am able to capture your data. Attached are the shapefiles of the land parcels of affected Land Owners. I confirm that you are a registered I&AP. The development is within its comment period and any comments made by you in this period will be captured accordingly.</p> <p>You will also receive further communication regarding the development as it moves through its different phases.</p>

				<p>VERSOEK DUS DRINGEND UITLEG WAT EIENDOM GRENSE EN PAAIE DUIDELIK TOON</p> <p>Vertrou op u spoedige reaksie</p> <p>By voorbaat dank</p>	Kind Regards
8.	<p>Josua Meyer</p> <p>Interest and Affected Party</p>			<p>From: Josua Meyer [REDACTED]</p> <p>Sent: Tuesday, September 10, 2024 8:29 PM</p> <p>To: ERM Arcus Amsterdam [REDACTED] ></p> <p>Subject: Re: SHEEPMOOR, EMVELO WIND ENERGIE PROJEKTE</p> <p>Het ongelukkig nie toegang tot Aida nie</p> <p>Kan u vorm asb aanstuur</p> <p>Wys u egter daarop dat as aangrensende eienaar aan u beoogde ontwikkeling registrasie outomaties deur u ontwikkelaar gedoen moet word.</p> <p>Graag verneem ek of sodanige registrasie wel gedoen is aangesien nog geen korrespondensie in die verband ontvang is nie</p> <p>Vertrou op spoedige en gunstige reaksie op bogemelde</p>	<p>Good day Josua,</p> <p>I have attached a copy of the form for your perusal, please do complete and send back to me so that I am able to capture your data. Attached are the shapefiles of the land parcels of affected Land Owners. I confirm that you are a registered I&AP. The development is within its comment period and any comments made by you in this period will be captured accordingly.</p> <p>You will also receive further communication regarding the development as it moves through its different phases.</p> <p>Kind Regards</p>
9.	<p>Robyn Luyt</p> <p>DARDLEA</p>	<p>11 September 2024</p> <p>Per email</p>	<p>Draft Scoping Phase</p>	<p>From: [REDACTED]</p> <p>Sent: Wednesday, September 11, 2024 2:52 PM</p> <p>To: [REDACTED]</p> <p>Cc: [REDACTED]</p>	<p>The EAP acknowledges receipt of the attendance register for the engagement meeting. The register is attached to the PPP report as annexure A.</p>

				<p>[REDACTED];</p> <p>Subject: Attendance Register Mulilo Renewable Energies engagement</p> <p>Good afternoon everyone,</p> <p>Herewith the attendance register of physical attendees at today's meeting for your records.</p> <p>Kind Regards Robyn</p>	
10.	<p>Ryan David-Andersen</p> <p>Interested and Affected Party</p>	<p>13 September 2024</p> <p>Per email</p>	<p>Draft Scoping Phase</p>	<p>[REDACTED] 24 AM</p> <p>To: ERM Arcus Amsterdam <ERM.ArcusAmsterdam@erm.com> Subject: Registration as I&AP for Mpumalanga Projects</p> <p>Dear ERM</p> <p>Please may you register my details in signature below for any Mpumalanga projects - including Amsterdam - we are developing a wind farm near Ermelo named Zephyr.</p> <p>Thanks very much</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p>	<p>Good day Ryan,</p> <p>Thank you for reaching out, your details will be captured.</p> <p>Kind regards,</p>
11.	<p>Robyn Luyt</p> <p>DARDLEA</p>	<p>17 September 2024</p> <p>Per email</p>	<p>Draft Scoping Phase</p>	<p>From: [REDACTED]</p> <p>Sent: Tuesday, September 17, 2024 2:42 PM</p> <p>To: ERM Arcus Amsterdam <Erm.arcusamsterdam@erm.com> Cc: [REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p>	<p>The EAP acknowledges receipt of DARDLEAs comment on Emvelo WEF.</p>

				<p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>Subject: SR Comments Emvelo WEF Amsterdam Cluster Importance: High</p> <p>Dear Stephanie,</p> <p>Please find herewith DARDLEAs comments on the draft Scoping Report for the Emvelo WEF and Grid Connection.</p> <p>Comments for Sheepmoor and Rochdale to follow.</p> <p>Kind Regards Robyn</p>	
12.	Celia De Waal MTPA	18 September 2024	Draft Scoping Phase	<p>From: [REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>Subject: MTPA's comments LUA 24/3967 - Draft EIA Scoping Report for the proposed development of the Sheepmoor Wind Energy facility.</p> <p>Dear Ms. Gopaul</p>	<p>Hi Celia,</p> <p>Thank you for providing comment on the Emvelo WEF facility. Are you able to please indicate when we can expect comment on the remaining 2 facilities, namely Rochdale and Emvelo.</p> <p>Kind regards Lucien</p>

				<p>Kindly receive the attached comments from the MTPA regarding a Draft EIA Report for the proposed development of the Sheepmoore Wind Energy facility (WEF) with 23 wind turbines and Auxiliary infrastructure.</p> <p>Your reference number: Project 0684401 (DFFE: 14/12/16/3/3/2/2593)</p> <p>Our EIA registration/reference number is LUA 24/3967 (kindly use this number in any further correspondence to us regarding this project)</p> <p>Kind regards</p> <p>Celia de Waal</p>	
13.	Celia De Waal MTPA	19 September 2024	Draft Scoping Phase	<div style="background-color: black; width: 100%; height: 100%; min-height: 100px;"></div> <p>Subject: RE: MTPA's comments LUA 24/3967 - Draft EIA Scoping Report for the proposed development of the Sheepmoor Wind Energy facility.</p> <p>Good morning</p> <p>Regarding your enquiry below, the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The comments for the Emvelo project (our ref: LUA 24/3966) is currently at the Acting Manager: Scientific Service for review). The signed copy might be released today, which will be send to you as soon as I receive it. 	<p>Hi Celia,</p> <p>Thank you for the update,</p> <p>Regards</p>

				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The commenting scientist is currently still busy commenting on the Rochdale project (LUA 24/3965). <p>Kind regards</p> <p>Celia</p>	
14.	Josua Meyer Interested and Affected Party	19 September 2024	Draft Scoping Phase	<p>From: [REDACTED] [REDACTED]</p> <p>To: ERM Arcus Amsterdam <ERM.ArcusAmsterdam@erm.com> Cc: [REDACTED] Subject:</p> <p>[ATTACHMENT SKM_C250i24091906550]</p> <p>APPENDIX A COMMENTS ON ROCKDALE, EMVELO AND SHEEPMOOR WIND FARMS</p> <p>The following problems are foreseen with development of above-mentioned wind farms</p> <p>1. DISTURBANCE OF CLIMATE AND Rainfalls</p> <p>The escarpment has a unique rainfall pattern where the east wind introduces moisture into layers and condenses as rain and/or precipitates as fog and dew once it moves in over the plateau. The fog and dew that comes in along with the east wind is critically important and prevents pollination problems especially during mid-summer droughts. Turbulence of rotary turbine rotors increases vertical mixing of heat and water vapor which adversely affects meteorological conditions downwind, including rainfall. Wind turbines further cause significant desiccation of soil by pulling the warmer upper</p>	<p>Hi Josua,</p> <p>Thank you for sharing your concerns about the proposed WEF cluster. We appreciate your input. Your comments will be considered during the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) phase.</p> <p>As part of the process, we will assess potential changes to the wind turbine layout and work to avoid sensitive areas to minimize any negative impacts. Your feedback appreciated and we will keep you updated as the EIA progresses.</p> <p>Kind regards,</p>

			<p>air down to the ground in order to increase soil temperatures.</p> <p>Turbines therefore change local wind patterns that have negative impacts on rainfall, soil moisture and even micro climate with long-term effects on fertility and productivity of agricultural soils and grasslands.</p> <p>THE PLACEMENT OF THE WIND TURBINES AT THE BOTTOM OF THE ESCARPMENT WILL THEREFORE BE FATAL TO THE ENVIRONMENT'S CLIMATE AND VEGETATION WHICH WILL ALSO ADVERSELY AFFECT MV FARMING PROSPECTS IN THE LONG TERM.</p> <p>2. Bird LIFE IS THREATENED</p> <p>Area consists of unique grassland that provides ideal habitat for several rare and endangered bird species. It also hosts large diverse small grassland species that are not even mentioned here.</p> <p>Number of several threatened and/or protected species found here include :</p> <p>Breekop arende (eagles). Breeding pair successfully hatched chick this year.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Sekretaris Voels. Several old as well as active nests enter the area. As recently as May '24, a pair with a chick were spotted at Waaihoek. <p>Mahem is found widely spread throughout area which is also actively breeding. A chick is often spotted with adults.</p> <p>Blou Kraanvoels are on the rise with at least one chick observed annually.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Fish eagles also regularly visit the ponds in the area. - Veldpou occurs but is currently becoming rare. Nests in the field were also spotted already. <p>Kalkoen Ibus is common with several active breeding colonies.</p>
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			<p>There are positive signs that Aasvoels are also moving back. Breeding colonies are active at Smithfield, not far from the area.</p> <p>Various owl species that may not be extinct but are extremely necessary to ensure ecological balance are also present in large numbers. All the bird species, as well as bats and insects, are essential to maintain balance in the ecology and are in danger of either being killed or relocated to other areas due to this.</p> <p>Fatal collision with turbine blade</p> <p>Habitat disturbances by increased soil temperatures.</p> <p>Air pressure changes vibrate turbines as well as the vertebrae behind turbines.</p> <p>Very sensitive to low frequency electromagnetic pressure causing waves by wind turbines that act adversely on humans.</p> <p>Eradicating nests and even killing them to eliminate approval barriers as has already been proven with the shooting of a break-headed eagle.</p> <p>3. ANIMAL LIFE IS THREATENED</p> <p>The following rare and protected nursing animals are found here</p> <p>Oorbietjie</p> <p>Bruinhiena</p> <p>Mieshoop Tier</p> <p>Aardwolf</p> <p>The animals are in danger of moving away by habitat destruction, vibration and noise caused by turbines. Dirty electricity produced by wind power can pass through cables and into the ground. The soil stream has a detrimental effect on the productivity and reproduction of mammals.</p> <p>4. NOISE AND VIRTUAL POLLUTION</p> <p>Wind turbines produce sound waves (pressure waves) by the rotating blades and are heard as rumbling and/or detectable as infra-sounds as</p>
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well as electromagnetic waves generated upon conversion of wind energy into electricity. The conversion produces poor quality power (dirty electricity and ground current) which is detrimental to human and animal health. The shade flickering of turbines is also contributing factor to health problems.

There is a definite link between the 'ground current' produced by turbines and cancer. It has been documented that childhood leukemia has increased by 300% due to it.

However, the above can activate several other clinical health conditions in humans.

In animals and insects that perceive low frequency sounds and vibrations better than humans, there is great danger of moving out of territory and thus disappearing altogether.

IN LIGHT OF THE FACTS, A TURBINE AND CABLE Free BUFFER ZONE OF AT LEAST 1.5 KM FROM My PROPERTY'S BOUNDARY WIRES MUST BE REHABILITATED.

The number of how turbines contributes to virtual pollution of nature.

5. INFRASTRUCTURE

The improved infrastructure will lead to increases in movement and inflow of undesirable elements which will drastically increase crime. Stock theft at my farm has stopped since I stopped scraping district road to Sheepmoor because it has become difficult to pass.

During the construction phase, labour unrest can be expected due to expectations created in local populations.

The fact that no turbines are allowed on my property will not indemnify my property from the negative side effects of the 3 wind farms.

THOROUGH FURTHER INVESTIGATIONS ARE THEREFORE REQUESTED BEFORE APPROVAL IS GRANTED TO PROJECT BY THE AUTHORITY

				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - LONG-TERM INFLUENCE OF PLANNED WIND FARMS ON AGRICULTURE, CLIMATE AND RAIN FALL. - IDENTIFICATION AND MOVEMENTS OF ENDANGERED AND PROTECTED Bird SPECIES AS WELL AS WHERE NESTS OCCUR, ACTIVE AND OLD NESTS. - IDENTIFICATION OF THE RARE MAMMALS AS WELL AS THEIR MOVEMENTS IN THE AREA. <p>Foresees adverse long-term prospects for agriculture and environment and therefore cannot UNRESERVEDLY support development of wind farms.</p> <p>Sincerely, On behalf of JOSHUA MEYER TRUST</p>	
15.	Kirsten Jones Interested and Affected Party	19 September 2024	Draft Scoping Phase	<p>From: [REDACTED] [REDACTED].co.za> Sent: Thursday, September 19, 2024 4:17 PM To: ERM Arcus Amsterdam <ERM.ArcusAmsterdam@erm.com> Cc: [REDACTED] Subject: Sheepmoor, Rochdale and Emvelo WEFs - Registration as I&AP</p> <p>Hi there,</p> <p>Please could you register myself and colleague Francois le Roex (copied) as I&APs on these projects,</p> <p>Kind regards</p>	<p>Good day,</p> <p>Thank you for your email, you will now be added as an I&AP to the proposed Sheepmoor, Rochdale and Emvelo WEFs.</p> <p>Kind Regards</p>
16.	Kirsten Jones Interested and Affected Party	20 September 2024	Draft Scoping Phase	<p>From: [REDACTED] [REDACTED] Sent: Friday, September 20, 2024 9:56 AM To: ERM Arcus Amsterdam <ERM.ArcusAmsterdam@erm.com></p>	<p>Hi Kristen,</p> <p>That is correct.</p> <p>Kind Regards</p>

				<p>Cc: [REDACTED]</p> <p>Subject: RE: Sheepmoor, Rochdale and Emvelo WEFs - Registration as I&AP</p> <p>Thanks Lucien,</p> <p>Will you be uploading the FSR onto the website (and notifying I&APs) once it has been submitted to DFFE?</p> <p>Kind regards Kirsten</p>	
17.	<p>Josua Meyer</p> <p>Interested and Affected Party</p>	<p>20 September 2024</p> <p>Aida Form</p>	<p>Draft Scoping Phase</p>	<p>From: [REDACTED]</p> <p>Sent: Friday, September 20, 2024 11:17 AM</p> <p>To: ERM Arcus Amsterdam <ERM.ArcusAmsterdam@erm.com></p> <p>Cc: [REDACTED]</p> <p>Subject:</p> <p>What's your name? Josua Last Name Meyer Who do you represent? [REDACTED]</p> <p>Alternative Phone Number – n/a Your Address [REDACTED]</p> <p>Street Address Line 2 – Plaas Waaihoek City - Ermelo State/Province - Mpumalanga Zip Code – n/a Country - RSA What is your interest in the projects? – Plaas Eenaar</p>	<p>The EAP acknowledges receipt of IAPs Aida response form as well as attached file.</p>

				<p>Please visit the ERM website (link below) for more info and access to the reports. Are you able to access the website?</p> <p>Please copy and paste the link onto a browser (https://www.erm.com/public-information-sites/proposed-amsterdam-wind-energy-facility-and-auxiliary-infrastructure-cluster-mpumalanga/)</p> <p>No</p> <p>What are your comments regarding the Rochdale, Emvelo and Sheepmoor WEF Cluster?</p> <p>Verwys na bylaag A aangeheg</p> <p>Protection of Personal Information (POPI) Act, Act 4 of 2013</p> <p>Do you consent to your information being published in the public domain, and being used as part of the Public Participation Process?</p> <p>Yes</p>	
18.	Moya Odendaal Interested and Affected Party	21 September 2024 Aida Form	Draft Scoping Phase	<p>Dear AidaForm user,</p> <p>Your form "Stakeholder Engagement Form" has a new response.</p> <p>=====</p> <p>=====</p> <p>1. What's your name? Moya Odendaal</p> <p>2. Who do you represent? [REDACTED]</p> <p>3. Your Email [REDACTED]</p> <p>4. Your Phone Number [REDACTED]</p> <p>5. Alternative Phone Number [REDACTED]</p>	<p>Good day,</p> <p>Thank you for your comment. Your comments will be taken into consideration during the EIA phase of the proposed WEF Cluster.</p> <p>Kind Regards</p>

				<p>6. Your Address [REDACTED]</p> <p>7. What is your interest in the projects? Environment</p> <p>8. Please visit the ERM website (link below) for more info and access to the reports. Are you able to access the website? Yes</p> <p>9. What are your comments regarding the Rochdale, Emvelo and Sheepmoor WEF Cluster? It will change the environment forever</p> <p>10. Protection of Personal Information (POPI) Act, Act 4 of 2013 No (0)</p>	
19.	Rone Odendaal Interested and Affected Party	21 September 2024 Aida Form	Draft Scoping Phase	<p>Dear AidaForm user,</p> <p>Your form "Stakeholder Engagement Form" has a new response.</p> <p>=====</p> <p>1. What's your name? [REDACTED]</p> <p>2. Who do you represent? Individual Affected party</p> <p>3. Your Email [REDACTED]</p> <p>4. Your Phone Number [REDACTED]</p> <p>5. Alternative Phone Number [REDACTED]</p>	<p>Good day,</p> <p>Thank you for your comment. Your comments will be taken into consideration during the EIA phase of the proposed WEF Cluster.</p> <p>Kind Regards</p>

				<p>6. Your Address</p> <div style="background-color: black; height: 1em; width: 100%;"></div> <p>7. What is your interest in the projects?</p> <p>Strongly oppose</p> <p>8. Please visit the ERM website (link below) for more info and access to the reports. Are you able to access the website?</p> <p>No</p> <p>9. What are your comments regarding the Rochdale, Emvelo and Sheepmoor WEF Cluster? Negative impact on the environment and bird life.</p> <p>10. Protection of Personal Information (POPI) Act, Act 4 of 2013 No (0)</p>	
20.	Bathandwa Ncube DFFE	24 September 2024 Per email	Draft Scoping Phase	<p>From: [REDACTED] [REDACTED], 2024 6:06 PM</p> <p>To: Stephanie Gopaul <stephanie.gopaul@erm.com>; ERM Arcus Amsterdam <ERM.ArcusAmsterdam@erm.com></p> <p>Cc: [REDACTED]</p> <div style="background-color: black; height: 150px; width: 100%; margin-top: 5px;"></div> <p>Subject: 14/12/16/3/3/2/2611; 14/12/16/3/3/2/2612; 14/12/16/3/3/2/2613</p> <p>Goodday</p>	The EAP acknowledges receipt of DFFEs comment on Mulilo WEF Cluster.

				<p>Please find attached, DSR comments for the proposed Emvelo, Rochdale and Sheepmoor WEF developments.</p> <p>Kind regards Ms Bathandwa Ncube (EAPASA)</p>	
21.	Celia De Waal MTPA	01 October 2024 Per Email	Draft Scoping Report	<p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>To: ERM Arcus Amsterdam <ERM.ArcusAmsterdam@erm.com> Cc: [REDACTED] Eksteen [REDACTED] Subject: FW: MTPA's comments LUA 24/3966 - Draft Scoping for 45 wind turbines (Emvelo Wind Energy)</p> <p>Good day</p> <p>Kindly receive two of the letters as requested</p> <p>I will follow up with Frans Krige on LUA 24/3965, Rochdale, as soon as he is done with his meeting.</p> <p>Regards</p>	
22.	Celia De Waal MTPA	01 October 2024 Per Email	Draft Scoping Report	<p>From: [REDACTED]za> Sent: Tuesday, October 1, 2024 11:15 AM To: ERM Arcus Amsterdam <ERM.ArcusAmsterdam@erm.com> Cc: [REDACTED] Subject: DRaft Comments LUA 24-3965 Rochdale Wind Energy Facility</p> <p>Good day</p> <p>Kindly receive the draft comments from Mr. Krige of LUA 24-3965. As soon as we have a signed copy, I will forward it to you.</p>	Thanks Celia!

				Kind regards	
23.	Celia De Waal MTPA	02 October 2024 Per Email	Draft Scoping Report	<p>From: [REDACTED] Sent: Wednesday, October 2, 2024 11:14 AM To: ERM Arcus Amsterdam <ERM.ArcusAmsterdam@erm.com> Cc: [REDACTED]</p> <p>Subject: MTPA's comments: LUA 24/3965 - Draft Scoping report for the Rochdale Wind Energy Facility near Ermelo</p> <p>Good day</p> <p>Kindly receive the attached comments from the MTPA regarding a Draft Scoping Report for the 240 MW Rochdale Wind Energy Facility near Ermelo.</p> <p>Your reference number is: 0684401</p> <p>Our EIA registration/reference number is: LUA 24/3965</p> <p>Kind regards</p> <p>Celia de Waal</p>	<p>Hi Celia</p> <p>Signed copy well received</p> <p>Kind Regards</p>

TABLE 7-3 COMMENTS AND RESPONSES ON NEW APPLICATION FOR DRAFT SCOPING PHASE RECEIVED FROM DFFE (24 SEPTEMBER 2024)

Application Form

No.	Comment from DFFE	EAP Response	Section in Report
1.	Please confirm that the postal code for the EAP's address is correct.	Application form has been updated. EAP's address has been updated.	Please refer to Application form.
2.	The screening tool report attached as Appendix 14 of the application form must be signed by the compiler.	Signature has been added to Appendix 14.	Please refer to Application form.
3.	Please ensure that all relevant listed activities are applied for, are specific and that it can be linked to the development activity or infrastructure as described in the project description. The onus is on the applicant and the environmental assessment practitioner (EAP) to ensure that all the applicable listed activities are included in the application form. Failure to do so may result in unnecessary delays in the processing of the application.	Listed activities in the application form corresponds to those listed in the Final Scoping Report.	Please refer to Application form and Table 3.1 in this Final Scoping Report.
4.	If the activities applied for in the application form differ from those mentioned in the final SR, an amended application form must be submitted with the final SR.	Listed activities in the application form mirror those listed in this Final Scoping Report.	Please refer to Application form.
5.	Please take note of GNR 4143, which was gazetted on the 04 December 2023, which requires a letter of consent from Eskom Holdings SOC Ltd if the proposed development is within a specific radius of a main electricity transmission or distribution	The proposed development is not near to an Eskom Main Transmission Substation (MTS) and therefore does not trigger the need for consent from Eskom in terms of GN 4143. However, the applicant confirms that it will engage Eskom further during the EIA phases and during the confirmation of the final layout to ensure all relevant set back requirements are met	Not Applicable.

	substation. Should this gazette apply to the proposed development, please ensure the necessary documents are included.	Kind Regards,	
Specialist Assessments			
No.	Comment from DFFE	EAP Response	Section in Report
6.	Page 4 of the meeting minutes of the pre-application meeting held on 26 April 2023 refers to the applicant undertaking a Geotechnical Assessment; however, this study is not included in the Specialist Plan of Study (PoS). All required specialist studies must be conducted as part of the EIA process. If there are development design constraints, a desktop Geotechnical Assessment must be included as part of the Specialist PoS.	The EAP is of the opinion that a Geotechnical Assessment for the development can and will only be undertaken prior to the commencement of the construction phase. A desktop geotechnical assessment has already been conducted as part of the EIA phase studies and will be included in the EIA documentation. Furthermore a detailed geotechnical assessment will be completed prior to the start of construction.	Not Applicable.
7.	The Civil Aviation Theme has a "Medium sensitivity" rating, as per the outcome of the screening tool provided. According to the protocols, a Civil Aviation Compliance Statement must be included in the PoS. Should a compliance statement not be included as part of the PoS, a motivation/explanation for its exclusion, must be provided [including proof of request for comments from the Air Traffic and Navigation Services (ATNS)].	Please note that an obstacle assessment will be undertaken prior to construction. An application has been submitted to ATNS to evaluate the preliminary WEF layout and final approvals will be received prior to construction.	Not Applicable.

8.	You are requested to submit copies of signed Specialist Declaration of Interest forms (witnessed and signed by a Commissioner of Oaths) for all specialist studies conducted. The forms are available on Department's website (please use the Department template).	Specialist Declarations have been included in Volume II.	Please refer to Volume II – Specialist Studies.
9.	Please note that in terms of Government Notice No. 320 of 20 March 2020 (i.e. "the Protocols"), and Government Notice No. 1150 of 30 October 2020 (i.e. protocols for terrestrial plant and animal species), it is a requirement for specialists to be registered with the South African Council for Natural Scientific Professions (SACNASP) in their respective fields.	SACNASP certifications has been included in Volume II.	Please refer to Volume II – Specialist Studies.
10.	The Heritage Survey, which has been included as part of this SR, must be submitted to the South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA) for comments, via the South African Heritage Resources Information System (SAHRIS).	All requested documentation will be uploaded to the South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA) for comments, via the South African Heritage Resources Information System (SAHRIS). Should comment be received following submission of the FSR, the comment will be sent to the Department for consideration.	Not Applicable.

Public participation process

No.	Comment from DFFE	EAP Response	Section in Report
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11.	The Public Participation Process must be conducted in terms of Regulation 39, 40 41, 42, 43 & 44 of the EIA Regulations 2014, as amended.	The public participation process for the Emvelo WEF has been conducted in terms of Regulation 39, 40 41, 42, 43 & 44 of the EIA Regulations 2014, as amended.	Refer to Section 9 of the FSR and Volume III – Public Participation Report.
12.	The proposed development site is within a Critical Biodiversity Area (CBA) and National Protected Areas Expansion Strategy (NPAES). Comments must be obtained from this Department's Biodiversity Conservation Section. The contact details are as follows: i. Biodiversity Conservation Directorate Attention: Mr. Seoka Lekota Email: BCAdmin@dffe.gov.za ii. Protected Areas Planning and Management Effectiveness Directorate Attention: Mr. Thivhulawi Nethononda Email: TNethononda@dffe.gov.za	All issues raised and comments received during the availability of the DSR have been addressed in the Public Participation Report (Volume III) and in the FSR, as required. Comments have been provided from BCAdmin and comments from Protected Areas Planning and Management Effectiveness will be obtained during the EIA phase.	Refer to the PP Report – Volume III.
13.	Please ensure that all issues raised and comments received during the circulation of the draft SR from registered Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) and organs of state which have jurisdiction in respect of the proposed activity are adequately addressed and included in the final SR.	All issues raised and comments received during the availability of the DSR has been addressed in the Public Participation Report (Volume III) and in the FSR, as required. The Project Details of the FSR - Volume I, reflects the changes made from DSR to FSR.	Refer to the PP Report – Volume III.
14.	Copies of original comments received from I&APs and organs of state, which have jurisdiction in respect of	Original comments received from I&APs and organs of state have been included in Volume III – Public Participation Report.	Refer to the PP Report – Volume III.

	the proposed activity are submitted to the Department with the final SR.		
15.	Proof of correspondence with the various stakeholders must be included in the final SR. This must indicate that this draft SR has been subjected to 30 days public participation process, stating the start and end date of the PPP. Should you be unable to obtain comments, proof must be submitted to the Department of the attempts that were made to obtain comments.	<p>This has been provided for in the Public Participation Report (Volume III) of the FSR. Any correspondence with relevant organs of state and stakeholders has been included in the comments and response table.</p> <p>Where no correspondence has been received, the proof of attempts to retrieve a comment has been provided.</p>	Refer to the PP Report – Volume III.
16.	All issues raised and comments received during the circulation of the draft SR from I&APs and organs of state which have jurisdiction in respect of the proposed activity are adequately addressed in the final SR, including comments from this Department, and must be incorporated into the Comments and Response Report (CRR).	All issues raised and comments received during the availability of the DSR has been addressed in the Public Participation Report (Volume III) and in the FSR, as required. The Project Details of the FSR - Volume I, reflects the changes made from DSR to FSR.	Refer to the PP Report – Volume III.
17.	The CRR report must be a separate document from the main report and the format must be in the table format as indicated in Annexure 1 of this comments letter.	The C&R report is included in the PP Report (Volume III) of the FSR and is therefore separate from the main report.	Refer to the PP Report – Volume III.
18.	Comments from I&APs must not be split and arranged into categories. Comments from each submission must be responded to individually.	Comments from each individual has been responded to individually in the C&R report.	Refer to the PP Report – Volume III.

19.	Please refrain from summarising comments made by I&APs. All comments from I&APs must be copied verbatim and responded to clearly. Please note that a response such as "noted" is not regarded as an adequate response to an I&AP's comments.	Comments received have been adequately addressed and have not been summarised in the C&R report.	Refer to the PP Report – Volume III.
20.	The attendance register and minutes of any meetings held by the Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP) with Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) and other role players must be included in the final SR.	This has been included as an Appendix in Volume III.	Please refer Volume III – Public Participation Report.
21.	Provide photo evidence of on-site notices, including the names of landmarks and/or GPS coordinates (in degrees, minutes, and seconds) of their placements.	This has been included as an Appendix in Volume III.	Please refer Volume III – Public Participation Report.
22.	Please submit a full page of the newspaper(s) containing the advertisement, ensuring that the information in the advert is legible and that the name of the newspaper and date are visible.	This has been included as an Appendix in Volume III.	Please refer Volume III – Public Participation Report.
General			
No.	Comment from DFFE	EAP Response	Section in Report
	You are further reminded to comply with Regulation 21(1) of the NEMA EIA Regulations 2014, as amended, which states that:		

"If S&EIR must be applied to an application, the applicant must, within 44 days of receipt of the application by the competent authority, submit to the competent authority a scoping report which has been subjected to a public participation process of at least 30 days and which reflects the incorporation of comments received, including any comments of the competent authority"

You are further reminded that the final SR to be submitted to this Department must comply with all the requirements in terms of the scope of assessment and content of Scoping reports in accordance with Appendix 2 and Regulation 21(1) of the EIA Regulations 2014, as amended.

Further note that in terms of Regulation 45 of the EIA Regulations 2014, as amended, this application will lapse if the applicant fails to meet any of the timeframes prescribed in terms of these Regulations, unless an extension has been granted in terms of Regulation 3(7).

TABLE 7-4 COMMENTS AND RESPONSE TABLE ON NEW APPLICATION FOR DRAFT SCOPING PHASE RECEIVED FROM DARDLEA (20 SEPTEMBER 2024)

Ref	Comment	Response
1	The proposed Emvelo Wind Energy Facility and associated grid infrastructure is located in areas Identified as CBA Irreplaceable and Optimal (over 21%), Intact Grassland Patches (33%), Key Biodiversity Areas (21.4%), ESAs, Priority Focus Areas, Freshwater Ecosystem Priority Areas and Threatened Ecosystems (Endangered). Furthermore, 43% of the site falls within Grasslands SA02.0 Important Bird Area (IBA), and close to two other Important Bird Areas.	This has been noted. The layout will be revised during the EIA phase, to avoid Key Biodiversity Areas and No-go areas.
2	The proposed Emvelo WEF and associated grid connection is located in an area comprising a high diversity of threatened bird species, Including the following confirmed on site: African Marsh Harrier (Regionally Endangered); Denham's Bustard (Globally Near Threatened; Regionally Vulnerable); Secretary bird (Globally Endangered, Regionally Vulnerable); White bellied Bustard (Regionally Vulnerable), Blue Crane (Globally Vulnerable, Regionally Near Threatened); Grey Crowned Crane (Globally and Regionally Endangered); Martial Eagle (Globally and Regionally Endangered); Lanner Falcon (Regionally Vulnerable); Greater Flamingo (Regionally Near Threatened); Southern Bald Ibis (Regionally and Globally Vulnerable); Cape Vulture (Globally Vulnerable and Regionally Endangered); and Yellow breasted Pipit (Regionally and Globally Vulnerable).	<p>All wetland No-Go areas as identified by the Aquatic Specialist should be buffered by an additional 110m on either side to reduce the risk of turbine collisions and to prevent the disturbance of priority species breeding and roosting in these areas. Priority species in this category include African Fish Eagle, African Grass Owl, African Marsh Harrier, Black-winged Pratincole, Blue Crane, Grey Crowned Crane, Long-crested Eagle, Marsh Owl, Yellow-billed Stork, and sensitive Species Number 23 (as listed by the National Screening Tool). During the EIA Phase fine scale habitat modelling and identification of wetland corridors for cryptic / low detection probability wetland species will be conducted. Two forms of risk zones will be delineated, namely core breeding habitat, and associated connectivity habitat. Connectivity habitat will include wetland habitats not used for breeding but for movement, as well as wetland/grassland margins. These features will need to be buffered to account for the sensitivity of the respective species involved.</p> <p>Modelled Yellow-breasted Pipit and Rudd's Lark habitat areas are considered No-Go zones. These high-quality grassland areas were identified to prevent displacement of birds due to disturbance and habitat destruction. The Yellow-breasted Pipit and Rudd's Lark model output represents the habitat patches most suitable for the species' using a multi-year assessment of</p>

		<p>imagery indices etc. spanning 2019–2023. This is to account for variability related to drivers of habitat suitability for grassland habitat specialist species such as these endemic larks and pipit. Primary drivers of variability include seasonal rainfall across years, burning/fire, and grazing intensity. The model boundaries will extend beyond suitable habitat into other habitats (forest edge, roads, etc.) in some areas as we have accounted for typical blade swept area (BSA) by buffering the habitat output. This output should be considered high sensitivity and avoided (no-go) given habitat loss/degradation is the primary issue. Although Botha's Larks were not observed on site during the extensive surveys conducted, further investigations regarding habitat suitability will be conducted through modelling during the EIA phase of the project.</p>
3	<p>Furthermore, Intact grassland patches make up a third of the site footprint. DARDLEA does not support the development of WEFs (or any noncontactable land use) within Intact grassland patches. The MBSP specifically incorporated climate change into spatial priorities through the prioritization of the connectivity of remaining intact grassland patches in the province, as they provide habitat for species to thrive, and allow for their dispersal. Intact grasslands are crucial for supporting threatened avifauna.</p>	<p>These high-quality grassland areas already contain many transformed habitats. The proposed development should avoid the high sensitivity areas, therefore the layout will be revised during the EIA phase.</p>
4	<p>DARDLEA is therefore concerned that the proposed location of the Emvelo Wind Energy Facility and associated grid infrastructure is not compatible with the desired land use. The WEF and all associated Infrastructure is not a land use, in accordance With the Mpumalanga Biodiversity Sector Plan (MBSP), that will support the Inherent Biodiversity values of CBAs</p>	<p>While the departments concern is noted, the development of a wind energy facility would allow the IPP to directly enhance the conservation landscape of the area through the implementation of recommended mitigation measures from the various specialists to improve the ecology of the landscape. As such, we feel that the proposed development could support the biodiversity values of the CBAs.</p>
5	<p>It is acknowledged that the layout plan in the draft Scoping Report is preliminary, and that you have confirmed that it will be revised further during the EIA phase to be Informed by buffers and constraints provided by specialists. Such constraints identified to date include the location of turbines in areas Identified in the Faunal Assessment as High Sensitivity and High Sensitivity Escarpment, the location of turbines and associated infrastructure in bat sensitive and bat no- go areas, the location of the laydown area in a sensitive aquatic feature, .and the location of a number of turbines in avifaunal</p>	<p>We appreciate the departments inputs as to the potential risks and impacts associated with the current layout. As noted above, and in our meeting on the 11th of September 2024, the sensitivities identified by the various specialists are being taken into account during the review of the layout that is currently underway. Any additional sensitivities identified will be incorporated into the layout to ensure that the direct and cumulative impacts of the project are minimized.</p>

	<p>exclusion zones. It must be noted though that in addition to the exclusion :zones identified in the specialist studies, a number of turbines as well as associated substation and laydown areas are still be located in Key Biodiversity Areas and IBAs (i.e. turbines 4, 8, 11, 18, 19, 22, 24, 26, 31, 33 and 35), Intact Grassland Patches (including turbines 1-6 9 and 13), and CBA Irreplaceable areas (12, 14, 16, 17, 29, 32 and 33) and CBA optimal areas (8, 18 and 19), which is very concerning.</p>	
6	<p>We are concerned that cumulative impacts will not be dealt with adequately, While the Department of Fisheries, Forestry and the Environment has set a limit of 30km for the assessment of cumulative impacts, this should. be viewed as a minimum requirement. Due to the extremely sensitive habitat within which all wind farms in the region have either been authorized or are currently In process, it is our view that all authorized and in-process wind farms In the Gert Sibande District should be included In the assessment of cumulative Impacts. Currently, the.se include Ujekamanzi WEF 1, Ujekamanzi WEF 2, Ummbila Emoyeni WEF (authorised, and within 55km); Phefumua Emoyeni WEF (within 40km); Mukondeleil WEF (authorised), Zephyr WEF (within 30km), as well as Camden I and II, Sheepmoor WEF and Rochdale WEF. The cumulative assessment must, inter al/a, identify the species and habitats most at risk of cumulative impacts, and identify key uncertainties. The definition of cumulative impacts as per the EIA Regulations is "the past, current and reasonably foreseeable future impact of an activity, considered together with the impact of activities associated with that activity, that in itself may not be significant, but may be significant when added to the existing and reasonably foreseeable impacts eventuating from similar or diverse activities". A comparative assessment of the impacts of this proposed facility, in relation to and in conjunction with, adjacent and surrounding renewable energy facilities should therefore be provided in the EIA Report.</p>	<p>As per the DFFE guidelines related to cumulative impacts, all specialists will be requested to provide an assessment of the potential cumulative impacts of the proposed project, and all other renewable energy projects within the prescribed radius, on the environment. These cumulative impact assessments will be incorporated into the EIAR for adjudication during the EIA comment period.</p>
7	<p>Roads must be Included in the draft layout plan, and must be incorporated in the impact analysis.</p>	<p>A refined layout, including all internal roads and other infrastructure, will be submitted following the specialist inputs on the EIA phase.</p>

8	<p>The plan of study for EIA must include and address the following:</p> <p>8.1 Terrestrial Biodiversity:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Intact Grassland Patches and Key Biodiversity Areas must be identified and considered in the analysis of impacts on terrestrial biodiversity. Where Infrastructure is to be developed In CBAs and Intact Grassland Patches, the impact of the loss of CBAs and intact grassland habitat In terms of metapopulation dynamics (i.e. how the loss of source areas Will impact areas of low quality habitat that cannot support a population of species on Its own) must be assessed. The Site Ecological Importance methodology, as per the requirements of the Species Environmental Assessment Guidelines, must be demonstrated to have been applied. The Impact of the potential loss of ecological drivers on ecological processes must be analyzed I.e. fire, which is an important driver for the maintenance of grassland biodiversity. 	The Terrestrial Impact assessment will consider the listed requirements.
8.2	<p>Avifauna: DARDLEA supports the avifaunal specialists' recommendations to remove turbines from the "exclusion zones" identified during pre-construction monitoring. However, in the proposed re-assessment of the layout, the Avifaunal Assessment must consider and include the following:</p>	This comment has been duly noted
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Birds and Wind-Energy Best-Practice Guidelines state that the duration of pre-construction monitoring should be extended (beyond 12 months) where there is a high risk of significant Impacts on priority species. Sufficient evidence of high risk of significant impact on avifauna on site and within the Project Area of influence exists to extend minimum pre-construction monitoring requirements to adequately assess impacts and determine appropriate mitigation measures. Where the layout of the proposed wind farm does not avoid all sensitive features, corridors and buffers (e.g. CBAs, intact grasslands patches, KBAs, pans and all waterbodies, and provide shaped buffers for such features), additional monitoring must be undertaken to confirm the full 	<p>The monitoring protocol implemented was guided by the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 NEMA when applying for Environmental Authorisation (Gazetted October 2020) Protocol for the specialist assessment and minimum report content requirements for environmental impacts on avifaunal species by onshore wind energy generation facilities where the electricity output is

spectrum of prevailing environmental conditions to ensure avoidance of significant Impacts,

20MW or more (Government Gazette No. 43110 – 20 March 2020).

- Jenkins, A.R., Van Rooyen, C.S., Smallie, J.J., Anderson, M.D., & A.H. Smit. 2015. Best practice guidelines for avian monitoring and impact mitigation at proposed wind energy development sites in southern Africa. Produced by the Wildlife & Energy Programme of the Endangered Wildlife Trust & BirdLife South Africa. Hereafter referred to as the wind guidelines.

Monitoring at the WEF sites and a Control Site were conducted by a team of experienced avifaunal field specialists during the following time envelopes:

- 21 February–03 March 2022
- 21–27 April 2022
- 01–16 June 2022
- 06–21 October 2022
- 14–17 January 2023
- 05–09 May 2023
- 28–30 June 2023
- 22–26 August 2023

Additional Vantage Point and Transect Count monitoring was conducted near the identified Martial Eagle nest to gain a better understanding of their flight behaviour. Five surveys were conducted, in addition to the seven surveys completed as part of the pre-construction monitoring.

The five additional surveys were conducted during the following time envelopes:

- 17–22 October 2023

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 15–23 November 2023 • 30 November–05 December 2023 • 17–22 January 2024 • 14–20 February 2024
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Intact grassland patches are important habitat for foraging and facilitate avifauna breeding and movement. Intact grassland patches must be considered and incorporated in the analysis of Impact zones applicable to avifauna. 	MTPA intact grassland patches would have to be avoided both from a terrestrial and avifaunal perspective.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Buffers for waterbodies aquatic features - confirm the rationale in their determination and how their sizes (210m around drainage lines, and 110m around wetland no-go zones) were determined to be sufficient to account for movement of birds through the site, and protection of roosting areas and flight behaviors (approaching and leaving roost sites foraging sites etc). 	<p>The additional 110m (i.e. 210m in total) is to account for the rotor-swept area of the turbines.</p> <p>During the EIA Phase fine scale habitat modelling and identification of wetland corridors for cryptic / low detection probability wetland species will be conducted. Two forms of risk zones will be delineated, namely core breeding habitat, and associated connectivity habitat. Connectivity habitat will include wetland habitats not used for breeding but for movement, as well as wetland/grassland margins. These features will need to be buffered to account for the sensitivity of the respective species involved.</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ DARDLEA is especially concerned that the site comprises habitat suitable for species with low detection probability, including the Globally Vulnerable Yellow-breasted Pipit, and Endangered Rudd's Lark, and the Critically Endangered Species 23. The precautionary principle must be applied in the undertaking of comprehensive habitat- based assessments in order to robustly delineate flyways and movement corridors for these species. 	<p>During the EIA phase fine scale habitat modelling and identification of wetland and grassland corridors for cryptic / low detection probability wetland species will be conducted. Two forms of risk zones will be delineated, namely core breeding habitat, and associated connectivity habitat. Connectivity habitat will include wetland and grassland habitats not used for breeding but for movement, as well as wetland/grassland margins. These features will need to be buffered to account for the sensitivity of the respective species involved.</p> <p>No dedicated site surveys were conducted for Sensitive Species 23 as yet – these will be conducted during the EIA phase.</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Confirmation of compliance with vantage point requirements. Based on our viewshed analysis appears that only 45-50% of the site is covered vs the required 75%, and that some turbines have been located outside of vantage point visibility. 	<p>Vantage points were selected based on their accessibility and the ability to observe the maximum area of the site. The proposed turbine locations covered by vantage points at the Emvelo site is in fact at least 73% and not 45-50% as stated. The locations of these vantage points were also chosen to cover the three WEF sites collectively, achieving a combined coverage of 76%, which meets the minimum requirement stipulated by the BLSA guidelines. Additionally, the vantage point observations were supplemented by five further surveys (total of 60 hours) conducted at various on-site locations to record detailed information on the flight activity of Martial Eagles. During these surveys, the flight behavior of all species of conservation concern was noted and recorded, thereby enhancing the overall coverage and observations from the vantage points on site.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> DARDLEAs position is that blade painting will be a non-negotiable, compulsory requirement for all authorized wind farms in the province, and Shut Down on Demand (SDoD) would be a compulsory adaptive management requirement. However, since neither of these measures are effective for night flying birds, which have been confirmed on and adjacent to the site, a separate operational impact analysis must be undertaken for "Mortality of priority night flying species due to collisions with the wind turbines", 	<p>Blade patterning (painting) as well as sdoD will be a compulsory requirement during the operational phase. Additionally adaptive management for the implementation of additional mitigation measures will also be a requirement during the operational phase.</p> <p>Nighttime vs. Daytime impact ratings will be done separately during the EIA phase.</p> <p>Radar SDoD mitigation to be considered for nighttime mitigation to reduce flamingo and other night flying bird collisions.</p> <p>Nocturnal surveys were not undertaken, however Grass Owl habitat will be modelled as part of the wetland sensitive areas to avoid during the EIA phase.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The night-flying greater flamingo was confirmed on site, and there is currently no known technology to mitigate for the collision of night flying birds. 	<p>Flamingo presence and mitigation will be revisited in more detail in the EIA phase.</p> <p>Radar SDoD mitigation to be considered for nighttime mitigation to reduce flamingo and other night flying bird collisions.</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Due to the sensitivity of avifauna using the area, and the presence of pans and wetlands on and adjacent to the site, as well as the presence of night-flying birds, tracking data should be acquired to augment the 2D models used. 	Extensive tracking studies are typically not within the scope of an EIA process. The Martial Eagle female is however being satellite tracked to better understand spatial and temporal use of the landscape with the aim of further refining the buffer zones and mitigation measures.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Surveys and tracking should be undertaken to determine the collision risks for nocturnal species, 	Extensive tracking studies are typically not within the scope of an EIA process. But all available data sources will be investigated and integrated in the EIA phase of the project.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A site-specific list of priority avifaunal species for wind farms for this particular region must be developed, which must include all wetland species (noting that the priority species list published by BirdLife South Africa in 2012 does not include most wetland species, and did not Include Mpumalanga). 	Priority species definitions and considerations for the EIA phase will be revisited and where possible all wetland species will be taken into account with a particular focus on species of conservation concern.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Appropriate fatality thresholds (turbine collision, as well as power line collision and electrocution) need to be defined and agreed on within and as part of the EIA process, which must then be incorporated into the Impact analysis. 	Collision Risk Modelling to be conducted during EIA phase.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It Is acknowledged that the Martial Eagle nest turbine no-go buffer Is currently being investigated further with detailed modelling and additional survey work, to inform the final no-go area during the EIA phase. Latest available information from literature, specialists and BirdLife must be consulted during this exercise. This must Include BirdLife's and EWT's recommendations of 5-6km buffer for Martial Eagle nests, noting however that Martial Eagles are known to have large breeding territories, and any buffer must be supported by the birds' actual use of an area. 	A detailed flight risk model has been developed to define a high-risk turbine exclusion buffer around the nest. The flight risk model will be further refined during the EIA phase. Tracking data currently collected by the Endangered Wildlife Trust will be used to better inform the spatial and temporal use of the eagles in the area around the nest to better inform the buffer and further refine the implementation of mitigation measures.
8.3	<p>Bat Assessment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Appropriate fatality thresholds need to be defined and agreed oh within the EIA process and Incorporated in the impact analysis. Separate mitigation measures need to be considered in more detail for high-flying bat species (i.e. Egyptian Free-TaUed bat) ,1nd lower-level bat species (e.g. Cape Serotine) In the EIA, i.e. different turbine design, blade I rotor sweep size and height, 	The feedback regarding the Bat specialist report is noted and these concerns will be addressed in the Final Bat EIA Report.

	should be investigated for the specific wind turbines located adjacent to areas where these different bat species occur.	
8.4	<p>Microclimate Impact Assessment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Research has demonstrated that turbines can affect the conditions required for mist formation, and that wind farms warm the land surface, especially at night. Altered microclimates will affect the conditions that support the highveld grasslands. Biodiversity and agricultural potential will potentially be affected. A Microclimate Impact Assessment must be undertaken, which must inform the terrestrial biodiversity study as well as the Agricultural Assessment. The impact of this WEF on the micro- climate, in particular the potential impact on precipitation, soil moisture, soil temperature, etc. therefore also needs to be assessed as part of the EIA. 	We are unaware of any local studies on Microclimate that have shown the same impacts in the South African context. Should you be aware of any local study that has identified land surface warming as an impact of wind energy facilities, please direct us to the appropriate published document.
9	All relevant stakeholders, including but not limited to, Birdlife SA, Mpumalanga Tourism and Parks Agency (MTPA), Gert Sibande District Municipality (GSDM), Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development (DALRRD), Department of Public Works, Roads and Transport (DPWRT), and Msukaligwa Local Municipality must be consulted and provided with an opportunity of at least 30 days to submit comments.	All issues raised and comments received during the availability of the DSR have been addressed in the Public Participation Report (Volume III) and in the FSR, as required. Additionally, all the I&APs listed are, or have been added to the I&AP database.
10	The public participation process must be demonstrated to have been conducted in accordance with Regulations 39-44 of the EIA Regulations, 2014 (as amended).	The public participation process for the Emvelo WEF has been conducted in terms of Regulation 39, 40, 41, 42, 43 & 44 of the EIA Regulations 2014, as amended.
11	Please provide this Department with an opportunity to review and engage with your response to these comments prior to the submission of the final scoping report.	Due to the tight time constraints associated with the EIA regulations, we will not be able to afford DARDLEA an opportunity to re-comment prior to Final Scoping Report Submission. Any additional comments on our responses can be submitted directly to DFFE should they deem them appropriate.
12	We are concerned that the proposed development site is not suitable for the development of wind energy infrastructure, and do not support the layout in its current form.	We appreciate the departments' inputs as to the potential risks and impacts associated with the current layout. As noted above, and in our meeting on the 11 th of September 2024, the sensitivities identified by the various specialists are being

taken into account during the review of the layout that is currently underway. Any additional sensitivities identified will be incorporated into the layout to ensure that the direct and cumulative impacts of the project are minimized.

TABLE 7-3 COMMENTS AND RESPONSE TABLE ON NEW APPLICATION FOR DRAFT SCOPING PHASE RECEIVED FROM MTPA (20 SEPTEMBER 2024)

Ref	Comment	Response
1	The sensitivity of the above farm on which the proposed activity is likely to occur was assessed according to the Mpumalanga Biodiversity Sector Plan (MBSP; MTPA, 2014). This sensitivity is assessed in terms of terrestrial and freshwater assessments. In the MBSP, priority sensitive areas are identified in terms of Critical Biodiversity Areas (CBAs) and Ecological Support Areas (ESAs). CBAs and ESAs are deemed to be necessary to ensure protection of biodiversity, environmental sustainability, and human well-being, and are to remain unaltered.	<p>The general comment about the importance of intact grassland patches and CBAs: In this regard, intact grassland habitat and CBAs was considered to classify the constraints map in terms of faunal sensitivity.</p> <p>Once turbine placement and associated roads and other infrastructure are finalized, then one can better assess the site sensitivity of these specific areas and if any ecological processes may be impacted in relation to the animal theme and flagged animal SCC.</p> <p>Any features within aquatic features and buffer zones will be resolved during the EIA phase.</p>
2	According to the MBSP terrestrial assessment map (figure 1) the proposed development will occur within CBA Irreplaceable, CBA Optimal, ESA Landscape corridor, ESA Ecological Corridor, Important Bird Areas (IBA), other natural areas, moderately modified- old lands and heavily modified area (Degraded). According to the freshwater assessments map (figure 2), the proposed development will occur within a CBA Aquatic River, CBA wetlands, ESA wetlands, ESA Strategic water source, ESA Important sub-catchments other natural areas and heavily modified area (Degraded).	Please refer to response above.

3	<p>The MTPA is concerned with the proposed project area for the Emvelo Wind Energy Facility (WEF) and its associated Auxiliary infrastructure which is within Important Bird Areas (IBA), CBA Irreplaceable, CBA optimal, CBA aquatic rivers, ESA wetland clusters, ESA wetlands and intact grasslands. These areas are of biodiversity importance and the proposed Emvelo WEF and associated infrastructure will compromise the primary biodiversity objectives of these areas.</p>	<p>The layout will be revised during the EIA phase to ensure avoidance of these Key Biodiversity Areas as well as the implementation of appropriate mitigation measures.</p>
4	<p>The MTPA is Concerned with A Number Of Turbines That Are In No-Go Areas Or Highly Sensitive Areas. There Are Ten (10) Turbines That Are Located Within the Intact Grasslands Which Are Turbines 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 9, 13 And 15 (Refer to Figure 3), Intact Grasslands Are Crucial For Supporting Threatened Avifauna And These Turbines Will Compromise That Biodiversity Objective. The Mbsp Specifically Incorporated Climate Change into Spatial Priorities Through The Prioritisation Of The Connectivity Of Remaining Intact Grassland Patches In The Province, As They Provide Habitat For Species To Thrive, And Allow For Their Dispersal.</p>	<p>The specialist supports the recommendation to retain intact grassland areas where possible, and to focus turbine placement and access roads, etc., across low faunal sensitive areas, such as ploughed fields, and other transformed habitat.</p> <p>Intact grassland habitat and CBAs were considered to classify constraints map in terms of faunal sensitivity.</p>
5	<p>Turbines 12, 14, 16, 17, 29, 32 and 33 are within CBA irreplaceable, which is to be maintained in a natural state with no loss of ecosystems, functionality or species with no flexibility in land-use options. turbines 8, 18 and 19 are within CBA optimal which is to be maintained in a natural state with no loss of ecosystems, functionality or species with some flexibility in land-use options.</p>	<p>This comment has been noted. Further ground truthing will be undertaken during the EIA phase to survey the Intact Grassland Patches and confirm CBAs. Habitat mapping will be looked at see where site verification might conclude that it potentially may not intact grassland.</p>
6	<p>Turbines 1,2,3,5, 9, 11, 13, 15, 18, 19, 22, 24, 26, 31, and 35 are located within important bird area (iba). the important bird area (iba) as established by the birdlife sa are areas that has the richness of conservation important bird species and care should be taken not to lose their breeding and feeding habitats. wind turbines increase the risk of bird's collision. surface water (wetlands, drainage lines and dams) is crucially important for priority avifauna, wind turbines and powerlines that that are placed near surface water pose a collision risk (as mentioned by the avifaunal specialist). the most preferred sites are moderately and heavily modified areas; other natural areas are also preferred but under certain conditions.</p>	<p>Habitat suitability modelling has been done for several species of conservation concern and further investigations regarding habitat suitability modelling will be conducted through during the EIA phase of the project. Areas of concern will be avoided during the EIA phase.</p> <p>During the EIA Phase fine scale habitat modelling and identification of wetland corridors for cryptic / low detection probability wetland species will be conducted.</p>

		<p>flight risk models were also developed for species at risk of collisions with turbines (Martial Eagle), and turbines were excluded, or mitigation measures suggested for these.</p> <p>As per communication from BirdLife South Africa (July 2024) it should be noted that IBA's are being replaced by Key Biodiversity Areas (KBA's).</p>
7	<p>The Proposed Emvelo WEF And Its Associated Grid Connection Is Located In An Area Comprising A High Diversity Of Threatened Bird Species, Including The Following Confirmed On Site: African Marsh Harrier (Regionally Endangered); Martial Eagle (Globally And Regionally Endangered); Denham's Bustard (Globally Near Threatened, Regionally Vulnerable); Secretary Bird (Globally Endangered, Regionally Vulnerable); White- Bellied Bustard (Regionally Vulnerable), Blue Crane (Globally Vulnerable, Regionally Near Threatened); Grey Crowned Crane (Globally And Regionally Endangered); Lanner Falcon (Regionally Vulnerable); Greater Flamingo (Regionally Near Threatened); Southern Bald Ibis (Regionally And Globally Vulnerable); Cape Vulture (Globally Vulnerable And Regionally Endangered}; And Yellow-Breasted Pipit (Regionally And Globally Vulnerable}.</p>	<p>Agreed, as per findings of the avifaunal specialist report.</p> <p>During the EIA Phase fine scale habitat modelling and identification of wetland corridors for cryptic / low detection probability wetland species will be conducted. Two forms of risk zones will be delineated, namely core breeding habitat, and associated connectivity habitat. Connectivity habitat will include wetland habitats not used for breeding but for movement, as well as wetland/grassland margins. These features will need to be buffered to account for the sensitivity of the respective species involved.</p> <p>Modelled Yellow-breasted Pipit and Rudd's Lark habitat areas are considered No-Go zones. These high-quality grassland areas were identified to prevent displacement of birds due to disturbance and habitat destruction. The Yellow-breasted Pipit and Rudd's Lark model output represents the habitat patches most suitable for the species' using a multi-year assessment of imagery indices etc. spanning 2019–2023. This is to account for variability related to drivers of habitat suitability for grassland habitat specialist species such as these endemic larks and pipit. Primary drivers of variability include seasonal rainfall across years, burning/fire, and grazing intensity. The model boundaries will extend beyond suitable habitat into other habitats (forest edge, roads, etc.) in some areas as we have accounted for typical blade swept area (BSA) by buffering the habitat output. This output should be considered high sensitivity and avoided (no-go) given habitat loss/degradation is the primary issue. Although Botha's Larks were not observed on site during the extensive surveys conducted, further investigations regarding habitat suitability will be conducted through modelling during the EIA phase of the project.</p>
8	<p>Turbines 1, 2, 3, 5, 7, 9, 13 And 15 Are Within The 5km Martial Eagle Buffer, Birdlife South Africa Currently Recommends 5-6 Km Buffer for Martial Eagles, This 5km No-Go Buffer Must Be Adhered To By The Applicant.</p>	<p>The turbines located within the buffer zone for Martial Eagles will be removed, hence a revised layout will be produced during the EIA phase.</p>

9	<p>The MTPA would like to recommend the following:</p> <p>Key biodiversity areas should be avoided, and Wind turbines removed from such.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A 100m buffer around wetlands and other waterbodies must be implemented and adhered to throughout the lifecycle of the proposed development. • 5km radius Martial Eagle Buffer (as recommended by BirdlifeSA} must be implemented and avoided throughout the lifecycle of the proposed development. • A Thorough Terrestrial Biodiversity assessment which also includes Intact grasslands patches. • A thorough Avifaunal study must be done with all the best practices to avoid the bird collision risks. • Proper mitigation strategies of the wind turbines to avoid collisions and mortalities must be included in the EIAr. • The roads, temporary site camps and all the other associated infrastructure must be included on the site layout of the Emvelo WEF in the EIAr. • The Applicant must find a more suitable alternative site for this development with less risk to biodiversity. • The clearance or removal of vegetation must be restricted to the project footprint. • Moderately modified- old lands and heavily modified areas (Degraded} are the most preferred sites for the Emvelo WEF, other natural areas are also preferred but under certain conditions. • The applicant must apply duty of care to ensure that there is no significant pollution or degradation of the environment. 	<p>Recommendations provided will included in the Impact Assessment, accordingly.</p> <p>5km radius Martial Eagle Buffer (as recommended by BirdlifeSA} must be implemented and avoided throughout the lifecycle of the proposed development. Response:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Due to the discovery of a Martial Eagle nest within the proposed WEF project footprints, extensive additional monitoring was performed to collect flight data of the adult eagles and the juvenile in the area. 37 hours, 34 minutes and 11 seconds of Martial Eagle flight time was recorded during an additional 60 hours of observation time conducted in the area. The extensive dataset of Martial Eagle flight data was used to develop a flight risk model. High-quality grassland areas were also identified to prevent displacement of sensitive grassland birds due to disturbance and habitat destruction. <p>A thorough Avifaunal study must be done with all the best practices to avoid the bird collision risks. Response:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Noted – a comprehensive avifaunal impact assessment study is underway. <p>Proper mitigation strategies of the wind turbines to avoid collisions and mortalities must be included in the EIAr. Response:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An Avifaunal EMPR has been included as Appendix 7 & 8
10	<p>The MTPA does not support the Environmental Authorisation of the proposed Emvelo Wind Energy Facility (Pty} Ltd for proposed Wind Energy Facility and Auxiliary infrastructure operation within the application area with up to 45 proposed wind turbines. The sensitive areas cover most of the proposed Emvelo WEF project area, Important Birds Area (IBA} covers 43% of the project area; Key Biodiversity Areas (KBA} Covers 21.4% of the project area; Critical Biodiversity Areas (CBA} covers 1,302.2 ha of the project area; and 2,272.5 ha of intact grassland patches within the project area.</p>	<p>The layout will be revised during the EIA phase</p>

TABLE 7-4 COMMENTS AND RESPONSE TABLE ON NEW APPLICATION FOR DRAFT SCOPING PHASE RECEIVED FROM BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION (13 AUGUST 2024)

Ref	Comment	Response
1	<p>COMMENTS ON THE DRAFT SCOPING REPORT FOR THE PROPOSED MULILO AMSTERDAM WEFS CLUSTER, NEAR ERMELO, MPUMALANGA PROVINCE</p> <p>The Directorate: Biodiversity Conservation has reviewed and evaluated the reports and does not have any objection to the draft Scoping Reports and the Plan of Study for EIA. Kindly note that the EIA report must comply with the 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.</p> <p>The Environmental Impact Assessment report must comply with all the requirements as outlined in the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) guideline for renewable energy projects and the Best Practice Guideline for Birds & Wind Energy for assessing and monitoring the impact of wind energy facilities on birds in Southern Africa.</p> <p>In conclusion, all Public Participation Process documents related to Biodiversity EIA for review and queries should be submitted to the Directorate: Biodiversity Conservation at Email; BCAdmin@environment.gov.za for the attention of Mr. Seoka Lekota.</p>	<p>The EAP acknowledges the comment from the Department and notes their response in terms of compliance with EIA regulations and Best Practice Guideline for Birds & Wind Energy for assessing and monitoring the impact of wind energy facilities on birds in Southern Africa.</p>

TABLE 7-5 COMMENTS AND RESPONSE TABLE (PREVIOUSLY WITHDRAWN APPLICATION)

Ref	Name and Organisation	Date and Method	Phase of PPP	Comment	Response
1	Nrateng Mashiloane Aviation Environmental	23 July 2024 Per email	Draft Scoping Phase	<p>From: Nrateng Mashiloane</p> <p>Sent: Tuesday, July 23, 2024 9:25 AM</p> <p>To: ERM Arcus Amsterdam</p>	

	Compliance Department			<p><ERM.ArcusAmsterdam@erm.com> Cc: [REDACTED]; Subject: RE: Notification of Submission: Draft scoping Report Mulilo Amsterdam WEFs, near Ermelo, Mpumalanga</p> <p>Good day,</p> <p>I hope this email finds you well. Kindly note that the SACAA has transferred all obstacle assessments and applications responsibilities to Air Traffic and Navigation Services (ATNS) as published on the SACAA website: www.caa.co.za/industryinformation/obstacles/. A formal application must be lodged with Air Traffic and Navigation Services (ATNS) for a formal obstacles assessment to be conducted. The list and contact details of the approved obstacles assessment services providers can be obtained from the CAA website: www.caa.co.za.</p> <p>Kind regards,</p>	
2	John Geeringh National Transmission Company South Africa SOC Ltd (NTCSA)	23 July 2024 Per email	Draft Scoping Phase	<p>From: [REDACTED] Sent: Tuesday, July 23, 2024 11:50 AM To: ERM Arcus Amsterdam <ERM.ArcusAmsterdam@erm.com> Subject: RE: [CAUTION:EXTERNAL EMAIL] Notification of Submission: Draft scoping Report Mulilo Amsterdam WEFs, near Ermelo, Mpumalanga Please send me KMZ files of the proposed developments and grid connection. Please find attached Eskom requirements for work at or near Eskom infrastructure and servitudes, as well as a setbacks guideline for RE Developments.</p> <p>Kind regards</p>	<p>From: ERM Arcus Amsterdam Sent: Monday, July 29, 2024 5:56 PM To: [REDACTED] ERM Arcus Amsterdam <ERM.ArcusAmsterdam@erm.com> Subject: RE: [CAUTION:EXTERNAL EMAIL] Notification of Submission: Draft scoping Report Mulilo Amsterdam WEFs, near Ermelo, Mpumalanga Dear John, Thank you for your e-mail. Please find attached a KMZ file of each WEF. Thank You Kind Regards</p>

3	Lydia Kutu Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE) Integrated Environmental Authorisations	24 July 2024 Per email	Draft Scoping Phase	<p>From: [REDACTED] Sent: Wednesday, July 24, 2024 7:34 AM To: ERM Arcus Amsterdam <ERM.ArcusAmsterdam@erm.com> Cc: [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]; Stephanie Gopaul <Stephanie.Gopaul@erm.com> Subject: 14/12/16/3/3/2/2591 Dear Sir/Madam ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF RECEIPT OF THE NEW APPLICATION FORM AND DRAFT SCOPING REPORT FOR THE PROPOSED CARLETONVILLE SOLAR PHOTOVOLTAIC PLANT AND ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE ON REMAINDER OF FARM TWYFELVLAKTE NO. 105, MERAFAONG CITY LOCAL MUNICIPALITY, WEST RAND DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY, GAUTENG PROVINCE. The Department confirms having received the Application Form and Draft Scoping Report for Environmental Authorisation for the abovementioned project on 22 July 2024. You have submitted these documents to comply with the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations, 2014, as amended. Kindly note that your application for Environmental Authorisation falls within the ambit of an application applied for in terms of Part 3 of Chapter 4 of the EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended. You are therefore referred to Regulation 21 of the EIA Regulations, 2014 as amended. Please take note of Regulation 40(3) of the EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended, which states</p>	EAP acknowledge that this was an unintended error of acknowledgement. DFFE had subsequently attempted to redact this message.
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				<p>that potential Interested & Affected Parties, including the Competent Authority, may be provided with an opportunity to comment on reports and plans contemplated in Regulation 40(1) of the EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended, prior to the submission of an application but must be provided an opportunity to comment on such reports once an application has been submitted to the Competent Authority. Note that in terms of Regulation 45 of the EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended, this application will lapse if the applicant fails to meet any of the time-frames prescribed in terms of these Regulations, unless an extension has been granted by the Department in terms of Regulation 3(7) of the EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended.</p> <p>You are hereby reminded of Section 24F of the National Environmental Management Act, Act No. 107 of 1998, as amended, that no activity may commence prior to an Environmental Authorisation being granted by the Department.</p> <p>Kind Regards,</p>	
4	Lydia Kutu Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE) Integrated Environmental Authorisations	24 July 2024 Per email	Draft Scoping Phase	<p>From: [REDACTED] Sent: Wednesday, July 24, 2024 7:37 AM To: ERM Arcus Amsterdam <ERM.ArcusAmsterdam@erm.com> Cc: [REDACTED]; Sadiya Salie <Sadiya.Salie@erm.com>; Anathi Manyakanyaka <Anathi.Manyakanyaka@erm.com>; Stephanie Gopaul <Stephanie.Gopaul@erm.com> Subject: 14/12/16/3/3/2/2592</p> <p>Dear Sir/Madam</p>	The EAP acknowledges the receipt of the Draft Scoping report to the department

			<p>ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF RECEIPT OF THE NEW APPLICATION FORM AND DRAFT SCOPING REPORT FOR THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF THE ROCHDALE WIND ENERGY FACILITY AND AUXILIARY INFRASTRUCTURE, INCLUDING A GRID CONNECTION, NEAR ERMELO, WITHIN THE MSUKALIGWA LOCAL MUNICIPALITY, AND GERT SIBANDE DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY, MPUMALANGA PROVINCE.</p> <p>The Department confirms having received the Application Form and Draft Scoping Report for Environmental Authorisation for the abovementioned project on 22 July 2024. You have submitted these documents to comply with the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations, 2014, as amended.</p> <p>Kindly note that your application for Environmental Authorisation falls within the ambit of an application applied for in terms of Part 3 of Chapter 4 of the EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended. You are therefore referred to Regulation 21 of the EIA Regulations, 2014 as amended.</p> <p>Please take note of Regulation 40(3) of the EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended, which states that potential Interested & Affected Parties, including the Competent Authority, may be provided with an opportunity to comment on reports and plans contemplated in Regulation 40(1) of the EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended, prior to the submission of an application but must be provided an opportunity to comment on such reports once an application has been submitted to the Competent Authority.</p> <p>Note that in terms of Regulation 45 of the EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended, this application will lapse if the applicant fails to meet any of</p>
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				<p>the time-frames prescribed in terms of these Regulations, unless an extension has been granted by the Department in terms of Regulation 3(7) of the EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended.</p> <p>You are hereby reminded of Section 24F of the National Environmental Management Act, Act No. 107 of 1998, as amended, that no activity may commence prior to an Environmental Authorisation being granted by the Department.</p> <p>Kind Regards,</p>	
5	<p>Lydia Kutu Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE) Integrated Environmental Authorisations</p>	<p>24 July 2024 Per email</p>	<p>Draft Scoping Phase</p>	<p>From: [REDACTED] Sent: Wednesday, July 24, 2024 7:38 AM To: ERM Arcus Amsterdam <ERM.ArcusAmsterdam@erm.com> Cc: [REDACTED]; Stephen Burton <Stephen.Burton@erm.com>; Sadiya Salie <Sadiya.Salie@erm.com>; Anathi Manyakanyaka <Anathi.Manyakanyaka@erm.com>; Stephanie Gopaul <Stephanie.Gopaul@erm.com> Subject: 14/12/16/3/3/2/2591 Dear Sir/Madam</p> <p>ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF RECEIPT OF THE NEW APPLICATION FORM AND DRAFT SCOPING REPORT FOR THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF THE EMVELO WIND ENERGY FACILITY AND AUXILIARY INFRASTRUCTURE, NEAR ERMELO, WITHIN THE MSUKALIGWA LOCAL MUNICIPALITY, AND GERT SIBANDE DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY, MPUMALANGA PROVINCE.</p> <p>The Department confirms having received the Application Form and Draft Scoping Report for</p>	

Environmental Authorisation for the abovementioned project on 22 July 2024. You have submitted these documents to comply with the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations, 2014, as amended.

Kindly note that your application for Environmental Authorisation falls within the ambit of an application applied for in terms of Part 3 of Chapter 4 of the EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended. You are therefore referred to Regulation 21 of the EIA Regulations, 2014 as amended.

Please take note of Regulation 40(3) of the EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended, which states that potential Interested & Affected Parties, including the Competent Authority, may be provided with an opportunity to comment on reports and plans contemplated in Regulation 40(1) of the EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended, prior to the submission of an application but must be provided an opportunity to comment on such reports once an application has been submitted to the Competent Authority.

Note that in terms of Regulation 45 of the EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended, this application will lapse if the applicant fails to meet any of the time-frames prescribed in terms of these Regulations, unless an extension has been granted by the Department in terms of Regulation 3(7) of the EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended.

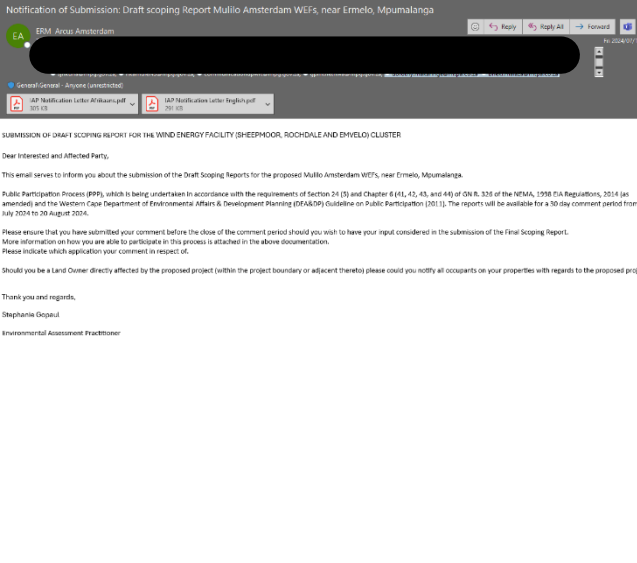
You are hereby reminded of Section 24F of the National Environmental Management Act, Act No. 107 of 1998, as amended, that no activity may commence prior to an Environmental Authorisation being granted by the Department.

				Kind Regards,	
6	Lydia Kutu Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE) Integrated Environmental Authorisations	24 July 2024 Per email	Draft Scoping Phase	<p>From: [REDACTED] Sent: Wednesday, July 24, 2024 7:40 AM To: ERM Arcus Amsterdam <ERM.ArcusAmsterdam@erm.com> Cc: [REDACTED] [REDACTED]; Stephen Burton <Stephen.Burton@erm.com>; Sadiya Salie <Sadiya.Salie@erm.com>; Anathi Manyakanyaka <Anathi.Manyakanyaka@erm.com>; Stephanie Gopaul <Stephanie.Gopaul@erm.com> Subject: 14/12/16/3/3/2/2593 Dear Sir/Madam</p> <p>ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF RECEIPT OF THE NEW APPLICATION FORM AND DRAFT SCOPING REPORT FOR THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF THE SHEEPMOOR WIND ENERGY FACILITY AND AUXILIARY INFRASTRUCTURE, NEAR ERMELO, WITHIN THE MSUKALIGWA LOCAL MUNICIPALITY, AND GERT SIBANDE DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY, MPUMALANGA PROVINCE.</p> <p>The Department confirms having received the Application Form and Draft Scoping Report for Environmental Authorisation for the abovementioned project on 22 July 2024. You have submitted these documents to comply with the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations, 2014, as amended.</p> <p>Kindly note that your application for Environmental Authorisation falls within the ambit of an application applied for in terms of Part 3 of Chapter 4 of the EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended. You are therefore referred</p>	The EAP acknowledges the receipt of the Draft Scoping report to the department

				<p>to Regulation 21 of the EIA Regulations, 2014 as amended.</p> <p>Please take note of Regulation 40(3) of the EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended, which states that potential Interested & Affected Parties, including the Competent Authority, may be provided with an opportunity to comment on reports and plans contemplated in Regulation 40(1) of the EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended, prior to the submission of an application but must be provided an opportunity to comment on such reports once an application has been submitted to the Competent Authority.</p> <p>Note that in terms of Regulation 45 of the EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended, this application will lapse if the applicant fails to meet any of the time-frames prescribed in terms of these Regulations, unless an extension has been granted by the Department in terms of Regulation 3(7) of the EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended.</p> <p>You are hereby reminded of Section 24F of the National Environmental Management Act, Act No. 107 of 1998, as amended, that no activity may commence prior to an Environmental Authorisation being granted by the Department.</p> <p>Kind Regards</p>	
7	Tebego Kgaphola Department of Forestry, Fisheries & the Environment	29 July 2024 Per email	Draft Scoping Phase	<p>From: [REDACTED] Sent: Monday, July 29, 2024 9:22 AM To: ERM Arcus Amsterdam <ERM.ArcusAmsterdam@erm.com> Cc: [REDACTED] [REDACTED] Subject: RE: Notification of Submission: Draft</p>	

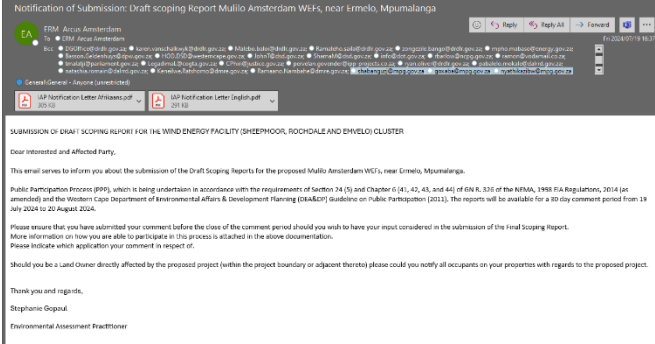
				<p>scoping Report Mulilo Amsterdam WEFs, near Ermelo, Mpumalanga Dear Sir/Madam</p> <p>DFFE Directorate: Biodiversity Conservation hereby acknowledge receipt of the invitation to review and comment on the project mentioned on the subject line. Kindly note that the project has been allocated to Mrs P Makitla and Ms Tebego Kgaphola (Copied on this email). In addition, kindly share the shapefiles of the development footprints/application site with the Case Officers.</p> <p>Please note: All Public Participation Process documents related to Biodiversity EIA review and any other Biodiversity EIA queries must be submitted to the Directorate: Biodiversity Conservation at Email: BCAdmin@dffe.gov.za for attention of Mr Seoka Lekota</p>	
8	Josua Meyer Aida Form entry	30 July 2024 Per email	Draft Scoping Report	<p>From: [REDACTED] Sent: Tuesday, July 30, 2024 11:00 AM To: ERM Arcus Amsterdam <ERM.ArcusAmsterdam@erm.com> Subject: Fwd: SHEEPMOOR, EMVELO WIND ENERGIE PROJEKTE VERSOEK VORM OM TE REGISTREER AS BELANGHEBBENDE PARTY OP BOGEMELDE PROJEKTE sodat kommentaar gelewer kan word. Het nie rekening op aida om aanlyn te registreer nie en die foon nommer 011-798 5400 is foutief. Waardeer</p>	<p>From: ERM Arcus Amsterdam Sent: Tuesday, August 6, 2024 12:10 PM To: [REDACTED] ERM Arcus Amsterdam <ERM.ArcusAmsterdam@erm.com> Subject: RE: SHEEPMOOR, EMVELO WIND ENERGIE PROJEKTE Good day, Thank you for your comment, you will now be added to the I&AP database. Below is a link to the Aida form, there will be no need to register in order to fill out the form: https://mulilowef.aidaform.com/public-participation-form Thank you,</p>

9	John Geeringh National Transmission Company South Africa SOC Ltd (NTCSA)	31 July 2024 Per email	Draft Scoping Report	<p>From: [REDACTED] Sent: Wednesday, July 31, 2024 3:45 PM To: ERM Arcus Amsterdam <ERM.ArcusAmsterdam@erm.com> Subject: RE: [CAUTION:EXTERNAL EMAIL] Notification of Submission: Draft scoping Report Mulilo Amsterdam WEFs, near Ermelo, Mpumalanga</p> <p>Thanks, they will have to relook at their turbine layouts with regards to the setbacks requirements of 3 x tip height from TX lines and 1 x tip height from Dx lines. Lines connecting to power stations are extremely sensitive and chance are we may no grant setbacks relaxation. Regards</p>	<p>From: ERM Arcus Amsterdam <ERM.ArcusAmsterdam@erm.com> Sent: Wednesday, August 7, 2024 9:24 AM To: [REDACTED]; ERM Arcus Amsterdam <ERM.ArcusAmsterdam@erm.com> Subject: RE: [CAUTION:EXTERNAL EMAIL] Notification of Submission: Draft scoping Report Mulilo Amsterdam WEFs, near Ermelo, Mpumalanga Hi John,</p> <p>Thank you for your email.</p> <p>The layout will be revised, taking into account the WTG's that are within the proximity of the existing transmission lines. We will ensure that these turbines are 3x the Tip height from existing Electrical infrastructure.</p> <p>Kind Regards,</p>
10	Josua Meyer Interested and Affected Party	31 July 2024 Per email	Draft Scoping Report	<p>From: [REDACTED] Sent: Thursday, August 1, 2024 9:06 PM To: ERM Arcus Amsterdam <erm.arcusamsterdam@erm.com> Subject: VOORGESTELDE ERMELO WINDPLASE Plasing, groottes van turbines onduidelik Versoek duidelike kaart waar turbines geplaas gaan word. Eiendom grense en distrikspaaie moet duidelik getoon word.</p>	<p>From: ERM Arcus Amsterdam <ERM.ArcusAmsterdam@erm.com> Sent: Tuesday, August 6, 2024 9:45 AM To: [REDACTED] ERM Arcus Amsterdam <ERM.ArcusAmsterdam@erm.com> Subject: RE: VOORGESTELDE ERMELO WINDPLASE Good day,</p> <p>Kindly see attached Layout of Proposed WEF's. Additional information on the project can be found in the link below:</p> <p>https://www.erm.com/public-information-sites/proposed-amsterdam-wind-energy-facility-and-auxiliary-infrastructure-cluster-mpumalanga/</p> <p>Kind Regards,</p>

<div data-bbox="154 178 768 517"> <p>11 Robyn Luyt Director: Environmental Impact Management (EIM) DARDLEA</p> </div> <div data-bbox="154 517 768 636"> <p>03 August 2024 Per email</p> </div> <div data-bbox="154 636 768 756"> <p>Draft Scoping Report</p> </div>	<div data-bbox="768 178 1406 517"> <p>From: [REDACTED] Sent: Saturday, August 3, 2024 3:09 PM To: ERM Arcus Amsterdam <Erm.arcusamsterdam@erm.com> Cc: [REDACTED]</p> </div> <div data-bbox="768 517 1406 636"> <p>Subject: Consultation Mlulio Wind Farms Mpumalanga Importance: High Good day Ms Gopaul,</p> </div> <div data-bbox="768 636 1406 756"> <p>It has come to our attention, and not via any official notification from ERM, that draft Scoping Reports for the following wind farms proposed in the Gert Sibande District in Mpumalanga Province are out for public comment from 19 July 2024 to 20 August 2024 (as per ERM website), where ERM is the EAP:</p> </div> <div data-bbox="768 756 1406 877"> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Shepmoore WEF 2. Emvelo WEF 3. Rochdale WEF </div> <div data-bbox="768 877 1406 1331"> <p>Neither DARDLEA nor MTPA have been consulted to date, nor have we received copies of any of the draft Scoping Reports. Aside from the requirements of the EIA Regulations, DARDLEA and MTPA have through internal arrangements with DFFE requested to be included in all pre-application consultations for Renewable Energy projects in Mpumalanga, particularly wind energy facilities. DARDLEA and MTPA must be included during all pre-application meetings and in all in-process consultations.</p> </div>	<div data-bbox="1406 178 2058 517"> <p>From: ERM Arcus Amsterdam <ERM.ArcusAmsterdam@erm.com> Sent: Tuesday, August 6, 2024 1:43 PM To: [REDACTED]</p> </div> <div data-bbox="1406 517 2058 636"> <p>Subject: RE: Consultation Mlulio Wind Farms Mpumalanga Good day Robyn,</p> </div> <div data-bbox="1406 636 2058 756"> <p>Please note that DARDLEA and MTPA were notified regarding the PP for the Draft scoping Phase on the 19th July 2024. Kindly see proof of notification below:</p> </div> <div data-bbox="1406 756 2058 1331">  </div>
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For the purpose of commenting on draft reports during the regulatory periods, we request that hard copies of all reports are submitted to Ms Sindi Mbuyane in our Ermelo office (where projects are located in the Gert Sibande District), and sent electronically to me via WeTransfer. Please also ensure that MTPA receives the reports in the manner requested by them. For your records I include the contact details of all relevant officials to be consulted in DARDLEA (when an application is in the Gert Sibande District) and MTPA:

DAR DLEA	DESIGNATI ON	EMAIL	PHON E
Roby n Luyt	Director: Environme ntal Impact Manageme nt (EIM)		
Sindi siwe Mbuy ane	Deputy Director: EIM Gert Sibande District		
Gavi n Cowd en	Deputy Director: Environme ntal Policy, Planning and Coordinatio n		
MTPA	DESIGNATI ON	EMAIL	PHON E
Merv yn Lotte r	Manager: Biodiversity Planning		



If required, we will send through hard copies and also resend to the below contacts and will update our I&AP database accordingly. Additionally, kindly note that PPP for the Mulilo Wind Energy Farm in Mpumalanga closes the 20th of August 2024.

				<table><tr><td>Frans Krige</td><td>Land Use Advisor</td><td rowspan="3"><div></div></td><td rowspan="3"><div></div></td></tr><tr><td>Khumalo Malele</td><td>Land Use Advisor</td></tr><tr><td>Celia de Waal</td><td>EIA Data Capturer LUA</td></tr></table> <p>Please note that time frames for commenting on draft reports can only commence on the date that hard copies of the reports are received, and we request that our 30 day time frame aligns with DFFE's.</p> <p>Kind Regards Robyn</p>	Frans Krige	Land Use Advisor	<div></div>	<div></div>	Khumalo Malele	Land Use Advisor	Celia de Waal	EIA Data Capturer LUA	
Frans Krige	Land Use Advisor	<div></div>	<div></div>										
Khumalo Malele	Land Use Advisor												
Celia de Waal	EIA Data Capturer LUA												
12	Celia de Waal Mpumalanga Tourism and Parks	06 August 2024 Per email	Draft Scoping Report	<p>From: <div></div> Sent: Tuesday, August 6, 2024 9:35 AM To: ERM Arcus Amsterdam <erm.arcusamsterdam@erm.com> Cc: <div></div> <div></div></p> <p>Subject: FW: Register for the Zephyr WEF Meeting and site visit Good morning</p> <p>Kindly send us, the MTPA, hard copies of the 3 Wind Farm reports, for our Scientists to comment on, to the following physical address:</p> <p>To: Cecilia de Waal (EIA Data Capturer) MTPA Office Building (Lydenburg)</p>	<p>From: ERM Arcus Amsterdam Sent: Tuesday, August 6, 2024 3:27 PM To: Celia de Waal <Celia.dewaal@mtpa.co.za>; ERM Arcus Amsterdam <ERM.ArcusAmsterdam@erm.com> Cc: <div></div> <div></div></p> <p>Subject: RE: Consultation Mlulio Wind Farms Mpumalanga Good day Cecilia,</p> <p>Thank you for your email. The reports are on their way to the below address as we speak.</p> <p>Kind Regards,</p>								

[REDACTED]

My contact details are: [REDACTED]

Kind regards

Celia de Waal

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: Saturday, August 3, 2024 9:00 AM

To: [REDACTED]

Subject: FW: Register for the Zephyr WEF Meeting and site visit

Hi there

Christophe sent me the attached KML file and the below links. I see these are links to scoping reports dated 19 July 2024. They seem to have started with the application process while not yet consulting us.

Celia, could you please write to ERM to request copies of the three wind farm documents for comment.

Robyn/Sindy, you may want to do the same.

I have updated our webmap with these latest boundaries from the KML file.

Best wishes
Mervyn

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, August 2, 2024 12:19 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Register for the Zephyr WEF Meeting and site visit

Hi Mervyn,

Many thanks for reaching out.

Please find attached the kmz of the Mullilo WEF projects in Mpumalanga.

Please also find below the publicly available documents for their respective projects

https://www.sustainability.com/globalassets/documents/proposed-amsterdam/0684401_sheepmoor-wef-dsr.pdf

https://www.sustainability.com/globalassets/documents/proposed-amsterdam/0684401_emvelo-wef-dsr.pdf

https://www.sustainability.com/globalassets/documents/proposed-amsterdam/0684401_rochdale-wef-dsr.pdf

I hope this helps.

Kind regards,

Christophe

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, August 1, 2024 8:25 PM
To: [REDACTED]

Subject: RE: Register for the Zephyr WEF Meeting and site visit

EXTERNAL MAIL
Hi Christophe

Thank you for writing. Would you please send me an image or shapefile for the Mulilo WEF boundaries when you get a chance?

Best wishes
Mervyn

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, August 1, 2024 4:50 PM
To: [REDACTED]

Subject: RE: Register for the Zephyr WEF Meeting and site visit

Good afternoon everyone,

Thank you so much for your time and very valuable feedback and recommendations.

Ryan and I are now back in Cape Town and addressing your comments.

We have liaised back with our EAP and will provide you with further information shortly.

Thanks again for taking the time to meet with us and for the transparency, we highly appreciate it.

I will be sending a couple of emails in the next few days in line with our engagement.

Kind regards,

Christophe

[REDACTED]

Sent: Wednesday, July 31, 2024 11:23 AM

To: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Subject: Register for the Zephyr WEF Meeting and site visit

EXTERNAL MAIL
Good day All,

Find attached for your attention.

Kind Regards,

Sindisiwe Mbuyane
EAPASA Reg: 2021/3509, IAIA Sa 2040304

				Environmental Officer Control Grade B Gert Sibande District (13 De Jager Street, Ermelo 2350) 013 004 0766 076 870 5543	
13	Celia de Waal Mpumalanga Tourism and Parks	06 August 2024 Per email	Draft Scoping Report	From: [REDACTED] Sent: Tuesday, August 6, 2024 3:37 PM To: ERM Arcus Amsterdam <ERM.ArcusAmsterdam@erm.com> Subject: RE: Consultation Mlulio Wind Farms Mpumalanga Thank you	
14	Robyn Luyt Director: Environmental Impact Management (EIM) DARDLEA	10 August 2024 Per email	Draft Scoping Report	From: [REDACTED] Sent: Sunday, August 11, 2024 4:19 PM To: ERM Arcus Amsterdam <ERM.ArcusAmsterdam@erm.com> Cc: [REDACTED] Subject: Re: RE: Consultation Mlulio Wind Farms Mpumalanga Good afternoon, Please confirm whether you received the below email - I have deleted all graphics from the email thread to ensure this reaches you. Regards Robyn >>> Robyn Luyt 08/11/24 9:51 AM >>> Good day Stephanie, As of 8 August 2024, neither DARDLEA nor MTPA have received draft Scoping Reports to review and comment on, nor have we received a response to the email below.	From: ERM Arcus Amsterdam <ERM.ArcusAmsterdam@erm.com> Sent: Sunday, August 11, 2024 4:23 PM To: [REDACTED] Subject: RE: RE: Consultation Mlulio Wind Farms Mpumalanga Good day Robyn, Emails have been received and responded to. Please see attached response. Kind Regards <i>NOTE:</i> <i>Post concerns expressed from DARDLEA/MTPA. The previous draft applications were withdrawn and the</i>

			<p>Kind Regards Robyn</p> <p><i>Robyn Luyt B.A., B.Sc., B.Sc (Hons) M.Sc., Pr.Sci.Nat. (400327/11), EAPASA (2019/1293) Director: Environmental Impact Management Department of Agriculture, Rural Development, Land & Environmental Affairs Mpumalanga Provincial Government Riverside Office Park, Aqua Street (Cycad Building - Block 4) Nelspruit, 1200</i></p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>>>> Robyn Luyt 08/07/24 9:41 AM >>> Good day Stephanie,</p> <p>Be advised that the names of the officials at MTPA that you have highlighted in your below notification are not the relevant officials that are required to be notified or the relevant officials that must review and comment on draft Scoping or EIA reports, or any reports related to an EIA process. There are also no officials in the list of officials in your screenshots that are in the Environmental Affairs Chief Directorate in MDARDLEA - as far as I am aware they are in the section that deals with Agriculture, which is an entirely different mandate.</p> <p>It would not be acceptable to not provide the commenting authority the mandatory 30 days to review and comment on draft reports, especially in light of the fact that there has been no prior notification. The Directorate Environmental Impact Management within DARDLEA represents the MEC as Competent Authority in Mpumalanga, and the commenting</p>	<p><i>entire process restarted to afford all IAPs 30 days commenting period.</i></p>
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				<p>authority in respect projects administered by DFFE. MTPA has the mandate for biodiversity matters on behalf of DARDLEA. As per my email to you below (3 August), hard copies of all reports must be submitted to Ms Mbuyane (Environmental Impact Management) at our Ermelo office, and the documents must be made available to me (and in this instance to Mr Cowden and Mr Lotter) electronically at the same time. You will need to contact Ms De Waal and Mr Krige at MTPA to confirm how documents must be submitted to MTPA. Please provide shape files of the 3 proposed WEFs as well.</p> <p>Regards Robyn</p>	
15	<p>Robyn Luyt Director: Environmental Impact Management (EIM) DARDLEA</p>	<p>10 August 2024 Per email</p>	<p>Draft Scoping Report</p>	<p>From: [REDACTED] Sent: Sunday, August 11, 2024 4:56 PM To: ERM Arcus Amsterdam <ERM.ArcusAmsterdam@erm.com> Cc: [REDACTED] Subject: Re: RE: RE: Consultation Mlulio Wind Farms Mpumalanga Importance: High</p> <p>Good day,</p> <p>Please see my email response to you on 7 August as per below email thread. I have not had a response and we still await the draft reports for commenting. Please urgently advise how this is being addressed. I have just had an email from MTPA stating that you are busy sending them the draft reports. Please confirm when I will receive a link to the reports, and when our Ms Mbuyane will receive the hard copies. Please also confirm that we (both</p>	

				<p>DARDLEA and MTPA) will be provided with the mandatory 30 days to comment.</p> <p>Should you wish to discuss this further please call me on 0826727868.</p> <p>Regards Robyn</p>	
16	Tebego Kgaphola Directorate: Biodiversity Mainstreaming and EIA	12 August 2024 Per email	Draft Scoping Phase	<p>From: [REDACTED] Sent: Monday, August 12, 2024 1:07 PM To: ERM Arcus Amsterdam <ERM.ArcusAmsterdam@erm.com> Subject: RE: Notification of Submission: Draft scoping Report Mulilo Amsterdam WEFs, near Ermelo, Mpumalanga Good day</p> <p>Kindly share the link for the below project.</p>	<p>From: ERM Arcus Amsterdam Sent: Monday, August 12, 2024 2:07 PM To: [REDACTED] ERM Arcus Amsterdam <ERM.ArcusAmsterdam@erm.com> Subject: RE: Notification of Submission: Draft scoping Report Mulilo Amsterdam WEFs, near Ermelo, Mpumalanga Good day Tebego,</p> <p>Please see below link to the proposed project:</p> <p>https://www.erm.com/public-information-sites/proposed-amsterdam-wind-energy-facility-and-auxiliary-infrastructure-cluster-mpumalanga/</p> <p>Kindly navigate to the bottom of the page to download all reports and additional documentation related to the project.</p> <p>Kind Regards</p>
17	Robyn Luyt Director: Environmental Impact Management (EIM) DARDLEA	12 August 2024 Per email	Draft Scoping Report	<p>From: [REDACTED] Sent: Monday, August 12, 2024 2:09 PM To: ERM Arcus Amsterdam <ERM.ArcusAmsterdam@erm.com> Cc: [REDACTED] Subject: Re: RE: RE: Consultation Mlulo Wind</p>	<p>From: ERM Arcus Amsterdam <ERM.ArcusAmsterdam@erm.com> Sent: Monday, August 12, 2024 4:06 PM To: [REDACTED]</p>

				<p>Farms Mpumalanga Importance: High Dear Lucien,</p> <p>Our telephone discussion this morning refers.</p> <p>I just wanted to confirm what we discussed in writing, ie. that MTPA and DARDLEA are different entities, and that MTPA and DARDLEA must each get reports for commenting. You confirmed that you dispatched documents to Ms Celia de Waal in Lydenburg last week (to arrive this week). Note that as per the table below, Ms de Waal will receive the documents for MTPA. DARDLEA must therefore still be provided with the documents. Hard copies to Ms Mbuyane at our Ermelo office, and a link to be sent to me. Please also send me the shapefiles. I have understood that you will be discussing this with your client and with Ms Gopaul, and that ERM would revert to me.</p> <p>Please see page 2 of our application form attached where you will find the physical address of our Ermelo office (Gert Sibande District).</p> <p>Kind Regards Robyn</p>	<p>Subject: RE: RE: RE: Consultation Mlulio Wind Farms Mpumalanga Hi Robyn,</p> <p>Thank you for your call earlier. I wanted to inform you that we sent out the notification to all IAPs on July 19th, 2024. We are currently in the process of couriering the Draft Scoping Reports to Sindiswe Mbuyane in Ermelo.</p> <p>We would greatly appreciate it if you could review the reports within the current PPP period. Additionally, we have added you to the IAP database for the Full Scoping and EIA Phase to afford you an opportunity to comment. We are keen to have you onboard and to ensure that you are up to speed with the proposed project, we would be happy to set up a call at your convenience.</p> <p>We understand that you may not have received the reports yet, but if you could review them at your earliest convenience, it would be greatly appreciated. Below is a link to the electronic copies of the reports and attached the shapefiles of the development for your review.</p> <p>https://www.erm.com/public-information-sites/proposed-amsterdam-wind-energy-facility-and-auxiliary-infrastructure-cluster-mpumalanga/</p> <p>Please let me know if you would like to discuss this further or if you have any questions.</p>
18	Bathandwa Ncube DFFE	12 August 2024 Per email	Draft Scoping Report	<p>From: [REDACTED]</p> <p>Sent: Monday, August 12, 2024 4:14 PM</p> <p>To: Stephanie Gopaul <stephanie.gopaul@erm.com>; ERM Arcus Amsterdam <ERM.ArcusAmsterdam@erm.com></p>	

Cc: [REDACTED];

Subject: 14/12/16/3/3/2/2591; 2592; 2593:
Proposed Emvelo, Rochdale and Sheepmoor
WEFs, MP
Goodday Lucien

14/12/16/3/3/2/2591: THE PROPOSED
DEVELOPMENT OF THE EMVELO WIND ENERGY
FACILITY AND AUXILIARY INFRASTRUCTURE,
NEAR ERMELO, WITHIN THE MSUKALIGWA
LOCAL MUNICIPALITY, MPUMALANGA PROVINCE

14/12/16/3/3/2/2592: THE PROPOSED
DEVELOPMENT OF THE ROCHDALE WIND
ENERGY FACILITY AND AUXILIARY
INFRASTRUCTURE, INCLUDING A GRID
CONNECTION, NEAR ERMELO, WITHIN THE
MSUKALIGWA LOCAL MUNICIPALITY,
MPUMALANGA PROVINCE

14/12/16/3/3/2/2593: THE PROPOSED
DEVELOPMENT OF THE SHEEPMOOR WIND
ENERGY FACILITY AND AUXILIARY
INFRASTRUCTURE, NEAR ERMELO, WITHIN THE
MSUKALIGWA LOCAL MUNICIPALITY,
MPUMALANGA PROVINCE

The application and draft Scoping Report (SR)
for Environmental Authorisation received by the
Department on 22 July 2024 refers.

Following our telephone conversation earlier
today regarding the public participation
process, please be informed that comments on
the draft Scoping Report (SR) are due to you on
22 August 2024. It is noted that there are
organs of state who have jurisdiction in respect

				<p>of the proposed activity, which requires that they be added to the I&AP Database and given an opportunity to comment on the draft SR.</p> <p>The applicant is requested to submit the final SR to the Department on or before the due date (05 September 2024) and may submit comments from MTPA and DARDLEA as addendums, subsequent to the submission of the final SR to the Department.</p> <p>MTPA and Mpumalanga DARDLEA are requested to cc this Department when submitting comments to the EAP.</p> <p>Kind regards</p>	
19	ERM Arcus Amsterdam Mailbox	12 August 2024 Per Email	Draft Scoping Phase		<p>From: ERM Arcus Amsterdam <ERM.ArcusAmsterdam@erm.com> Sent: Monday, August 12, 2024 4:58 PM To: ERM Arcus Amsterdam <ERM.ArcusAmsterdam@erm.com> Cc: [REDACTED] Subject: Notification of Submission: Draft scoping Report Mulilo Amsterdam WEFs, near Ermelo, Mpumalanga Hi Bheki,</p> <p>Our telephonic discussion earlier refers. Understandably, you mentioned IT related issues in terms of receiving e-mails and forwarding them, hence I have copied your gmail address as requested.</p> <p>Please see below notification that was sent on the 19th of July 2024.</p>

				<p>SUBMISSION OF DRAFT SCOPING REPORT FOR THE WIND ENERGY FACILITY (SHEEPMOOR, ROCHDALE AND EMVELO) CLUSTER</p> <p>Dear Interested and Affected Party,</p> <p>This email serves to inform you about the submission of the Draft Scoping Reports for the proposed Mulilo Amsterdam WEFs, near Ermelo, Mpumalanga.</p> <p>Public Participation Process (PPP), which is being undertaken in accordance with the requirements of Section 24 (5) and Chapter 6 (41, 42, 43, and 44) of GN R. 326 of the NEMA, 1998 EIA Regulations, 2014 (as amended) and the Western Cape Department of Environmental Affairs & Development Planning (DEA&DP) Guideline on Public Participation (2011). The reports will be available for a 30 day comment period from 19 July 2024 to 20 August 2024.</p> <p>Please ensure that you have submitted your comment before the close of the comment period should you wish to have your input considered in the submission of the Final Scoping Report. More information on how you are able to participate in this process is attached in the above documentation. Please indicate which application your comment in respect of.</p> <p>Should you be a Land Owner directly affected by the proposed project (within the project boundary or adjacent thereto) please could you notify all occupants on your properties with regards to the proposed project.</p> <p>Thank you and regards, Stephanie Gopaul Environmental Assessment Practitioner</p>
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20	Celia de Waal Mpumalanga Tourism and Parks	13 August 2024 Per email	Draft Scoping Phase	<p>From: [REDACTED] Sent: Tuesday, August 13, 2024 8:16 AM To: Stephanie Gopaul <stephanie.gopaul@erm.com>; ERM Arcus Amsterdam <ERM.ArcusAmsterdam@erm.com> Cc: [REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>Subject: MTPA Acknowledgement of receipt RE: 14/12/16/3/3/2/2591; 2592; 2593: Proposed Emvelo, Rochdale and Sheepmoor WEFs, MP Good day Stephanie</p> <p>The MTPA acknowledge the receipt of the following 3 documents. It was delivered yesterday 12 August 2024.</p> <p>14/12/16/3/3/2/2591: THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF THE EMVELO WIND ENERGY FACILITY AND AUXILIARY INFRASTRUCTURE, NEAR ERMELO, WITHIN THE MSUKALIGWA LOCAL MUNICIPALITY, MPUMALANGA PROVINCE</p> <p>14/12/16/3/3/2/2592: THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF THE ROCHDALE WIND ENERGY FACILITY AND AUXILIARY INFRASTRUCTURE, INCLUDING A GRID CONNECTION, NEAR ERMELO, WITHIN THE MSUKALIGWA LOCAL MUNICIPALITY, MPUMALANGA PROVINCE</p> <p>14/12/16/3/3/2/2593: THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF THE SHEEPMOOR WIND ENERGY FACILITY AND AUXILIARY INFRASTRUCTURE, NEAR ERMELO, WITHIN THE</p>	The EAP acknowledges the receipt of the DSRs to the department
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				MSUKALIGWA LOCAL MUNICIPALITY, MPUMALANGA PROVINCE	
				The commenting scientist is Mr. Frans Krige who is copied in this e-mail.	
21	Robyn Luyt Director: Environmental Impact Management (EIM) DARDLEA	13 August 2024 Per email	Draft Scoping Report	From: [REDACTED] Sent: Tuesday, August 13, 2024 8:50 AM To: [REDACTED] ERM Arcus Amsterdam <ERM.ArcusAmsterdam@erm.com>; Stephanie Gopaul <stephanie.gopaul@erm.com> Cc: [REDACTED] [REDACTED] Subject: Re: 14/12/16/3/3/2/2591; 2592; 2593: Proposed Emvelo, Rochdale and Sheepmoor WEFs, MP Importance: High Good Morning all, I am extremely concerned with the agreement reached between ERM and DFFE. DARDLEA, as the Provincial Department responsible for environmental affairs in Mpumalanga Province, has to date not yet received any of the draft documents for review and comment. In accordance with the requirements of Regulation 40(1)(b), the scoping report is required to be subjected to all I&APs for a period of at least 30 days for comment. Further to this, Regulation 40(2)(b) states that the public participation process must provide access to all information ...and must include consultation with every State department that administers a law relating to a matter affecting the environment	From: Stephanie Gopaul <stephanie.gopaul@erm.com> Sent: Tuesday, August 13, 2024 3:56 PM To: [REDACTED] [REDACTED] Stephen Burton <Stephen.Burton@erm.com>; ERM Arcus Amsterdam <ERM.ArcusAmsterdam@erm.com>; Lucien Barbeau <Lucien.Barbeau@erm.com> Subject: RE: 14/12/16/3/3/2/2591; 2592; 2593: Proposed Emvelo, Rochdale and Sheepmoor WEFs, MP Dear Robyn Thank you for your email in response to that of Bathandwa's in the email trail. Apologies that the draft documents did not reach your desk, however these were submitted and made accessible to DARDLEA on 19th July (see email attached). Following your email on 3rd August 2024, we responded to you on 6th August (as per the email attached) and advised you that DARDLEA were in fact notified of the availability. Your email on 8th August refers: Good day Stephanie, "Be advised that the names of the officials at MTPA that you have highlighted in your below notification arenot the relevant officials that are required to be

			<p>relevant to an application for an environmental authorisation.</p> <p>Regulation 21(1) is very clear in the requirement that a final Scoping Report must, within 44 days of submitting an application to the CA, be submitted to the CA (ie. DFFE), which report has been subjected to a public participation process of at least 30 days and which reflects the incorporation of comments received. The arrangement below is not in line with this requirement, which amounts to an administrative flaw, and I fail to see how DFFE would be in a position to consider a final Scoping report that does not include the input from DARDLEA. The arrangement would also preclude the requirement for the applicant to incorporate the comments received from DARDLEA into the final Scoping report.</p> <p>As stated above, DARDLEA still awaits the documents for comment.</p> <p>Kind Regards Robyn</p>	<p>notified or the relevant officials that must review and comment on draft Scoping or EIA reports, or any reports related to an EIA process. There are also no officials in the list of officials in your screenshots that are in the Environmental Affairs Chief Directorate in MDARDLEA - as far as I am aware they are in the section that deals with Agriculture, which is an entirely different mandate.</p> <p>It would not be acceptable to not provide the commenting authority the mandatory 30 days to review and comment on draft reports, especially in light of the fact that there has been no prior notification. The Directorate Environmental Impact Management within DARDLEA represents the MEC as Competent Authority in Mpumalanga, and the commenting authority in respect of projects administered by DFFE. MTPA has the mandate for biodiversity matters on behalf of DARDLEA. As per my email to you below (3 August), hard copies of all reports must be submitted to Ms Mbuyane (Environmental Impact Management) at our Ermelo office, and the documents must be made available to me (and in this instance to Mr Cowden and Mr Lotter) electronically at the same time. You will need to contact Ms De Waal and Mr Krige at MTPA to confirm how documents must be submitted to MTPA. Please provide shape files of the 3 proposed WEFs as well."</p> <p>We then responded to you with the links to access the documents electronically and couriered hard copies to Ms Sindi Mbuyane as per your request on 3rd August - we will follow up with the courier if these haven't been received by her as yet. MTPA received their hard copies yesterday (refer to email attached from Celia de Waa for proof of receipt).</p> <p>Importantly, in your email of 3rd August, you state that "DARDLEA and MTPA have through internal arrangements with DFFE requested to be included in all pre-application consultations for Renewable</p>
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					<p>Energy projects in Mpumalanga, particularly wind energy facilities.” You also state in your email of 8th August (referenced in the para above) that “especially in light of the fact that there has been no prior notification”.</p> <p>I would like to point out that Ms Sindi Mbuyane was in fact involved in the pre-app meeting – please see attached the pre-app meeting minutes that Ms Sindi signed.</p> <p>Prior consultation therefore did happen and we kindly request that in light of this, you consider completing your review of the DSR to meet the public participation deadline of 22 August 2024.</p> <p>Should you be unable to provide your comments by this date, we would agree to the way forward stipulated in the email by Ms Bathandwa Ncube on 12 August 2024- ie. this would mean that the FSR would progress and get submitted without DARDLEA and MTPA comments if these are not available at the time, and for comments from these departments to be submitted as an addendum to the FSR.</p> <p>We thank you for your engagement to date and look forward to your response.</p>
22	Tebego Kgaphola Directorate: Biodiversity Mainstreaming and EIA	13 August 2024 Per email	Draft Scoping Phase	<p>From: [REDACTED] Sent: Tuesday, August 13, 2024 12:47 PM To: ERM Arcus Amsterdam <ERM.ArcusAmsterdam@erm.com> Cc: [REDACTED] Subject: COMMENTS ON THE DRAFT SCOPING REPORT FOR THE PROPOSED MULILO AMSTERDAM WEFS CLUSTER, NEAR ERMELO, MPUMALANGA PROVINCE Good day</p>	<p>NOTE:</p> <p><i>Post concerns expressed from DARDLEA/MTPA. The previous draft applications were withdrawn and the entire process restarted to afford all IAPs 30 days commenting period.</i></p>

				Kindly find the attached comments for the aforementioned project	
23	Mervyn Lotter	13 August 2024 Per email	Draft Scoping Phase	<p>From: [REDACTED] [REDACTED] Sent: Tuesday, August 13, 2024 8:34 PM To: Stephanie Gopaul <stephanie.gopaul@erm.com> Cc: [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] Stephen Burton <Stephen.Burton@erm.com>; ERM Arcus Amsterdam <ERM.ArcusAmsterdam@erm.com>; Lucien Barbeau <Lucien.Barbeau@erm.com>; [REDACTED] [REDACTED] Subject: Re: 14/12/16/3/3/2/2591; 2592; 2593: Proposed Emvelo, Rochdale and Sheepmoor WEFs, MP DDear Stephanie,</p> <p>I am writing to clarify several points regarding the recent applications:</p> <p>The appropriate MTPA staff members responsible for reviewing these three applications only received the links on August 6th and hard copies on August 12th.</p> <p>The two MTPA staff members you contacted in July are involved in permitting processes (such as issuing permits for collecting protected species) and are not responsible for reviewing development applications. As they were blind copied, they would have been unaware if the correct staff had been included in the correspondence.</p>	

According to the minutes you provided, Ms. Mbuyane informed you on May 31, 2024, that "the MTPA is the main custodian of biodiversity in Mpumalanga and their guidelines would provide guidance on avoiding biodiversity sensitive areas." However, it appears this guidance was not sought.

Upon reviewing my email records, I found communications from Andrew Pearson, Annitta Attieh, and Verushka Snyders (all from Mulilo) regarding CBAs for other projects, indicating that Mulilo is aware that I am the appropriate contact for biodiversity planning related matters. I also have several emails to both Frans Krige and myself from ERM staff, such as Kate Hamilton from around 2016 and more recently. ERM should know who the correct staff would be to send the EIA documents to for comment.

We are currently managing several other development applications with similar deadlines. Given the short notice, it would be challenging to thoroughly review and apply our minds to the three applications before August 22nd.

It is regrettable that we were not consulted earlier, despite the prior recommendation to do so. This has now placed undue pressure on our team to meet your deadline.

Comments from authorities need to be considered and incorporated into the final EIA document. Including them as an appendix defeats the purpose of the legislated timeframes and the need to consider these inputs in the first place. This is a risk to your project.

				We can only try and do our best. Regards, Mervyn	
24	Masina Morudu DFFE	14 August 2024 Per email	Draft Scoping Phase	From: [REDACTED] Sent: Tuesday, August 13, 2024 12:00 PM To: Stephanie Gopaul <stephanie.gopaul@erm.com> Cc: [REDACTED] [REDACTED] Subject: RE: 14/12/16/3/3/2/2591; 2592; 2593: Proposed Emvelo, Rochdale and Sheepmoor WEFs, MP Dear Stephanie, Following the discussion between the Provincial Department (DARDLEA) and the EAP earlier this morning, it was confirmed that the EAP did notify the province about the proposed wind energy developments but unfortunately the notification was sent to the Agriculture section within the department and the environmental section did not get the notification/draft reports. The Provincial Department was made aware of the public review of the draft scoping reports of the proposed developments by other interested and affected parties and Ms Luyt contacted ERM and requested the draft reports for comment on 03 August 2024 (see attached	From: Stephanie Gopaul <stephanie.gopaul@erm.com> Sent: Wednesday, August 14, 2024 8:06 PM To: [REDACTED] Cc: [REDACTED] [REDACTED] Stephen Burton <Stephen.Burton@erm.com>; Lucien Barbeau <Lucien.Barbeau@erm.com>; [REDACTED] Subject: RE: 14/12/16/3/3/2/2591; 2592; 2593: Proposed Emvelo, Rochdale and Sheepmoor WEFs, MP Dear Masina Thank you for your emails. We will discuss with the proponent and get back to you.

			<p>email). The EAP/Applicant failed to submit the requested reports until this week. The Provincial Department and MTPA must be afforded 30 days to comment as per EIA Regulations 2014 as amended otherwise the process will be viewed as being procedural flawed.</p> <p>Considering the above, it is noted that the EAP will not be able to meet the regulated time frames for the submission of the final Scoping Reports (05 September 2024), and thus, the applications are going to regrettably lapse. Therefore the Department advises that the EAP withdraws the current applications and reapply. Please note that , reapplying constitutes the EIA process from the beginning.</p> <p>Regards,</p> <p>MASINA MORUDU</p>	
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APPENDIX 1 I&AP DATABASE

Affiliation to Project	Farm / Department / Organisation Name	Farm Portion	Name	Surname	Other	Email Address	Telephone	Other Phone	Address	Postal Add.	City	Code	Comment	Returned Email Addresses	SG Code
1. Directly Affected Landowner															
Gridline		265	13												
Gridline		265	21												
		266	4												
Gridline		266	6												
Gridline		266	8												
Gridline		267	35												
Gridline		267	40												
Gridline		267	86/94												
Gridline		267	86/92												
Gridline		267	27												
Gridline		267	26												
Gridline		267	3												
Gridline		267	8												
Gridline		267	36												
Gridline		267	29												
Gridline		267	30												
Gridline		267	7												
Gridline		269	1												
Gridline		269	4												
Gridline		269	2												
Gridline		270	2												
Gridline		270	5												
Gridline		270	6												
Gridline		270	7												
Gridline		270	8												
Gridline		270	9												
Gridline		270	10												
Gridline		270	11												
Gridline		270	13												
Gridline		270	16												
Gridline		270	17												
Gridline		270	18												
Gridline		270	19												
Gridline		270	23												
Bachdale Facility / Gridline		272	1												
Bachdale Facility / Gridline		272	2												
Bachdale Facility		272	5												
Gridline		273	1												
Sheepmoor Facility/ Gridline		273	2												
Sheepmoor Facility/ Gridline		273	3												
Sheepmoor Facility/ Gridline		273	4												
Gridline		273	5												
Sheepmoor Facility/ Gridline		273	6												
Sheepmoor Facility/ Gridline		273	7												
Sheepmoor Facility/ Gridline		273	8												
Sheepmoor Facility/ Gridline		273	9												
Sheepmoor Facility		273	10												
Sheepmoor Facility/ Gridline		273	12												
Sheepmoor Facility/ Gridline		273	13												
Gridline		273	86												
Emvula Facility		274	1												
Emvula Facility/ Gridline		274	2												
Emvula Facility		274	5												
Emvula Facility		274	6												
Emvula Facility/ Gridline		274	86												
Emvula Facility		283	86												
Emvula Facility		285	86/1												
Emvula Facility		285	5												
Emvula Facility		286	2												
Emvula Facility		286	3												
Sheepmoor Facility/ Gridline		286	4												

[illegible]

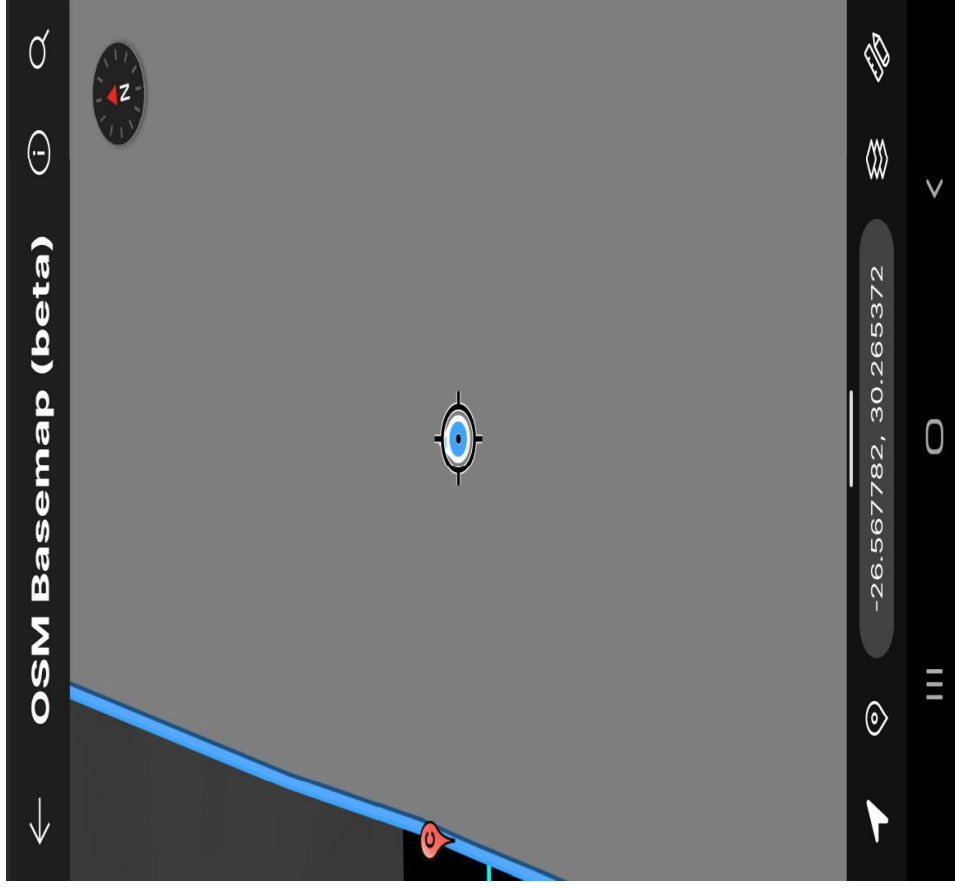
3. National / Provincial / Local Government Departments

[illegible]

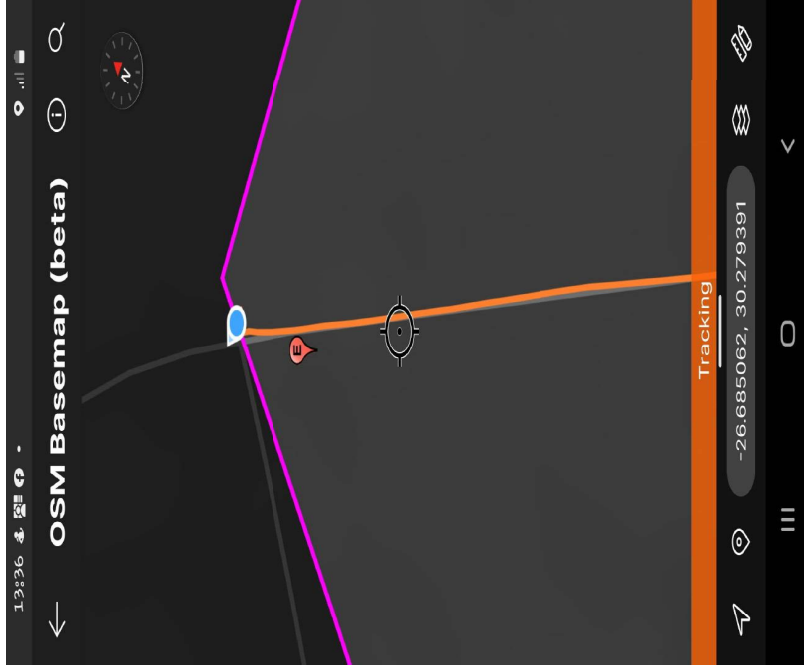
[illegible]

APPENDIX 2 SITE NOTICES AND POSTER PLACEMENT PROOF

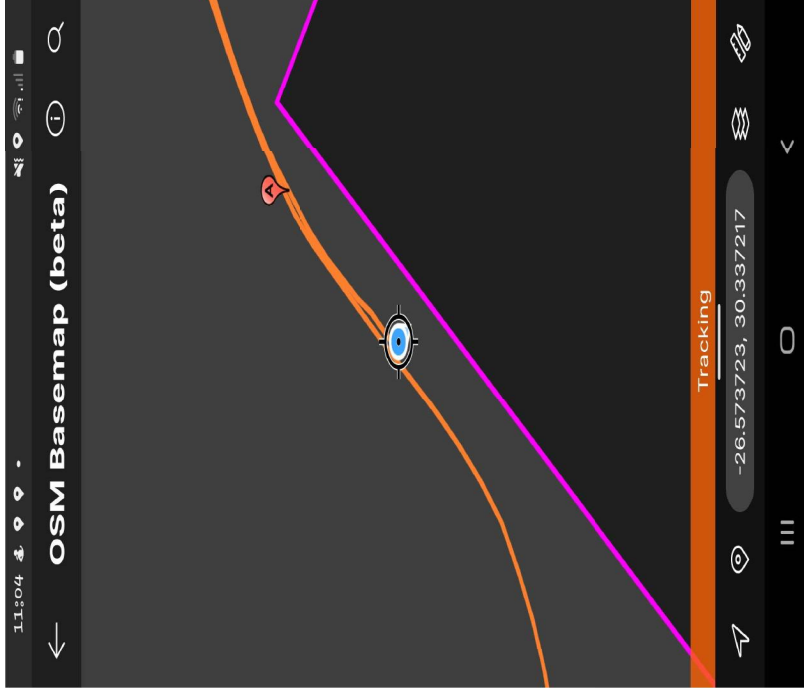
Amsterdam Sheepmoor WEF (Point C) Site Notices



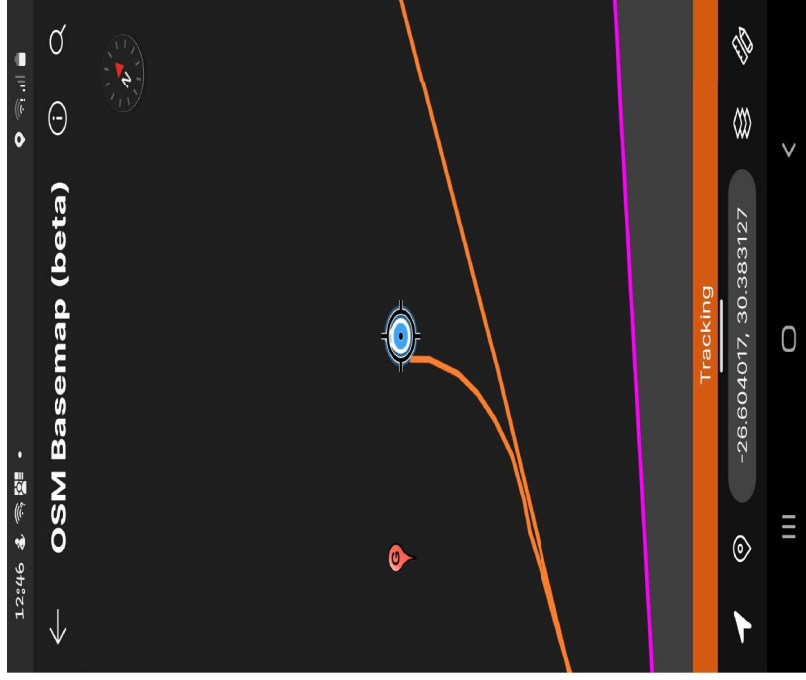
Amsterdam Emvelo WEF (Point E) Site Notices



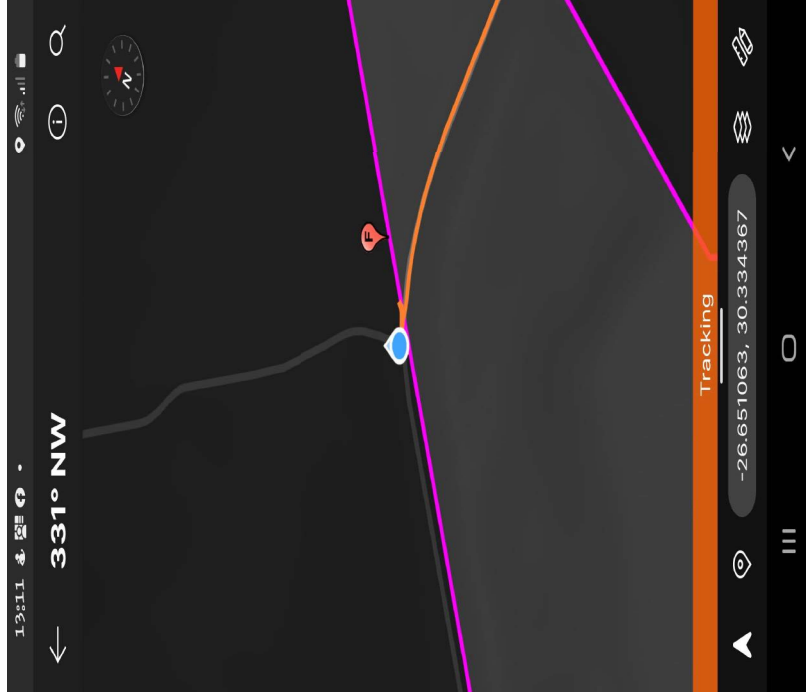
Amsterdam Sheepmoor WEF (Point A) Site Notices



Amsterdam Sheepmoor WEF (Point G) Site Notices



Amsterdam Sheepmoor WEF (Point F) Site Notices



Amsterdam WEF (1-3) Posters

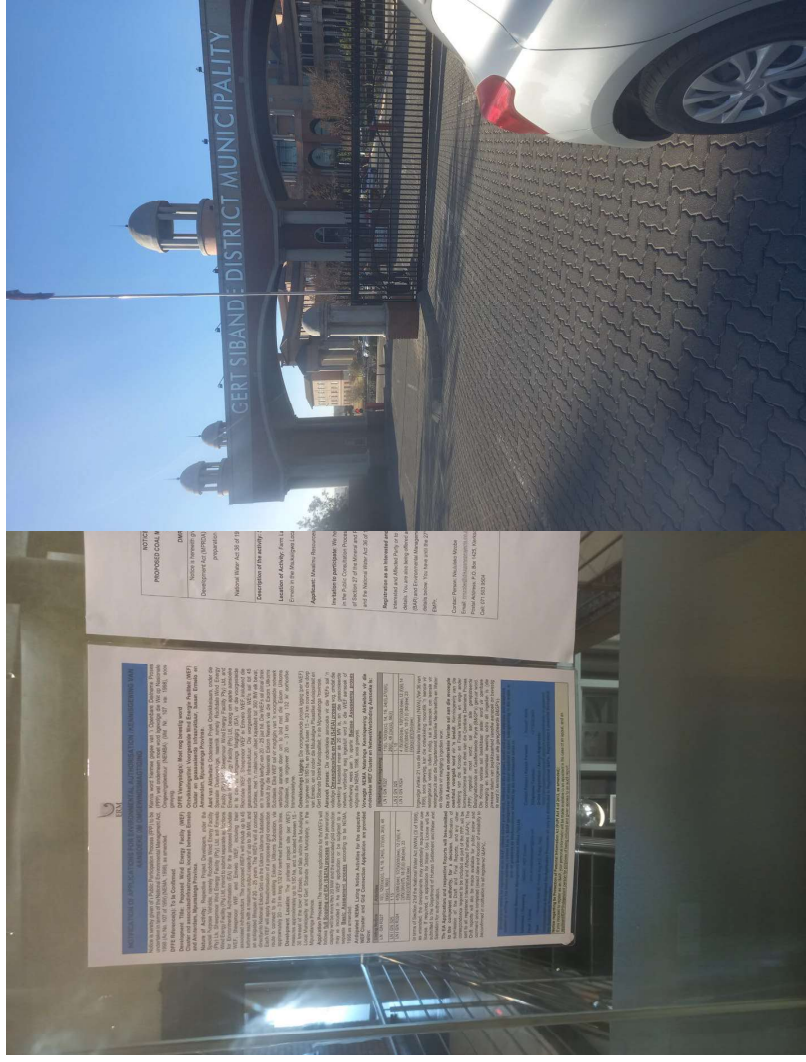
Ermelo, Amsterdam and Sheepmoor

Locations in Town(s)
Gert Sibande District Municipality Complex
Ermelo Game
SAPS Ermelo Police Station
Mskuligwa Local Municipality
Ermelo Public Library
Trident Medical Centre
Devland Cash and Carry – Ermelo
Pick n Pay Family - Ermelo
Superspar Ermelo
SAPS Amsterdam Police Station
Amsterdam Clinic
Global Amsterdam – Gas Station
Sheepmoor Clinic

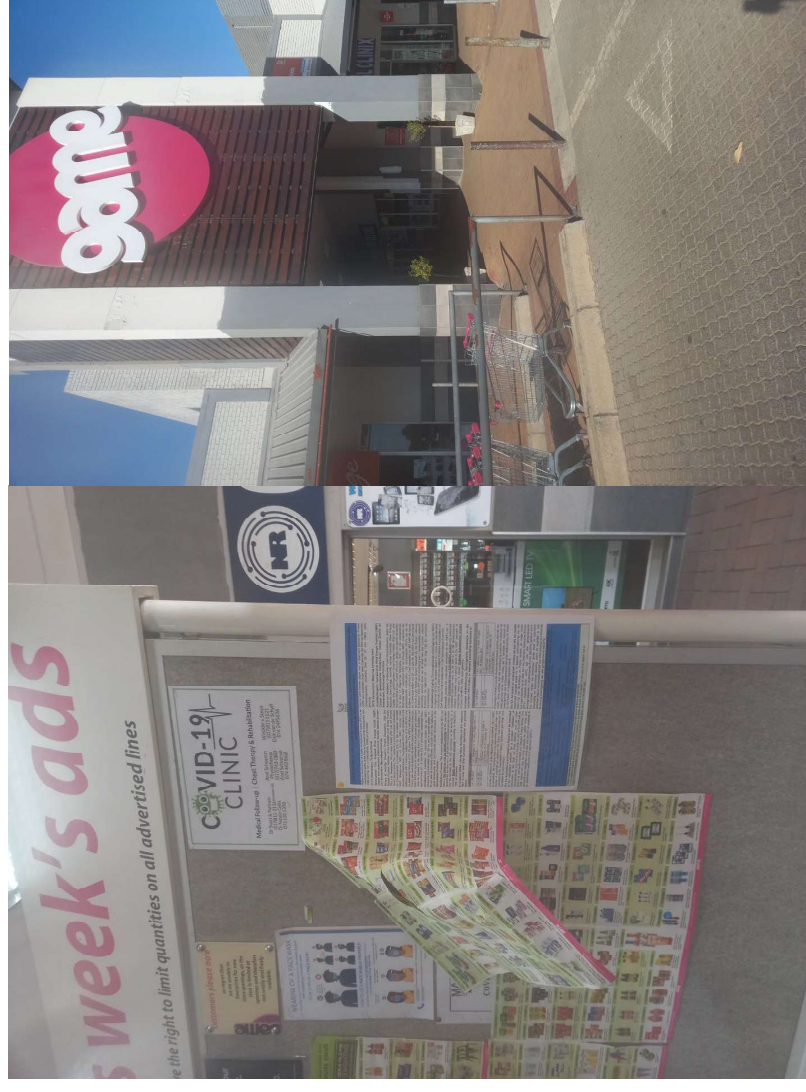
Amsterdam WEF (1-3) Posters

Amsterdam Poster Proofs

Gert Sibande District Municipality



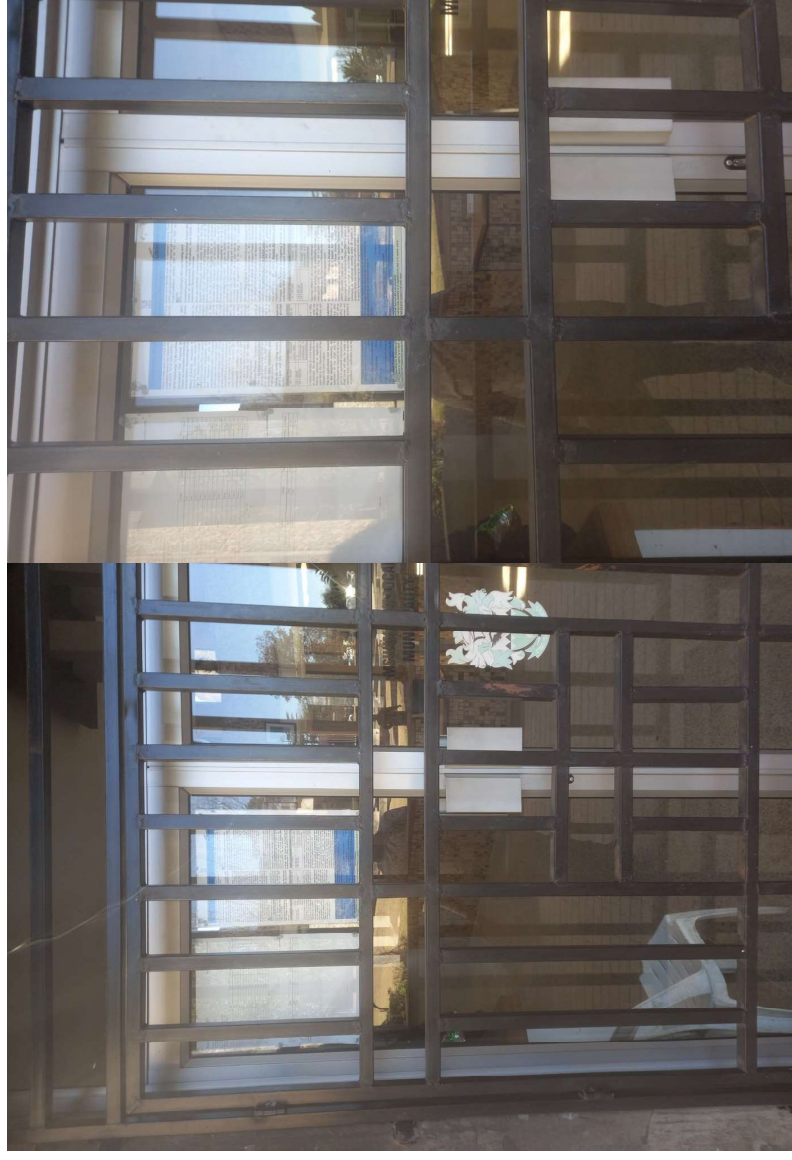
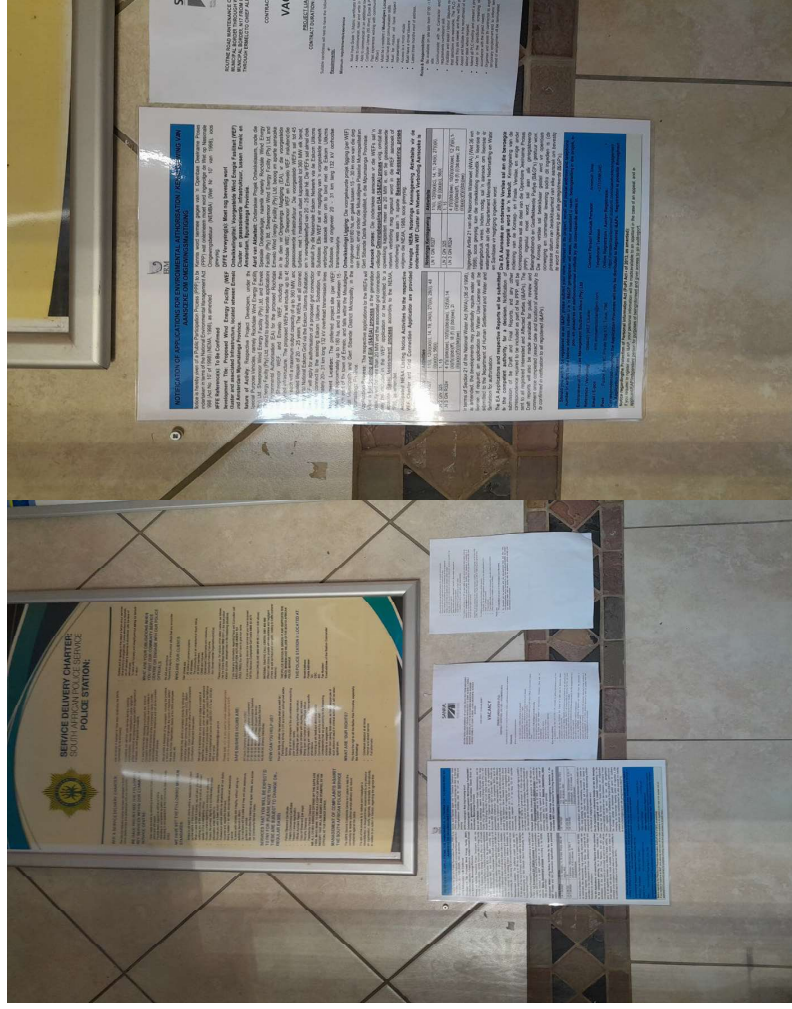
Game Ermelo



Amsterdam WEF (1-3) Posters

Amsterdam Poster Proofs

Msukaligwa Local Municipality

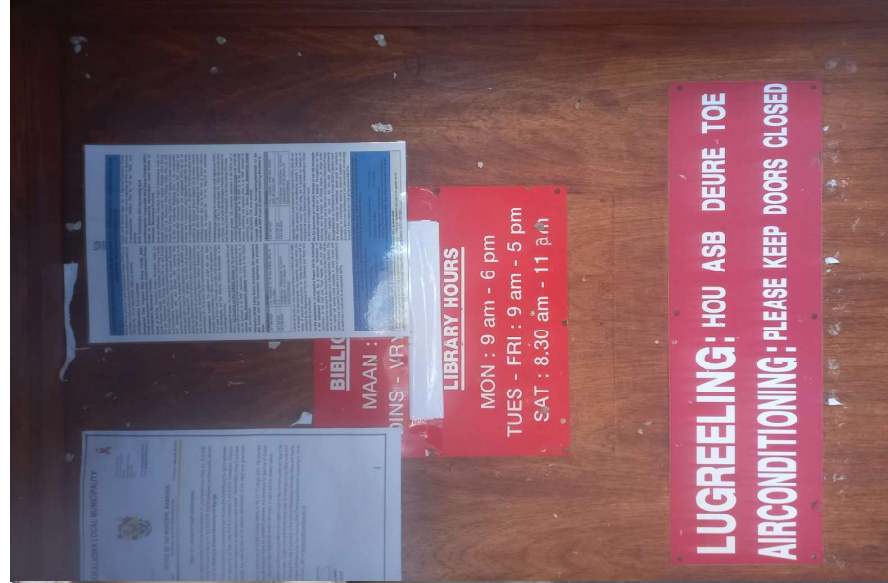


SAPS Ermelo Police Station

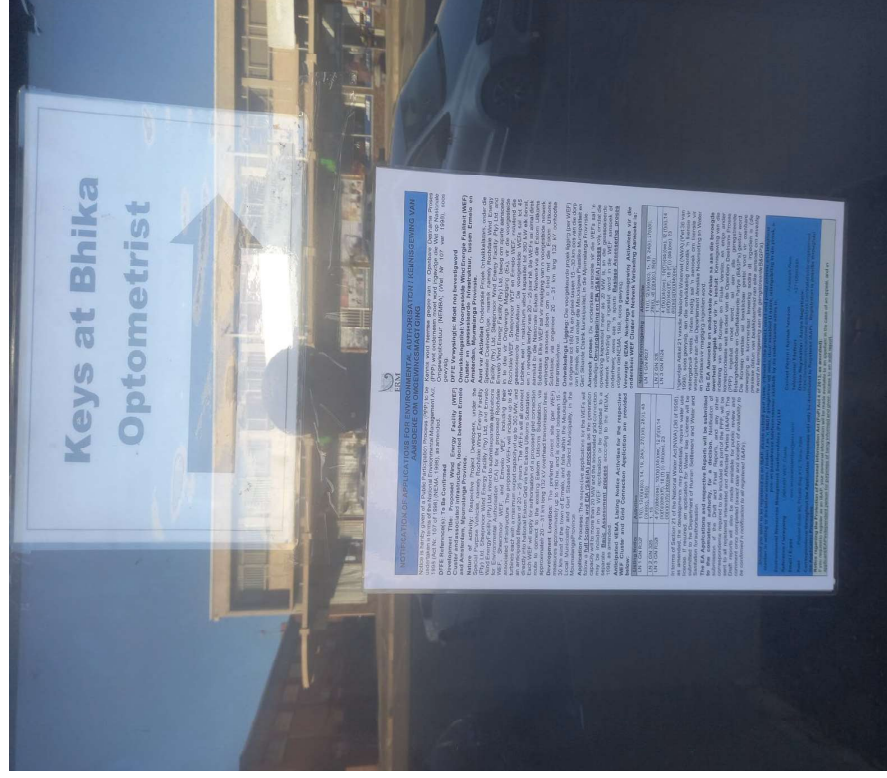
Amsterdam WEF (1-3) Posters

Amsterdam Poster Proofs

Ermelo Library



Trident Medical Centre



Amsterdam WEF (1-3) Posters

Amsterdam Poster Proofs

Devland Cash and Carry



Pick n Pay Ermelo



Amsterdam WEF (1-3) Posters

Amsterdam Poster Proofs

Superspar Ermelo



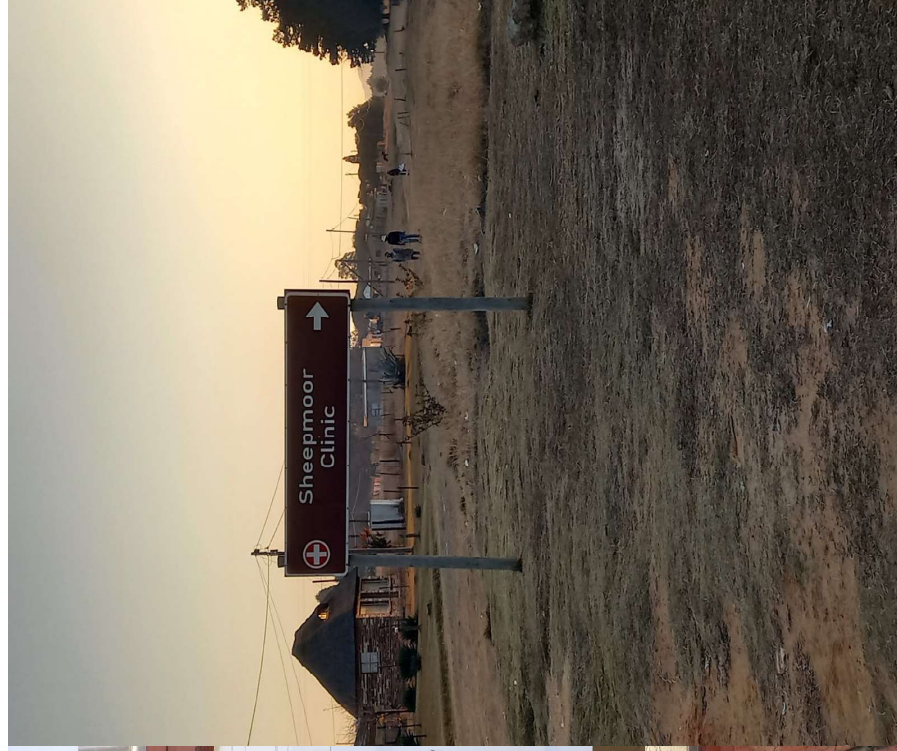
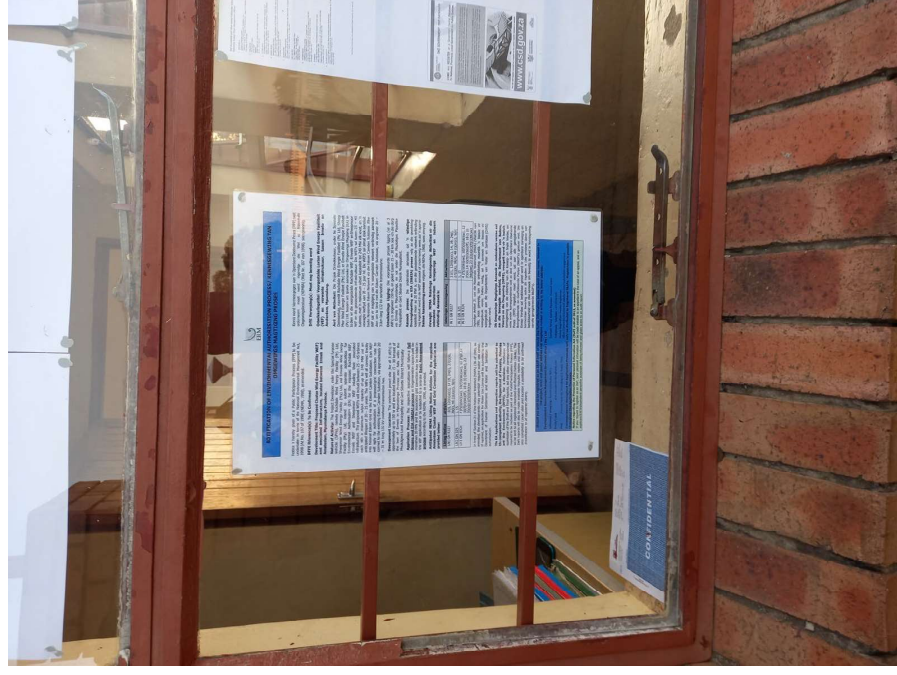
SAPS Police Station Amsterdam



Amsterdam WEF (1-3) Posters

Amsterdam Poster Proofs

Sheepmoor Clinic



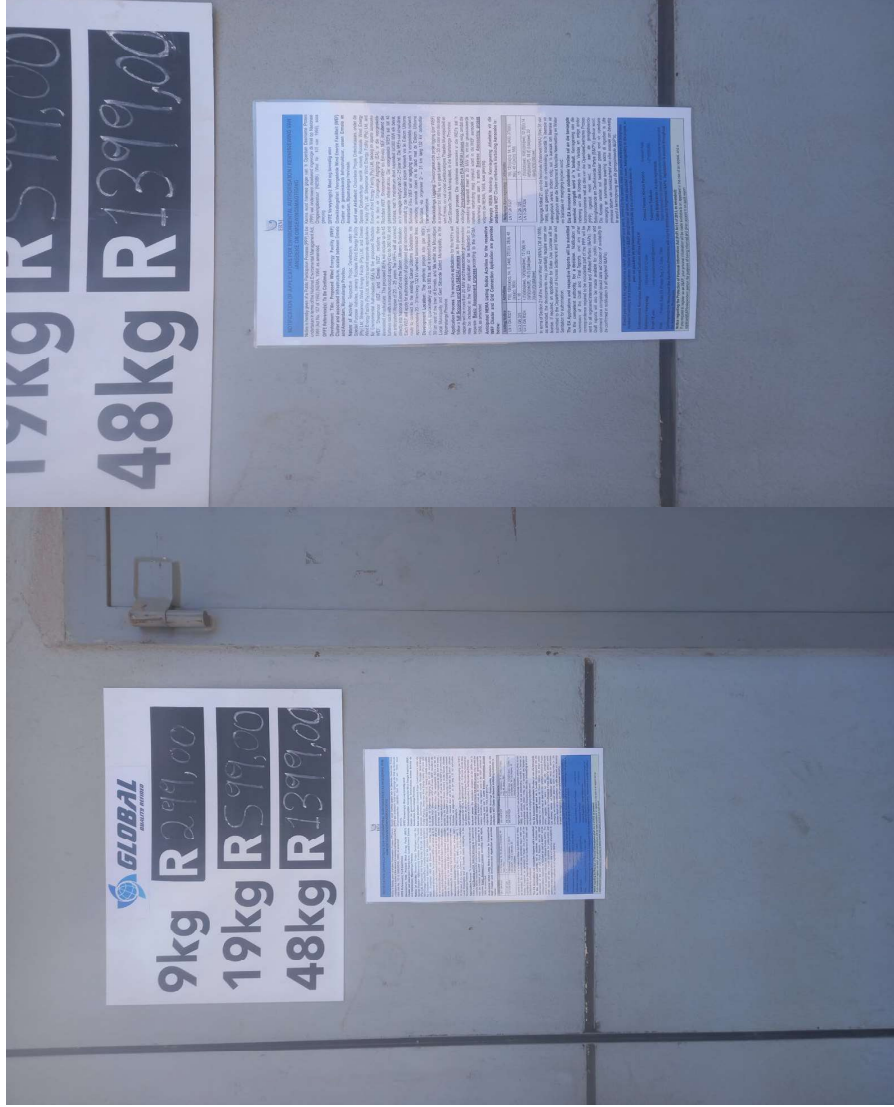
Amsterdam WEF (1-3) Posters

Amsterdam Poster Proofs

Amsterdam Clinic



Global Amsterdam



APPENDIX 3 NEWSPAPER ADVERTISEMENT PROOF

NOTIFICATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION PROCESS

Notice is hereby given of a Public Participation Process (PPP) to be undertaken in terms of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998) (NEMA, 1998), as amended.

DIFFERENTIAL Reference(s): To Be Confirmed

Development Title: Proposed Cluster Wind Energy Facility (WEF) and associated Infrastructure, between Ermelo and Amsterdam, Mpumalanga Province.

Nature of Activity: The Project Developer, under the Special Purpose Vehicles, namely Rochdale Wind Energy Facility (Pty) Ltd, Sheepmoor Wind Energy Facility (Pty) Ltd, and Envelo Wind Energy Facility (Pty) Ltd, intend to submit separate applications for Environmental Authorisation (EA) for the proposed Rochdale WEF, Envelo WEF and Sheepmoor WEF including their associated infrastructure. The proposed WEFs will include between 25 – 45 turbines each with a maximum output capacity of up to 240 MW and an anticipated lifespan of 20 – 25 years. The WEFs will all connect directly into National Eskom Grid via the Eskom Camden Substation. Each WEF will apply for authorisation of a proposed grid connection route to connect to the existing Eskom Camden Substation, via approximately 20 – 31 km long 132 kV overhead transmission lines.

Development Location: The preferred project site (for all 3 WEFs) is approximately up to 150 ha, and is located between 15 – 30 km east of the town of Ermelo in Mpumalanga Province and falls within the Msukaligwa Local Municipality and Gert Sibande District Municipality.

Application Process: The respective applications will follow a full Scoping and EIA (S&EIA) process as the generation capacity will be more than 20 MW and the associated grid connection may be included in the WEF application or be subjected to a separate Basic Assessment process according to the NEMA, 1998, as amended.

Anticipated NEMA Listing Notice Activities for the respective Amsterdam Cluster WEF and Grid Connection Application are:

Listing Notice	Activities
LN 1 GN R327	11(i), 12(ii)(a)(c), 14, 19, 24(ii), 27(i)(ii), 28(ii), 48 (i)(a)(c), 56(ii)
LN 2 GN 325	1, 15
LN 3 GN R324	4 (f)(i)(bb)(ee), 10(f)(i)(bb)(ee), 12 (f)(ii), 14 (ii)(f)(i)(bb)(ff), 18 (f) (i) (bb)(ee), 23 (ii)(a)(c)(f)(i)(bb)(ee)

In terms of Section 21 of the National Water Act (NWA) (36 of 1998), as amended, the developments may potentially require water use license. If required, an application for Water Use License will be submitted to the Department of Human Settlements and Water and Sanitation for authorisation. The EA Applications and respective Reports will be submitted to the competent authority, the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE), for a decision. Notification of submission of the Draft and Final Reports, and any other correspondence required to be included as part of the PPP will be sent to all registered Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs). The Draft reports will also be made available for public review and comment once completed (exact date and location of availability to be confirmed in notification to all registered I&APs). Should you wish to be registered as an I&AP, please submit your name, interest in the project, email and postal address and telephone number in writing to the below address.

Environmental Resource Management Southern Africa (Pty) Ltd
Reference/Verwysing: Amsterdam Cluster WEFs
 E-mail/E-pos: erm.arcusamsterdam@erm.com
 Post/Pos: Postnet Suite 90, Private Bag X12, Tokai, 7966

Online Registration / Aanlyn Registrasie: <https://amsterdamclusterwef.aidform.com/stakeholder-engagement>

Correspondence throughout the Application Processes will only be distributed to Registered I&APs. Registration is possible throughout the Application Processes.

Notice regarding the Protection of Personal Information Act (PoPI Act 4 of 2013, as amended)

If you request to register as an I&AP, your personal information will be made available to the Competent Authority and an appellant in the case of an appeal, and an applicant/EAP/independent person for purposes of being informed and given access to an audit report.

KENNISGEWING VAN OMGEWINGSMAGTIGING-PROSES EN WATERGEBRUIK-LISENSIE AANSOEKPROSESSE

Kennis word hiermee gegee van 'n Openbare Deelname Proses (PPP) wat onderneem moet word ingevolge die Wet op Nasionale Omgewingsbestuur (NEMBA) (Wet Nr. 107 van 1998), soos gewysig.

DIFFERENTIAL Verwysing(s): Moet nog bevestig word

Ontwikkelingstitel: Voorgestelde Loxton Wind Energie Fasiliteit (WEF) en verwante infrastruktuur, tussen Ermelo en Amsterdam, Mpumalanga.

Aard van Aktiwiteit: Die Projek Ontwikkelelaar, onder die Spesiale Doelvoertuig, naamlik Rochdale Wind Energie Fasiliteit (Pty) Ltd, Sheep Moor Wind Energie Fasiliteit (Pty) Ltd, en Envelo Wind Energie Fasiliteit (Pty) Ltd, beam om aparte aansoek ter Omgewingsmagtiging (EA) in te dien vir die voorgestelde Rochdale WEF, Envelo WEF en Sheepmoor WEF en die geassosieerde infrastruktuur. Die WEFs sal tussen 25 – 45 turbines, met 'n maksimum uitset kapasiteit tot 240 MW elk, en 'n verwagte leeftyd van 20 – 25 jaar hê. Die WEFs sal almal direk aansluit by die Nasionale Eskom Netwerk via die Eskom Camden Substasie. Elke WEF sal vir magtiging van 'n voorgestelde netwerkverbinding aansoek doen om te bind met die Eskom Camden Substasie, via ongeveer 20 – 31 km lang 132 kV oorhoofse transmissielyn.

Ontwikkelingsligging: Die voorgeseerde projekligging (vir al 3 WEFs) is ongeveer 150 ha, en geleë tussen 15 – 30 km oos van die dorp Ermelo in Mpumalanga, en val onder die Msukaligwa Plaaslike Munisipaliteit en Gert Sibande Distrik Munisipaliteit.

Aansoekproses: Die onderskeie aansoek sal 'n volledige Omvangbepaling en EIA (S&EIA) proses volg as die opwekkingkapasiteit meer as 20 MW is, en die geassosieerde netwerkverbinding mag ingesluit word in die WEF aansoek of onderhewig wees aan 'n aparte Basiese Assesseringsproses volgens die NEMA, 1998, soos gewysig.

Verwagte NEMA Noteringskennisgewing Aktiviteite vir die onderskeie Amsterdam Groeperings WEF en Netwerkverbinding Aansoek is:

Noterings-kennisgewing	Aktiwiteite
LN 1 GN R327	11(i), 12(ii)(a)(c), 14, 19, 24(ii), 27(i)(ii), 28(ii), 48 (i)(a)(c), 56(ii)
LN 2 GN 325	1, 15
LN 3 GN R324	4 (f)(i)(bb)(ee), 10(f)(i)(bb)(ee), 12 (f)(ii), 14 (ii)(f)(i)(bb)(ff), 18 (f) (i) (bb)(ee), 23 (ii)(a)(c)(f)(i)(bb)(ee)

Ingevolge Artikel 21 van die Nasionale Waterwet (NWA) (Wet 36 van 1998), soos gewysig, kan die ontwikkeling moontlik 'n lisensie vir watergebruik vereis. Indien nodig, sal 'n aansoek om lisensie vir watergebruik aan die Departement van Water en Sanitasie (DWS) ingedien word.

Die Omgewingsmagtigings Aansoek en onderskeie verslae sal aan die bevoegde owerheid, die Departement van Bosbou, Visserye en die Omgewing (DFFE), voorgelê word vir 'n besluit. Kennisgewing van die indiening van die konsep- en finale verslae, en enige ander korrespondensie wat as deel van die Openbare Deelname Proses (PPP) ingesluit moet word, sal aan alle geregistreerde Belanghebbende en Geaffekteerde Partye (B&GP's) gestuur word. Die Konsep Verslae sal beskikbaar gestel word vir openbare oorweging en kommentaarlewering sodra dit ingedien is (die presiese datum van beskikbaarheid van elke aansoek om bevestig te word in kennisgewing aan alle geregistreerde B&GP's).

Contact Person / Kontak Persoon: Aneeshah Alwie
Telephone / Telefoon: (+27)10 596 3495

PLEASE SIGN OR REPLY BY EMAIL IF WE CAN GO AHEAD WITH THE ATTACHED ADVERT

CLIENT
PROOF

Please see attached ad proof

***PLEASE NOTE THAT DUE TO VERY TIGHT DEADLINES, IT IS VERY IMPORTANT TO REPLY AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.**

****WE ALLOW A MAXIMUM OF TWO PROOFS PER ADVERT. ALL PROOFS SHOULD BE SIGNED OFF ON SECOND PROOF. AFTER THAT A FEE OF R350 WILL APPLY FOR EVERY PROOF SENT.**

When advertising in any of Lowveld Media's publications, an artwork proof is sent to every client. Since we simultaneously work on numerous publications, each has certain deadlines to be adhered to, eg. for material to be handed in, design, client and production deadlines. Corrections will be done as requested and a second proof will be sent to the client. Thereafter a signature of approval is expected since it is of vital importance to continue with production.

NO RESPONSIBILITY WILL BE ACCEPTED BY LOWVELD MEDIA IF THIS SIGNED PROOF IS INCORRECT.

SIGNATURE



TA15625ND

NOTIFICATION OF APPLICATIONS FOR ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION / KENNISGEWING VAN AANSOEK OM OMGEWINGSMAGTIGING

Notice is hereby given of a Public Participation Process (PPP) undertaken in terms of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998) (NEMA, 1998), as amended.

Kennis geskied hiermee van 'n Openbare Deelnameproses (ODP) wat ingevolge die Wet op Nasionale Omgewingsbestuur, 1998 (Wet No. 107 van 1998) (NEMA, 1998), soos gewysig, onderneem is.

DFFE Reference(s): Emvelo WEF - 14/12/16/3/3/2/2611
: Sheepmoor WEF - 14/12/16/3/3/2/2613

DFFE-verwysing(s): Emvelo WEF - 14/12/16/3/3/2/2611
: Sheepmoor WEF - 14/12/16/3/3/2/2613

Development Title: Proposed Wind Energy Facility (WEF) Cluster and associated Infrastructure, located between Ermelo and Amsterdam, Mpumalanga Province.

Ontwikkelingstitel: Voorgestelde windenergiefasiliteit (WEF) -groep en gepaardgaande infrastruktuur, geleë tussen Ermelo en Amsterdam, Mpumalanga Provinsie.

Nature of Activity: Respective Project Developers, under the Special Purpose Vehicles, namely Sheepmoor Wind Energy Facility (Pty) Ltd, and Emvelo Wind Energy Facility (Pty) Ltd, intend to submit separate amended applications for Environmental Authorisation (EA) for the proposed Sheepmoor WEF and Emvelo WEF, including their associated infrastructure. The proposed WEFs will include up to 40 turbines each with a maximum output capacity of up to 260 MW, and an anticipated lifespan of 25 - 30 years. The WEFs will all connect directly into National Eskom Grid via the Eskom Uitkoms Substation. The proposed grid connection route application, to connect to the existing Eskom Uitkoms Substation, via approximately 20 - 32 km long 132 kV overhead transmission lines, is included in the WEF application.

Aard van Aktiviteite: Onderskeie projekontwikkelaars, onder die Spesiale Doelvoertuie, naamlik Sheepmoor Wind Energy Facility (Edms) Bpk, en Emvelo Windenergiefasiliteit (Edms) Bpk, beoog om afsonderlike gewysigde aansoeke vir Omgewingsmagtiging (EA) in te dië vir die voorgestelde Sheepmoor WEF en Emvelo WEF, insluitend hul gepaardgaande infrastruktuur. Die voorgestelde WEF's sal tot 40 turbines elk insluit met 'n maksimum uitsetkapasiteit van tot 260 MW, en 'n verwagte lewensduur van 25 - 30 jaar. Die WEF's sal almal direk by die Nasionale Eskom-netwerk aansluit via die Eskom Uitkoms-substasie. Die voorgestelde netwerkverbindingsroete-aansoek, om via ongeveer 20 - 32 km lange 132 kV-oorhoofse transmissielinies aan die bestaande Eskom Uitkoms-substasie te koppel, is by die WEF-aansoek ingesluit.

Development Location: The preferred project site for Emvelo WEF and Sheepmoor WEF measures approximately up to 180 ha and is located approximately 25 - 30 km of the town of Ermelo, and falls within the Muskaligwa Local Municipality and Gert Sibande District Municipality, in the Mpumalanga Province.

Ontwikkelingsligging: Die voorkeurprojekterrein vir Emvelo WEF en Sheepmoor WEF meet ongeveer tot 180 ha en is ongeveer 25 - 30 km van die dorp Ermelo geleë, en val binne die Muskaligwa Plaaslike Munisipaliteit en Gert Sibande Distrikmunisipaliteit, in die Mpumalanga Provinsie.

Anticipated NEMA Listing Notice Activities for the respective WEF Cluster and Grid Connection Application are provided below:

Verwagte NEMA-noteringskennisgewingaktiwiteite vir die onderskeie WEF-groep- en netwerkverbindingsaansoek word hieronder verskaf:

Listing Notice	Activities
LN 1 GN R327	11(i), 12(i)(a)(c), 14, 19, 24(i), 27(i)(i), 28(i), 48 (i)(a)(c), 56(i)
LN 2 GN 325	1, 15
LN 3 GN R324	4 (f)(i)(bb)(ee), 10(f)(i)(bb)(ee), 12 (f)(ii), 14 (i)(f)(i)(bb)(ff), 18 (f) (i) (bb)(ee), 23 (i)(a)(c)(f)(i)(bb)(ee)

Noteringskennisgewing	Aktiwiteite
LN 1 GN R327	11(i), 12(i)(a)(c), 14, 19, 24(i), 27(i)(i), 28(i), 48 (i)(a)(c), 56(i)
LN 2 GN 325	1, 15
LN 3 GN R324	4 (f)(i)(bb)(ee), 10(f)(i)(bb)(ee), 12 (f)(ii), 14 (i)(f)(i)(bb)(ff), 18 (f) (i) (bb)(ee), 23 (i)(a)(c)(f)(i)(bb)(ee)

Application Process: The respective applications for the WEFs are currently in the draft EIA phase. The Public Participation Process for the EIA phase will run from 10 March 2025 - 10 April 2025. The relevant documents are available from the Ermelo Public Library or alternatively accessed via our website during the public participation period.

Aansoekproses: Die onderskeie aansoeke vir die WEF's is tans in die konsep-OIS-fase. Die Openbare Deelnameproses vir die OIS-fase sal van 10 Maart 2025 tot 10 April 2025 duur. Die betrokke dokumente is beskikbaar by die Ermelo Openbare Biblioteek of alternatiewelik verkry via ons webwerf gedurende die openbare deelnametydperk.

The EA Applications and respective Reports will be submitted to the competent authority, for a decision. Notification of submission of the Final Reports, and any other correspondence required to be included as part of the PPP, will be sent to all registered Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs).

Die EA-aansoeke en onderskeie verslae sal aan die bevoegde owerheid voorgelê word vir 'n besluit. Kennisgewing van die indiening van die finale verslae, en enige ander korrespondensie wat as deel van die PPP ingesluit moet word, sal aan alle geregistreerde belanghebbende en geaffekteerde partye (I&AP's) gestuur word.

Should you wish to obtain information about the project or wish to register as an I&AP on the WEF Cluster, please contact us at the details below. / Indien U as 'n B&GP geregistreer wil wees, stuur asseblief u naam, belangstelling in die projek, e-pos- en posadres en telefoonnommer skriftelik na die onderstaande adres.

Environmental Resources Management Southern Africa (Pty) Ltd
Reference / Verwysing : 0684401 WEF Cluster
Email / E-pos : erm.arcusamsterdam@erm.com

Contact Person / Kontakpersoon
Telephone/ Telefoon : Lucien Barbeau
: +27105963488

Post : Postnet Suite 90, Private Bag X12, Tokai, 7966

Online / Aanlyn Registrasie:
<https://www.erm.com/public-information-sites/proposed-amsterdam-wind-energy-facility-and-auxiliary-infrastructure-cluster-mpumalanga/>
<https://amsterdamclusterwef.aidaform.com/stakeholder-engagement>

Correspondence throughout the Application Processes will only be distributed to Registered I&APs. Registration is possible throughout the Application Processes.

Notice regarding the Protection of Personal Information Act (PoPI Act 4 of 2013, as amended): If you request to register as an I&AP, your personal information will be made available to an appellant in the case of an appeal, and an applicant/EAP/ independent person for purposes of being informed and given access to an audit report.

Please note: Lowveld Media strives to provide the highest quality print possible on newsprint standards. Digital copies are not comparable to newsprint copies. Printing is done using a cold set press on 45gsm paper. We can only guarantee print quality according to newsprint standards.

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APPENDIX 4 DSR NOTIFICATION

From: [ERM Arcus Amsterdam](#)
To: [ERM Arcus Amsterdam](#)
Subject: Notification of Submission: Draft scoping Report Amsterdam WEFs, near Ermelo, Mpumalanga
Date: Thursday, 22 August 2024 17:33:28
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[I&AP Notification Letter Afrikaans.pdf](#)
[I&AP Notification Letter English.pdf](#)

RESUBMISSION OF DRAFT SCOPING REPORT FOR THE WIND ENERGY FACILITY
(SHEEPMOOR, ROCHDALE AND EMVELO) CLUSTER

Dear Interested and Affected Party,

This email serves to inform you about the resubmission of the Draft Scoping Reports for the proposed Amsterdam WEFs, near Ermelo, Mpumalanga.

The previous applications for these proposed projects have been withdrawn to allow for an additional comment period for all I&AP's. Please note that all comments received during the previous comment period will still be incorporated in the comments and responses for these new applications. Should you wish to confirm that your comment is being incorporated, please feel free to email us.

Public Participation Process (PPP), which is being undertaken in accordance with the requirements of Section 24 (5) and Chapter 6 (41, 42, 43, and 44) of GN R. 326 of the NEMA, 1998 EIA Regulations, 2014 (as amended) and the Western Cape Department of Environmental Affairs & Development Planning (DEA&DP) Guideline on Public Participation (2011). The reports will be available for a 30 day comment period from 22 August to 21 September 2024.

Please ensure that you have submitted your comment before the close of the comment period should you wish to have your input considered in the submission of the Final Scoping Report.

More information on how you are able to participate in this process is attached in the above documentation.

Please indicate which application your comment in respect of.

Should you be a Land Owner directly affected by the proposed project (within the project boundary or adjacent thereto) please could you notify all occupants on your properties with regards to the proposed project.

Thank you and regards,

Stephanie Gopaul

Environmental Assessment Practitioner

APPENDIX 5 FSR NOTIFICATION

From: [ERM Arcus Amsterdam](#)
To: [ERM Arcus Amsterdam](#)
Subject: Notification of Submission of Final Scoping Report for the Proposed Sheepmoor, Rochdale and Emvelo WEF Cluster, Mpumalanga Province
Date: Thursday, 10 October 2024 13:52:23
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

Dear Registered Interested and Affected Party,

NOTIFICATION OF SUBMISSION OF THE FINAL SCOPING REPORT(S) FOR APPROVAL TO PROCEED TO ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT PHASE FOR THE PROPOSED SHEEPMOOR, ROCHDALE AND EMVELO WIND ENERGY FACILITIES, MPUMALANGA PROVINCE

-

DFFE Reference: 14/12/16/3/3/2/2611, 14/12/16/3/3/2/2612 and 14/12/16/3/3/2/2613

This email serves to inform you about the submission of the Final Scoping Reports for the proposed Sheepmoor, Rochdale and Emvelo WEFs, in the Mpumalanga Province.

The Draft Scoping Report for the Proposed Development(s) was subjected to the required 30-day comment and review period, from the 22 August 2024 to the 21 September 2024 (both days inclusive), taking into consideration Chapter 2 Regulation 3 (1); (2) and (3) of the NEMA, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998). Comments received from the public were incorporated, addressed and responded to in the Final Scoping Report.

Following the 30-day public comment and review period, the Final Scoping Reports has been submitted to the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (competent authority) for decision and is available for the public to view and download via the ERM website.

With reference to the above, please send any queries to the below address. Please also indicate the contact details of any other potential I&APs that should be contacted and registered.

Email: <mailto:ERM.ArcusAmsterdam@erm.com>

Website: <https://www.erm.com/public-information-sites/proposed-amsterdam-wind-energy-facility-and-auxiliary-infrastructure-cluster-mpumalanga/>

Thank you for the interest in the project.

Kind Regards



ERM

Sustainability is our business

Lucien Barbeau
Consultant

Cape Town
+27105963488

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APPENDIX 6 CORRESPONDENCE – ORIGINIAL COMMENTS & RESPONSES

19 July 2024

ERM Reference: 0684401

Dear Interested and Affected Party, Stakeholder, Organ of State

NOTIFICATION OF AVAILABILITY OF THE DRAFT SCOPING REPORTS FOR PUBLIC REVIEW AND COMMENT OF THE PROPOSED MULILO AMSTERDAM WIND ENERGY FACILITY (EMVELO, ROCHDALE AND SHEEPMOOR) CLUSTER, NEAR ERMELO, MPUMALANGA

Notice is hereby given of a Public Participation Process (PPP) to be undertaken in terms of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998) (NEMA, 1998), as amended.

DFFE Reference(s): To Be Confirmed

Nature of Activity: Emvelo (Pty) Ltd, Rochdale (Pty) Ltd and Sheepmoor (Pty) Ltd ('the Project Applicants') are proposing the construction and operation of three (3) Wind Energy Facilities (WEF). The potential generation capacity of Emvelo WEF is up to 200 MW, Rochdale WEF is up to 220 MW and Sheepmoor up to 360 MW. Each WEF will comprise various buildings, access roads, a battery energy storage system (BESS), and a substation hub with associated electrical grid infrastructure such as but not limited to a 132kV overhead transmission powerline connecting the WEF to the national electrical grid network.

Development Location: The proposed Mulilo WEF's Cluster are located 30 km east of Ermelo within the Msukaligwa Local Municipality, and Gert Sibande District Municipality.

Application Process: In terms of Chapter 5 of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act 107 of 1998 – NEMA), Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations, 2014 (as amended), the Project Applicants appointed Environmental Resources Management (Pty) Ltd (ERM), to act as the project manager and to undertake the Scoping and Environmental Impact Assessment (S&EIA) processes as the independent environmental impact assessment practitioner (EAP).

ERM has submitted three separate Environmental Applications, including separate Draft Scoping Reports to the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE).

Invitation to Comment: Members of the public, local communities, and stakeholders are invited to comment on the Draft Scoping Reports, which is available for public review and comment, from **Friday, 19 July 2024 to the 20 August 2024 (both days inclusive)**, as per Table 1 below.

Table 1: Public Review and Comment Locations

Location	Physical Address
Electronic Copy Locations (Available for download below)	
Via One Drive	I&APs can request for copies to be sent via one drive shared folder.
Hard Copy Location	

Page 1 of 2

Ermelo Public Library

Ermelo, 2350

CD Copies will be made upon request to the EAP.

Should you wish to be registered as an I&AP and / or would like comment please submit your name, interest in the project or comment, email and postal address and telephone number in writing to the below address:

Environmental Resources Management Southern Africa (Pty) Ltd

Project Reference: 0684401 Mulilo WEF Cluster

Contact Person: Lucien Barbeau

Email: ERM.ArcusAmsterdam@erm.com

Telephone: +27117985400

Post: Postnet Suite 90, Private Bag X12, Tokai, 7966

Online: <https://amsterdamclusterwef.aidaform.com/stakeholder-engagement>

Following the 30-day public participation, the comments will be addressed and incorporated into the Final Scoping Reports, which will be submitted to the DFFE for approval to progress to the EIA Phase.

Please note, regarding the Protection of Personal Information Act (PoPI Act 4 of 2013, as amended): If you request to register as an I&AP, your personal information will be made available to an appellant in the case of an appeal, and an applicant/EAP/independent person for purposes of being informed and given access to an audit report.

Correspondence throughout the Application Process will only be distributed to Registered I&APs. Registration is possible throughout the Application Process.

Thank you for the interest in the project.



Sadiya Salie
Environmental Consultant
Environmental Resources Management (Pty) Ltd

19 Julie 2024

ERM Verwysing: 0684401

Geagte Belanghebbende en Geaffekteerde Party, Belanghebbende, Staats orgaan

**KENNISGEWING VAN BESKIKBAARHEID VAN DIE KONSEP-OMVANGS VERSLAE VIR
OPENBARE HERSIENING EN KOMMENTAAR VAN DIE VOORGESTELDE MULILO
AMSTERDAM WIND ENERGIE FASILITEIT (EMVELO, ROCHDALE EN SHEEPMOOR)
CLUSTER, NABY ERMELO, MPUMALANGA**

Kennis word hiermee gegee van 'n openbare deelname proses (ODP) wat in gevolge die Wet
op Nasionale Omgewingsbestuur, 1998 (Wet No. 107 van 1998) (NEMA, 1998), soos
gewysig, onderneem moet word.

DFFE-verwysing(s): Om bevestig te word

Aard van aktiwiteit: Emvelo (Edms) Bpk, Rochdale (Edms) Bpk en Sheepmoor (Edms) Bpk ('die Projek aansoekers') stel voor dat drie (3) Wind energie fasiliteite (WEF) opgerig en bedryf word. Die potensiele opwekkingsvermoë van Emvelo WEF is tot 200 MW, Rochdale WEF is tot 220 MW en Sheepmoor tot 360 MW. Elke WEF sal bestaan uit verskeie geboue, toegangspaaie, 'n battery-energieberging stelsel (BESS) en 'n substasie naaf met gepaardgaande elektriese netwerk infrastruktuur soos, maar nie beperk tot 'n 132kV oorhoofse transmissie kraglyn wat die WEF met die nasionale elektriese netwerk verbind.

Ontwikkelings ligging: Die voorgestelde Mulilo WEF se cluster is 30 km oos van Ermelo binne die Msukaligwa Plaaslike Munisipaliteit en Gert Sibande Distriksmunisipaliteit geleë.

Aansoek proses: Ingevolge Hoofstuk 5 van die Wet op Nasionale Omgewingsbestuur, 1998 (Wet 107 van 1998 – NEMA), Omgewings Impak studie (EIA) Regulasies, 2014 (soos gewysig), het die Projek aansoekers, Environmental Resources Management (Edms) Bpk (ERM) aangestel om as projek bestuurder op te tree en die Omvang- en Omgewings Impak bepalings prosesse (S&EIA) as die onafhanklike omgewings impak bepalings praktisyn (EAP) te onderneem.

ERM het drie afsonderlike omgewings aansoeke ingedien, waaronder afsonderlike konsep-omvang verslae aan die departement van bosbou, visserye en die omgewing (DFFE).

Uitnodiging om kommentaar te lewer: Lede van die publiek, plaaslike gemeenskappe en belanghebbendes word uitgenooi om kommentaar te lewer op die konsep-omvang verslae, wat beskikbaar is vir openbare hersiening en kommentaar, vanaf **Vrydag, 19 Julie 2024 tot die 20 Augustus 2024 (albei dae ingesluit)**, soos per Tabel 1 hieronder.

Tabel 1: Liggings vir openbare oorsig en kommentaar

Ligging	Fisiese adres
Elektroniese kopie lokasies (beskikbaar vir aflaai hieronder)	
Via One Drive	I &AP's kan versoek dat kopieë via een gedeelde gids van One Drive gestuur word.
Harde kopie ligging	

Page 1 of 2

Ermelo Openbare Biblioteek	Ermelo, 2350
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CD-kopieë sal op versoek aan die EAP gemaak word.

Indien u as 'n I&AP geregistreer wil wees en / of kommentaar wil lewer, dien asseblief u naam, belangstelling in die projek of kommentaar, e-pos adres en pos adres en telefoon nommer skriftelik by die onderstaande adres in:

Environmental Resources Management Southern Africa (Edms) Bpk

Projek verwysing: 0684401 Mulilo WEF-cluster	Kontak persoon: Lucien Barbeau
--	--------------------------------

E-pos: ERM.ArcusAmsterdam@erm.com	Telefoon: +27117985400
-----------------------------------	------------------------

Pos: Postnet Suite 90, Privaatsak X12, Tokai, 7966	Aanlyn: https://amsterdamclusterwef.aidaform.com/stakeholder-engagement
--	---

Na afloop van die openbare deelname van 30 dae, sal die kommentaar aangespreek en opgeneem word in die Finale Omvang verslae, wat aan die DFFE voorgelê sal word vir goedkeuring om na die EIA-fase te vorder.

Let wel, met betrekking tot die Wet op die Beskerming van Persoonlike Inligting (PoPI Wet 4 van 2013, soos gewysig): Indien u versoek om as 'n I&AP te registreer, sal u persoonlike inligting aan 'n appel kandidaat beskikbaar gestel word in die geval van 'n appèl, en 'n aansoeker/EAP/onafhanklike persoon vir doeleindes daarvan om ingelig te word en toegang tot 'n ouditverslag te kry.

Korrespondensie gedurende die aansoek proses sal slegs aan geregistreerde I &AP's versprei word. Registrasie is moontlik gedurende die aansoek proses.

Dankie vir die belangstelling in die projek.



Sadiya Salie
Omgewings konsultant

Environmental Resources Management Southern Africa (Edms) Bpk

From: [ERM Arcus Amsterdam](#)
To: [ERM Arcus Amsterdam](#)
Subject: Notification of Submission: Draft scoping Report Mulilo Amsterdam WEFs, near Ermelo, Mpumalanga
Date: Friday, 19 July 2024 16:38:35
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[IAP Notification Letter Afrikaans.pdf](#)
[IAP Notification Letter English.pdf](#)

SUBMISSION OF DRAFT SCOPING REPORT FOR THE WIND ENERGY FACILITY
(SHEEPMOOR, ROCHDALE AND EMVELO) CLUSTER

Dear Interested and Affected Party,

This email serves to inform you about the submission of the Draft Scoping Reports for the proposed Mulilo Amsterdam WEFs, near Ermelo, Mpumalanga.

Public Participation Process (PPP), which is being undertaken in accordance with the requirements of Section 24 (5) and Chapter 6 (41, 42, 43, and 44) of GN R. 326 of the NEMA, 1998 EIA Regulations, 2014 (as amended) and the Western Cape Department of Environmental Affairs & Development Planning (DEA&DP) Guideline on Public Participation (2011). The reports will be available for a 30 day comment period from 19 July 2024 to 20 August 2024.

Please ensure that you have submitted your comment before the close of the comment period should you wish to have your input considered in the submission of the Final Scoping Report.

More information on how you are able to participate in this process is attached in the above documentation.

Please indicate which application your comment in respect of.

Should you be a Land Owner directly affected by the proposed project (within the project boundary or adjacent thereto) please could you notify all occupants on your properties with regards to the proposed project.

Thank you and regards,

Stephanie Gopaul

Environmental Assessment Practitioner

Consultant
Lucien Barbeau

ERM
240 Main Road, Rondebosch, Cape Town
T +27 21 681 5400
E lucien.barbeau@erm.com | W www.erm.com

a19 Julie 2024

ERM Verwysing: 0684401

Geagte Belanghebbende en Geaffekteerde Party, Belanghebbende, Staats orgaan

KENNISGEWING VAN BESKIKBAARHEID VAN DIE KONSEP-OMVANGS VERSLAE VIR
OPENBARE HERSIENING EN KOMMENTAAR VAN DIE VOORGESTELDE AMSTERDAM WIND
ENERGIE FASILITEIT (EMVELO, ROCHDALE EN SHEEPMOOR) CLUSTER, NABY ERMELO,
MPUMALANGA



Kennis word hiermee gegee van 'n openbare deelname proses (ODP) wat in gevolge die Wet
op Nasionale Omgewingsbestuur, 1998 (Wet No. 107 van 1998) (NEMA, 1998), soos
gewysig, onderneem moet word.

DFFE-verwysing(s): Om bevestig te word

Aard van aktiwiteit: Emvelo Windenergie fasiliteit Bpk, Rochdale Windenergie fasiliteit Bpk en Sheepmoor Windenergie fasiliteit Bpk ('die Projek aansoekers') stel voor dat drie (3) Wind energie fasiliteite (WEF) opgerig en bedryf word. Die potensiele opwekkingsvermoë van Emvelo WEF is tot 200 MW, Rochdale WEF is tot 220 MW en Sheepmoor tot 360 MW. Elke WEF sal bestaan uit verskeie geboue, toegangspaaie, 'n battery-energieberging stelsel (BESS) en 'n substasie naaf met gepaardgaande elektriese netwerk infrastruktuur soos, maar nie beperk tot 'n 132kV oorhoofse transmissie kraglyn wat die WEF met die nasionale elektriese netwerk verbind.

Ontwikkelings ligging: Die voorgestelde Amsterdam WEF se cluster is 30 km oos van Ermelo binne die Msukaligwa Plaaslike Munisipaliteit en Gert Sibande Distriksmunisipaliteit geleë.

Aansoek proses: Ingevolge Hoofstuk 5 van die Wet op Nasionale Omgewingsbestuur, 1998 (Wet 107 van 1998 – NEMA), Omgewings Impak studie (EIA) Regulasies, 2014 (soos gewysig), het die Projek aansoekers, Environmental Resources Management (Edms) Bpk (ERM) aangestel om as projek bestuurder op te tree en die Omvang- en Omgewings Impak bepalings prosesse (S&EIA) as die onafhanklike omgewings impak bepalings praktisyn (EAP) te onderneem.

ERM het drie afsonderlike omgewings aansoeke ingedien, waaronder afsonderlike konsep-omvang verslae aan die departement van bosbou, visserye en die omgewing (DFFE).

Uitnodiging om kommentaar te lewer: Lede van die publiek, plaaslike gemeenskappe en belanghebbendes word uitgenooi om kommentaar te lewer op die konsep-omvang verslae, wat beskikbaar is vir openbare hersiening en kommentaar, vanaf **Vrydag, 19 Julie 2024 tot die 20 Augustus 2024 (albei dae ingesluit)**, soos per Tabel 1 hieronder.

Tabel 1: Liggings vir openbare oorsig en kommentaar

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Harde kopie ligging**Ermelo Openbare Biblioteek**

Ermelo, 2350

CD-kopieë sal op versoek aan die EAP gemaak word.

Indien u as 'n I&AP geregistreer wil wees en / of kommentaar wil lewer, dien asseblief u naam, belangstelling in die projek of kommentaar, e-pos adres en pos adres en telefoon nommer skriftelik by die onderstaande adres in:

Environmental Resources Management Southern Africa (Edms) Bpk**Projek verwysing:** 0684401 Mulilo WEF-cluster**Kontak persoon:** Lucien Barbeau**E-pos:** ERM.ArcusAmsterdam@erm.com**Telefoon:** +27117985400**Pos:** Postnet Suite 90, Privaatsak X12, Tokai, 7966**Aanlyn:** <https://mulilowef.aidaform.com/public-participation-form>

Na afloop van die openbare deelname van 30 dae, sal die kommentaar aangespreek en opgeneem word in die Finale Omvang verslae, wat aan die DFFE voorgelê sal word vir goedkeuring om na die EIA-fase te vorder.

Let wel, met betrekking tot die Wet op die Beskerming van Persoonlike Inligting (PoPI Wet 4 van 2013, soos gewysig): Indien u versoek om as 'n I&AP te registreer, sal u persoonlike inligting aan 'n appel kandidaat beskikbaar gestel word in die geval van 'n appèl, en 'n aansoeker/EAP/onafhanklike persoon vir doeleindes daarvan om ingelig te word en toegang tot 'n ouditverslag te kry.

Korrespondensie gedurende die aansoek proses sal slegs aan geregistreerde I &AP's versprei word. Registrasie is moontlik gedurende die aansoek proses.

Dankie vir die belangstelling in die projek.



Sadiya Salie
Omgewings konsultant

Environmental Resources Management Southern Africa (Edms) Bpk

19 July 2024

ERM Reference: 0684401

Dear Interested and Affected Party, Stakeholder, Organ of State

NOTIFICATION OF AVAILABILITY OF THE DRAFT SCOPING REPORTS FOR PUBLIC REVIEW AND COMMENT OF THE PROPOSED AMSTERDAM WIND ENERGY FACILITY (EMVELO, ROCHDALE AND SHEEPMOOR) CLUSTER, NEAR ERMELO, MPUMALANGA



Notice is hereby given of a Public Participation Process (PPP) to be undertaken in terms of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998) (NEMA, 1998), as amended.

DFFE Reference(s): To Be Confirmed

Nature of Activity: Emvelo Wind Energy Facility (Pty) Ltd, Rochdale Wind Energy Facility (Pty) Ltd and Sheepmoor Wind Energy Facility (Pty) Ltd ('the Project Applicants') are proposing the construction and operation of three (3) Wind Energy Facilities (WEF). The potential generation capacity of Emvelo WEF is up to 200 MW, Rochdale WEF is up to 220 MW and Sheepmoor up to 360 MW. Each WEF will comprise various buildings, access roads, a battery energy storage system (BESS), and a substation hub with associated electrical grid infrastructure such as but not limited to a 132kV overhead transmission powerline connecting the WEF to the national electrical grid network.

Development Location: The proposed Amsterdam WEF's Cluster are located 30 km east of Ermelo within the Msukaligwa Local Municipality, and Gert Sibande District Municipality.

Application Process: In terms of Chapter 5 of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act 107 of 1998 – NEMA), Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations, 2014 (as amended), the Project Applicants appointed Environmental Resources Management (Pty) Ltd (ERM), to act as the project manager and to undertake the Scoping and Environmental Impact Assessment (S&EIA) processes as the independent environmental impact assessment practitioner (EAP).

ERM has submitted three separate Environmental Applications, including separate Draft Scoping Reports to the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE).

Invitation to Comment: Members of the public, local communities, and stakeholders are invited to comment on the Draft Scoping Reports, which is available for public review and comment, from **Friday, 19 July 2024 to the 20 August 2024 (both days inclusive)**, as per Table 1 below.

Table 1: Public Review and Comment Locations

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Electronic Copy Locations (Available for download below)	
Via One Drive	I&APs can request for copies to be sent via one drive shared folder.
Hard Copy Location	

Page 1 of 2

Ermelo Public Library	Ermelo, 2350
CD Copies will be made upon request to the EAP.	

Should you wish to be registered as an I&AP and / or would like comment please submit your name, interest in the project or comment, email and postal address and telephone number in writing to the below address:

Environmental Resources Management Southern Africa (Pty) Ltd

Project Reference: 0684401 Mulilo WEF Cluster	Contact Person: Lucien Barbeau
Email: ERM.ArcusAmsterdam@erm.com	Telephone: +27117985400
Post: Postnet Suite 90, Private Bag X12, Tokai, 7966	Online: https://mulilowef.aidaform.com/public-participation-form

Following the 30-day public participation, the comments will be addressed and incorporated into the Final Scoping Reports, which will be submitted to the DFFE for approval to progress to the EIA Phase.

Please note, regarding the Protection of Personal Information Act (PoPI Act 4 of 2013, as amended): If you request to register as an I&AP, your personal information will be made available to an appellant in the case of an appeal, and an applicant/EAP/independent person for purposes of being informed and given access to an audit report.

Correspondence throughout the Application Process will only be distributed to Registered I&APs. Registration is possible throughout the Application Process.

Thank you for the interest in the project.



Sadiya Salie
Environmental Consultant
Environmental Resources Management (Pty) Ltd

From: [ERM Arcus Amsterdam](#)
To: [ERM Arcus Amsterdam](#)
Bcc:

Subject: Notification of Submission: Draft scoping Report Mulilo Amsterdam WEFs, near Ermelo, Mpumalanga
Date: Friday, 19 July 2024 16:36:00
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[IAP Notification Letter Afrikaans.pdf](#)
[IAP Notification Letter English.pdf](#)

SUBMISSION OF DRAFT SCOPING REPORT FOR THE WIND ENERGY FACILITY (SHEEPMOOR, ROCHDALE AND EMVELO) CLUSTER

Dear Interested and Affected Party,

This email serves to inform you about the submission of the Draft Scoping Reports for the proposed Mulilo Amsterdam WEFs, near Ermelo, Mpumalanga.

Public Participation Process (PPP), which is being undertaken in accordance with the requirements of Section 24 (5) and Chapter 6 (41, 42, 43, and 44) of GN R. 326 of the NEMA, 1998 EIA Regulations, 2014 (as amended) and the Western Cape Department of Environmental Affairs & Development Planning (DEA&DP) Guideline on Public Participation (2011). The reports will be available for a 30 day comment period from 19 July 2024 to 20 August 2024.

Please ensure that you have submitted your comment before the close of the comment period should you wish to have your input considered in the submission of the Final

Scoping Report.

More information on how you are able to participate in this process is attached in the above documentation.

Please indicate which application your comment in respect of.

Should you be a Land Owner directly affected by the proposed project (within the project boundary or adjacent thereto) please could you notify all occupants on your properties with regards to the proposed project.

Thank you and regards,

Stephanie Gopaul

Environmental Assessment Practitioner

Consultant
Lucien Barbeau

ERM

240 Main Road, Rondebosch, Cape Town

T +27 21 681 5400

E lucien.barbeau@erm.com | W www.erm.com



a19 Julie 2024

ERM Verwysing: 0684401

Geagte Belanghebbende en Geaffekteerde Party, Belanghebbende, Staats orgaan

KENNISGEWING VAN BESKIKBAARHEID VAN DIE KONSEP-OMVANGS VERSLAE VIR
OPENBARE HERSIENING EN KOMMENTAAR VAN DIE VOORGESTELDE AMSTERDAM WIND
ENERGIE FASILITEIT (EMVELO, ROCHDALE EN SHEEPMOOR) CLUSTER, NABY ERMELO,
MPUMALANGA



Kennis word hiermee gegee van 'n openbare deelname proses (ODP) wat in gevolge die Wet
op Nasionale Omgewingsbestuur, 1998 (Wet No. 107 van 1998) (NEMA, 1998), soos
gewysig, onderneem moet word.

DFFE-verwysing(s): Om bevestig te word

Aard van aktiwiteit: Emvelo Windenergie fasiliteit Bpk, Rochdale Windenergie fasiliteit Bpk en Sheepmoor Windenergie fasiliteit Bpk ('die Projek aansoekers') stel voor dat drie (3) Wind energie fasiliteite (WEF) opgerig en bedryf word. Die potensiele opwekkingsvermoë van Emvelo WEF is tot 200 MW, Rochdale WEF is tot 220 MW en Sheepmoor tot 360 MW. Elke WEF sal bestaan uit verskeie geboue, toegangspaaie, 'n battery-energieberging stelsel (BESS) en 'n substasie naaf met gepaardgaande elektriese netwerk infrastruktuur soos, maar nie beperk tot 'n 132kV oorhoofse transmissie kraglyn wat die WEF met die nasionale elektriese netwerk verbind.

Ontwikkelings ligging: Die voorgestelde Amsterdam WEF se cluster is 30 km oos van Ermelo binne die Msukaligwa Plaaslike Munisipaliteit en Gert Sibande Distriksmunisipaliteit geleë.

Aansoek proses: Ingevolge Hoofstuk 5 van die Wet op Nasionale Omgewingsbestuur, 1998 (Wet 107 van 1998 – NEMA), Omgewings Impak studie (EIA) Regulasies, 2014 (soos gewysig), het die Projek aansoekers, Environmental Resources Management (Edms) Bpk (ERM) aangestel om as projek bestuurder op te tree en die Omvang- en Omgewings Impak bepalings prosesse (S&EIA) as die onafhanklike omgewings impak bepalings praktisyn (EAP) te onderneem.

ERM het drie afsonderlike omgewings aansoeke ingedien, waaronder afsonderlike konsep-omvang verslae aan die departement van bosbou, visserye en die omgewing (DFFE).

Uitnodiging om kommentaar te lewer: Lede van die publiek, plaaslike gemeenskappe en belanghebbendes word uitgenooi om kommentaar te lewer op die konsep-omvang verslae, wat beskikbaar is vir openbare hersiening en kommentaar, vanaf **Vrydag, 19 Julie 2024 tot die 20 Augustus 2024 (albei dae ingesluit)**, soos per Tabel 1 hieronder.

Tabel 1: Liggings vir openbare oorsig en kommentaar

Ligging	Fisiese adres
Elektroniese kopie lokasies (beskikbaar vir aflaai hieronder)	
Via One Drive	I &AP's kan versoek dat kopieë via een gedeelde gids van One Drive gestuur word.

Harde kopie ligging**Ermelo Openbare Biblioteek**

Ermelo, 2350

CD-kopieë sal op versoek aan die EAP gemaak word.

Indien u as 'n I&AP geregistreer wil wees en / of kommentaar wil lewer, dien asseblief u naam, belangstelling in die projek of kommentaar, e-pos adres en pos adres en telefoon nommer skriftelik by die onderstaande adres in:

Environmental Resources Management Southern Africa (Edms) Bpk**Projek verwysing:** 0684401 Mulilo WEF-cluster**Kontak persoon:** Lucien Barbeau**E-pos:** ERM.ArcusAmsterdam@erm.com**Telefoon:** +27117985400**Pos:** Postnet Suite 90, Privaatsak X12, Tokai, 7966**Aanlyn:** <https://mulilowef.aidaform.com/public-participation-form>

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Dankie vir die belangstelling in die projek.



Sadiya Salie
Omgewings konsultant

Environmental Resources Management Southern Africa (Edms) Bpk

19 July 2024

ERM Reference: 0684401

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NOTIFICATION OF AVAILABILITY OF THE DRAFT SCOPING REPORTS FOR PUBLIC REVIEW AND COMMENT OF THE PROPOSED AMSTERDAM WIND ENERGY FACILITY (EMVELO, ROCHDALE AND SHEEPMOOR) CLUSTER, NEAR ERMELO, MPUMALANGA



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Project Reference: 0684401 Mulilo WEF Cluster

Contact Person: Lucien Barbeau

Email: ERM.ArcusAmsterdam@erm.com

Telephone: +27117985400

Post: Postnet Suite 90, Private Bag X12, Tokai, 7966

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Thank you for the interest in the project.



Sadiya Salie
Environmental Consultant
Environmental Resources Management (Pty) Ltd

From: [Khululwa Matshoba](#)
To: [ERM Arcus Amsterdam](#)
Subject: Automatic reply: Notification of Submission: Draft scoping Report Mulilo Amsterdam WEFs, near Ermelo, Mpumalanga
Date: Friday, 19 July 2024 16:38:35

You don't often get email from stuurmkv@ntcsa.co.za. [Learn why this is important](#)

EXTERNAL MESSAGE

Good day

Please note that I am on leave from 15 to 26 July 2024. For work related matters please contact Martina Phiri.

Thank you.

Warm regards
Khululwa

Disclaimer

NB: This Email and its contents are subject to the NTCSA EMAIL LEGAL NOTICE which can be viewed [here](#).

From: [EWT EIA Applications](#)
To: [ERM Arcus Amsterdam](#)
Subject: Automatic reply: Notification of Submission: Draft scoping Report Mulilo Amsterdam WEFs, near Ermelo, Mpumalanga
Date: Friday, 19 July 2024 16:38:42

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EXTERNAL MESSAGE

Please note that this email address is an internal repository for development application documents only. Submissions to this email will not be considered as notifications to the interested and affected party. Only submissions to actual staff of the EWT will be considered as formal notifications of development applications. Please cc the relevant EWT staff member (if you know who is responsible for the region in question) and Kish Chetty (KishC@ewt.org.za) to ensure that the development application is considered and addressed.

Thank you.

From: [Leonard Shaw \(LS\)](#)
To: [ERM Arcus Amsterdam](#)
Subject: Automatic reply: Notification of Submission: Draft scoping Report Mulilo Amsterdam WEFs, near Ermelo, Mpumalanga
Date: Friday, 19 July 2024 16:40:29

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WARNING: The sender of this email could not be validated and may not match the person in the "From" field.

EXTERNAL MESSAGE

Out of office on 19 July 2024. Contact Trevor Watts (wattstj@telkom.co.za).

==== This e-mail and its contents are subject to the Telkom SA SOC Ltd. E-mail legal notice http://www.telkom.co.za/about_us/download/TelkomEMailLegalNotice.pdf ====

From: [ERM Arcus Amsterdam](#)
To: [ERM Arcus Amsterdam](#)
Bcc:



Subject: Notification of Submission: Draft scoping Report Mulilo Amsterdam WEFs, near Ermelo, Mpumalanga
Date: Friday, 19 July 2024 16:36:00
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[IAP Notification Letter Afrikaans.pdf](#)
[IAP Notification Letter English.pdf](#)

SUBMISSION OF DRAFT SCOPING REPORT FOR THE WIND ENERGY FACILITY (SHEEPMOOR, ROCHDALE AND EMVELO) CLUSTER

Dear Interested and Affected Party,

This email serves to inform you about the submission of the Draft Scoping Reports for the proposed Mulilo Amsterdam WEFs, near Ermelo, Mpumalanga.

Public Participation Process (PPP), which is being undertaken in accordance with the requirements of Section 24 (5) and Chapter 6 (41, 42, 43, and 44) of GN R. 326 of the NEMA, 1998 EIA Regulations, 2014 (as amended) and the Western Cape Department of Environmental Affairs & Development Planning (DEA&DP) Guideline on Public Participation (2011). The reports will be available for a 30 day comment period from 19 July 2024 to 20 August 2024.

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Please indicate which application your comment in respect of.

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Thank you and regards,

Stephanie Gopaul

Environmental Assessment Practitioner

Consultant
Lucien Barbeau

ERM

240 Main Road, Rondebosch, Cape Town

T +27 21 681 5400

E lucien.barbeau@erm.com | W www.erm.com



From: [Nrateng Mashiloane](#)
To: [ERM Arcus Amsterdam](#)
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Notification of Submission: Draft scoping Report Mulilo Amsterdam WEFs, near Ermelo, Mpumalanga
Date: Tuesday, 23 July 2024 09:25:26
Attachments: [image002.png](#)
[image005.png](#)
[image006.png](#)
[image012.png](#)
[image001.png](#)

You don't often get email from mashiloanen@caa.co.za. [Learn why this is important](#)

EXTERNAL MESSAGE

Good day,

I hope this email finds you well. Kindly note that the SACAA has transferred all obstacle assessments and applications responsibilities to Air Traffic and Navigation Services (ATNS) as published on the SACAA website: www.caa.co.za/industryinformation/obstacles/. A formal application must be lodged with Air Traffic and Navigation Services (ATNS) for a formal obstacles assessment to be conducted. The list and contact details of the approved obstacles assessment services providers can be obtained from the CAA website: www.caa.co.za.

Kind regards,

Nrateng Mashiloane

Aviation Environmental Compliance Department

Aviation Safety Infrastructure (ASI)- Aviation Environmental Compliance

Tel: +27 11 545 1199 | **Fax:** +27 11 545 1282 **Email:** MashiloaneN@caa.co.za |

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From: ERM Arcus Amsterdam <ERM.ArcusAmsterdam@erm.com>

Sent: Friday, July 19, 2024 4:37 PM

To: ERM Arcus Amsterdam <ERM.ArcusAmsterdam@erm.com>

Subject: Notification of Submission: Draft scoping Report Mulilo Amsterdam WEFs, near Ermelo, Mpumalanga

"This message was sent from outside of SACAA. Please use caution when opening links and/ or attachments"

SUBMISSION OF DRAFT SCOPING REPORT FOR THE WIND ENERGY FACILITY (SHEEPMOOR,

ROCHDALE AND EMVELO) CLUSTER

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Thank you and regards,

Stephanie Gopaul

Environmental Assessment Practitioner

Consultant
Lucien Barbeau

ERM
240 Main Road, Rondebosch, Cape Town
T +27 21 681 5400
E lucien.barbeau@erm.com | W www.erm.com



From: [John Geeringh](#)
To: [ERM Arcus Amsterdam](#)
Subject: RE: [CAUTION:EXTERNAL EMAIL] Notification of Submission: Draft scoping Report Mulilo Amsterdam WEFs, near Ermelo, Mpumalanga
Date: Tuesday, 23 July 2024 11:53:35
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[Eskom requirements for work in or near Eskom servitudes.doc](#)
[Renewable Energy Generation Plant Setbacks to Eskom Infrastructure Rev2 - signed.pdf](#)

You don't often get email from geerinjh@ntcsa.co.za. [Learn why this is important](#)

EXTERNAL MESSAGE

Please send me KMZ files of the proposed developments and grid connection. Please find attached Eskom requirements for work at or near Eskom infrastructure and servitudes, as well as a setbacks guideline for RE Developments.

Kind regards

John Geeringh (Pr Sci Nat) Reg. EAP (EAPASA)
Senior Consultant Environmental Management
Grid Planning: Land and Rights
National Transmission Company South Africa SOC Ltd (NTCSA)
Megawatt Park, B2Y25, Maxwell Drive, Sunninghill, Sandton.
P O Box 1091, Johannesburg, 2000.

Disclaimer

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From: ERM Arcus Amsterdam <ERM.ArcusAmsterdam@erm.com>
Sent: Friday, 19 July 2024 16:40
To: ERM Arcus Amsterdam <ERM.ArcusAmsterdam@erm.com>
Subject: [CAUTION:EXTERNAL EMAIL] Notification of Submission: Draft scoping Report Mulilo Amsterdam WEFs, near Ermelo, Mpumalanga

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(SHEEPMOOR, ROCHDALE AND EMVELO) CLUSTER**

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T +27 21 681 5400
E lucien.barbeau@erm.com | W www.erm.com



TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN


Eskom requirements for work in or near Eskom servitudes.


1. Eskom's rights and services must be acknowledged and respected at all times.
2. Eskom shall at all times retain unobstructed access to and egress from its servitudes.
3. Eskom's consent does not relieve the developer from obtaining the necessary statutory, land owner or municipal approvals.
4. Any cost incurred by Eskom as a result of non-compliance to any relevant environmental legislation will be charged to the developer.
5. If Eskom has to incur any expenditure in order to comply with statutory clearances or other regulations as a result of the developer's activities or because of the presence of his equipment or installation within the servitude restriction area, the developer shall pay such costs to Eskom on demand.
6. The use of explosives of any type within 500 metres of Eskom's services shall only occur with Eskom's previous written permission. If such permission is granted the developer must give at least fourteen working days prior notice of the commencement of blasting. This allows time for arrangements to be made for supervision and/or precautionary instructions to be issued in terms of the blasting process. It is advisable to make application separately in this regard.
7. Changes in ground level may not infringe statutory ground to conductor clearances or statutory visibility clearances. After any changes in ground level, the surface shall be rehabilitated and stabilised so as to prevent erosion. The measures taken shall be to Eskom's satisfaction.
8. Eskom shall not be liable for the death of or injury to any person or for the loss of or damage to any property whether as a result of the encroachment or of the use of the servitude area by the developer, his/her agent, contractors, employees, successors in title, and assignees. The developer indemnifies Eskom against loss, claims or damages including claims pertaining to consequential damages by third parties and whether as a result of damage to or interruption of or interference with Eskom's services or apparatus or otherwise. Eskom will not be held responsible for damage to the developer's equipment.
9. No mechanical equipment, including mechanical excavators or high lifting machinery, shall be used in the vicinity of Eskom's apparatus and/or services, without prior written permission having been granted by Eskom. If such permission is granted the developer must give at least seven working days' notice prior to the commencement of work. This allows time for arrangements to be made for supervision and/or precautionary instructions to be issued by the relevant Eskom Manager

Note: Where an electrical outage is required, at least fourteen work days are required to arrange it.

10. Eskom's rights and duties in the servitude shall be accepted as having prior right at all times and shall not be obstructed or interfered with.
11. Under no circumstances shall rubble, earth or other material be dumped within the servitude restriction area. The developer shall maintain the area concerned to Eskom's satisfaction. The developer shall be liable to Eskom for the cost of any remedial action which has to be carried out by Eskom.
12. The clearances between Eskom's live electrical equipment and the proposed construction work shall be observed as stipulated by *Regulation 15 of the Electrical Machinery Regulations of the Occupational Health and Safety Act, 1993 (Act 85 of 1993)*.
13. Equipment shall be regarded electrically live and therefore dangerous at all times.
14. In spite of the restrictions stipulated by Regulation 15 of the Electrical Machinery Regulations of the Occupational Health and Safety Act, 1993 (Act 85 of 1993), as an additional safety precaution, Eskom will not approve the erection of houses, or structures occupied or frequented by human beings, under the power lines or within the servitude restriction area.
15. Eskom may stipulate any additional requirements to highlight any possible exposure to Customers or Public to coming into contact or be exposed to any dangers of Eskom plant.
16. It is required of the developer to familiarise himself with all safety hazards related to Electrical plant.
17. Any third party servitudes encroaching on Eskom servitudes shall be registered against Eskom's title deed at the developer's own cost. If such a servitude is brought into being, its existence should be endorsed on the Eskom servitude deed concerned, while the third party's servitude deed must also include the rights of the affected Eskom servitude.

John Geeringh (Pr Sci Nat)(EAPASA)
Senior Consultant Environmental Management
Eskom Transmission Division: Land & Rights
Megawatt Park, D1Y42, Maxwell Drive, Sunninghill, Sandton.
P O Box 1091, Johannesburg, 2000.
Tel: 011 516 7233



 Eskom	SCOT	Technology
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Title: **Renewable Energy Generation Plant Setbacks to Eskom Infrastructure** Unique Identifier: **240-65559775**

Alternative Reference Number: **N/A**

Area of Applicability: **Power Line Engineering**



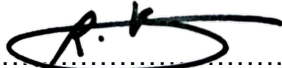
Documentation Type: **Guideline**

Revision: **2**

Total Pages: **9**

Next Review Date: **N/A**

Disclosure Classification: **CONTROLLED DISCLOSURE**

Compiled by	Approved by	Authorised by
		
J W Chetty Mechanical Engineer	B Ntshuntsha Chief Engineer (Lines)	R A Vajeth Snr Manager (Lines) and SCOT/SC/ Chairperson
Date: 15 / 09 / 2020	Date: 30/10/2020	Date: 30/10/2020

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In recent decades, the use of wind turbines, concentrated solar plants and photovoltaic plants have been on the increase as it serves as an abundant source of energy. This document specifies proposed setbacks for wind turbines and the reasons for these setbacks from infrastructure as well as setbacks for concentrated solar plants and photovoltaic plants. Setbacks for wind turbines employed in other countries were compared and a general setback to be used by Eskom was suggested for use with wind turbines and other renewable energy generation plants.

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1. INTRODUCTION

During the last few decades, a large amount of wind turbines have been installed in wind farms to accommodate for the large demand of energy and depleting fossil fuels. Wind is one of the most abundant sources of renewable energy. Wind turbines harness the energy of this renewable resource for integration in electricity networks. The extraction of wind energy is its primary function and thus the aerodynamics of the wind turbine is important. There are many different types of wind turbines which will all exhibit different wind flow characteristics. The most common wind turbine used commercially is the Horizontal Axis Wind Turbine. Wind flow characteristics of this turbine are important to analyse as it may have an effect on surrounding infrastructure.

Wind turbines also cause large turbulence downwind that may affect existing infrastructure. Debris or parts of the turbine blade, in the case of a failure, may be tossed behind the turbine and may lead to damage of infrastructure in the wake path.

This document outlines the minimum distances that need to be introduced between a wind turbine and Eskom infrastructure to ensure that debris and / or turbulence would not negatively impact on the infrastructure and future expansion of infrastructure (lines and substation) as per the long term planning scenario.

Safety distances of wind turbines from other structures as implemented by other countries were also considered and the reasons for their selection were noted. All renewable energy developments are approved by The Department of Environmental Affairs, Forestry and Fisheries (DEFF) in terms of NEMA. The DEFF is aware of the setbacks guideline, however they cannot use it in terms of decision making since the setbacks document has no legal standing in SA and it would be outside of their mandate who have been advised to follow the guidelines herein.

Concentrated solar plants and photovoltaic plants setbacks away from substations were also to be considered to prevent restricting possible power line access routes to the substation and possible expansion of substations.

2. SUPPORTING CLAUSES

2.1 SCOPE

This document provides guidance on the safe distance that a wind turbine should be located from any Eskom power line or substation. Although it is not based on any legislative requirement, it is deemed important that Eskom's infrastructure and future network expansion planning is not impeded. The document specifies proposed setback distances for transmission lines (220 kV to 765 kV), distribution lines

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(66 kV to 132 kV) and all Eskom substations. Proposed setbacks for concentrated solar plants and photovoltaic plants are also specified away from substations.

2.1.1 Purpose

Setbacks for wind turbines and power lines / substations are required for various reasons. These include possible catastrophic failure of the turbine blade that may release fragments and which may be thrown onto nearby power lines that may result in damage with associated unplanned outages. Turbulence behind the turbine may affect helicopter flight during routine Eskom live line maintenance and inspections that may lead to safety risk of the aircraft / personnel. Concentrated solar plants and photovoltaic plants setback away from substations were required to prevent substations from being boxed in by these renewable generation plants limiting line route access to the substations and possible future substation expansion.

2.1.2 Applicability

This document is applicable to the siting of all new and existing wind turbines, concentrated solar plants and photovoltaic plants near power lines and substations and in line of site between Eskom telecommunication infrastructure, including future Eskom renewable energy development.

2.2 NORMATIVE/INFORMATIVE REFERENCES

2.2.1 Normative

1. <http://www.envir.ee/orb.aw/class=file/action=preview/id=1170403/Hiiumaa+turbulence+impact+EMD.pdf>.
2. <http://www.energy.ca.gov/2005publications/CEC-500-2005-184/CEC-500-2005-184.PDF>
3. <http://www.adamscountywind.com/Revised%20Site/Windmills/Adams%20County%20Ordinance/Adams%20County%20Wind%20Ord.htm>
4. http://www.dsireusa.org/incentives/incentive.cfm?Incentive_Code=PA11R&RE=1&EE=1
5. <http://www.wind-watch.org/documents/european-setbacks-minimum-distance-between-wind-turbines-and-habitations/>
6. <http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201011/ldbills/017/11017.1-i.html>
7. http://www.caw.ca/assets/pdf/Turbine_Safety_Report.pdf
8. Rogers J, Slegers N, Costello M. (2011) A method for defining wind turbine setback standards. Wind energy 10.1002/we.468

2.2.2 Informative

None

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2.3 DEFINITIONS

Definition	Description
Setback	The minimum distance between a wind turbine and boundary line/dwelling/road/infrastructure/servitude etc.
Flicker	Effect caused when rotating wind turbine blades periodically cast shadows
Tip Height	The total height of the wind turbine ie. Hub height plus half rotor diameter (see Figure1)

2.3.1 Disclosure Classification

Controlled disclosure: controlled disclosure to external parties (either enforced by law, or discretionary).

2.4 ABBREVIATIONS

Abbreviation	Description
None	

2.5 ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

All parties involved in the positioning wind turbines, concentrated solar plants and photovoltaic plants near power lines/substations should endeavour to follow the setbacks outlined in this guideline.

2.6 PROCESS FOR MONITORING

Agreement by Eskom in writing on any encroachment of the setbacks distance should be requested via the Grid Access Unit. Eskom should ensure that every application for renewable energy (RE) developments are informed about the existence of the setbacks document early in the RE planning process to ensure maximum effect. This includes Eskom RE development.

2.7 RELATED/SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

None

3. DOCUMENT CONTENT

3.1 INTERNATIONAL SETBACK COMPARISON

Wind Turbine setbacks employed by various countries were considered. It was found that setbacks were determined for various reasons that include noise, flicker, turbine blade failure and wind effects as well as

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future network expansion planning. The distances (setbacks) varied based on these factors and were influenced by the type of infrastructure

Wind turbine setbacks varied for roads, power lines, dwellings, buildings and property and it was noted that the largest setbacks were employed for reasons of noise and flicker related issues [1-7]. Very few countries specified setbacks for power lines.

The literature survey [1-7], yielded information about studies and experiments were conducted to determine the distance that a broken fragment from a wind turbine might be thrown. Even though of low probability of hitting a power line [5.0×10^{-5} ^[8]], the distances recorded were significant [750m ^[8]]

Wind turbines may also cause changes in wind patterns with turbulent effects behind the hub. These factors influence the wind turbine setbacks specified in this document.

Setbacks were thus introduced to prevent any damage to Eskom infrastructure and impedance to operation and future network expansion planning.

Renewable energy plant can also limit access into substations for power lines of all voltages. A setback distance should therefore be employed to prevent substations from being boxed in by these generation plants and preventing future network expansion. These setback distances are specified in this document.

3.2 ESKOM RECOMMENDED SETBACKS

Any renewable energy applicant should engage with Eskom to determine if their plant layout or positioning of turbines, CSP or PV infrastructure would encroach on the proposed setbacks provided for in this guideline and to ensure that their planning and Eskom's future expansion planning is taken into account. Eskom must inform all renewable energy developers, including Eskom RE, of the existence of the setbacks guideline early in the development process. Should there be an encroachment, a formal request should be sent to and accepted by Eskom in writing if any of the below mentioned setback distances are infringed upon:

- Eskom requests a setback distance of 3 times the tip height of the wind turbine from the edge of the closest Eskom servitude (including vacant servitudes) for transmission lines (220kV to 765kV) and Substations.
- Eskom requests a setback distance of 1 times the tip height of the wind turbine from the edge of the closest Eskom servitude (including vacant servitudes) for distribution lines (66 kV to 132 kV) and Substations.

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- A written request should be sent to Eskom via the Grid Access Unit regarding any proposed wind turbine, concentrated solar plants and photovoltaic activity within a 5 km radius of a substation for Eskom to comment on.
- Where concentrated solar plants, photovoltaic structures, battery storage systems (BESS) and other renewable generation plants fall within a 2 km radius of the closest point of a transmission or distribution substation (66kV to 765kV), a written agreement with Eskom is recommended during the planning phase of such plant or structures to ensure Eskom's future planning is not impeded.
- Applicants should not position any wind turbine in the line of site between and two Eskom Radio Telecommunication masts. It should be proven that Eskom radio telecommunication systems (mainly microwave systems) will not be affected in any way by wind turbines due to the criticality of this infrastructure in terms of network operation. Eskom Telecommunications should be engaged on this matter.
- If the position or size of any turbine changes and subsequently infringes on any of the above stated setbacks, a request for relaxation must be sent through to Eskom as per the point mentioned above.

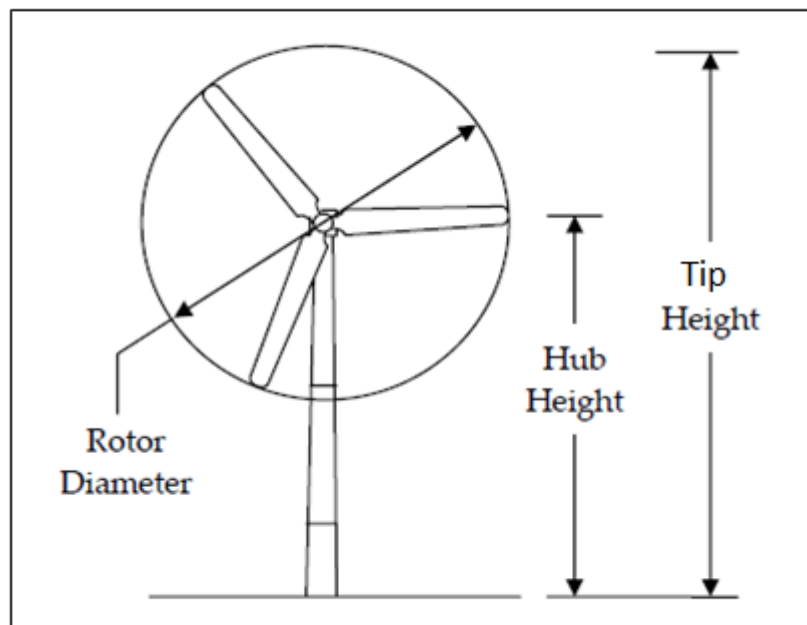


Figure 1: Horizontal Axis Wind Turbine ^[2]

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4. AUTHORISATION

This document has been seen and accepted by:

Name & Surname	Designation
V Naidoo	Chief Engineer
Dr P Pretorius	Electrical Specialist
J Geeringh	Snr Consultant Environ Mngt
B Haridass	Snr Consultant Engineer
B Ntshuntsha	Chief Engineer
R Vajeth	Snr Manager (Lines)
D A Tunncliff	Snr Manager L&R (Acting)
B Branfield	Snr Consultant Engineer

5. REVISIONS

Date	Rev.	Compiler	Remarks
November 2013	0	J W Chetty	First Publication - No renewable energy generation plant setback specification in existence.
October 2018	1	JW Chetty	Modification to sub-section 3.2 to provide more clarity for application procedure.
June 2020	2	JW Chetty	Content within the guideline was re-worded to explain the benefits of mutual agreements between the applicants and ESKOM rather than the application being a legal obligation.

6. DEVELOPMENT TEAM

The following people were involved in the development of this document:

Jonathan Chetty (Mechanical Engineer)

Vivendhra Naidoo (Chief Engineer)

Dr Pieter Pretorius (Electrical Specialist)

John Geeringh (Snr Consultant Environ Mngt)

Bharat Haridass (Snr Consultant Engineer)

Riaz Vajeth (Snr Manager (Lines))

Bruce Ntshuntsha (Chief Engineer)

David Tunncliff (Snr Manager L&R Acting)

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When downloaded from the EDMS, this document is uncontrolled and the responsibility rests with the user to ensure it is in line with the authorised version on the system.

From: [Lydia Kutu](#)
To: [ERM Arcus Amsterdam](#)
Cc: [Bathandwa Ncube](#); [EIAadmin](#); [Salome Mambane](#); [Stephen Burton](#); [Sadiya Salie](#); [Anathi Manyakanyaka](#); [Stephanie Gopaul](#)
Subject: 14/12/16/3/3/2/2591
Date: Wednesday, 24 July 2024 07:34:11

You don't often get email from lkutu@dfre.gov.za. [Learn why this is important](#)

EXTERNAL MESSAGE

Dear Sir/Madam

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF RECEIPT OF THE NEW APPLICATION FORM AND DRAFT SCOPING REPORT FOR THE PROPOSED CARLETONVILLE SOLAR PHOTOVOLTAIC PLANT AND ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE ON REMAINDER OF FARM TWYFELVLAKTE NO. 105, MERAFONG CITY LOCAL MUNICIPALITY, WEST RAND DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY, GAUTENG PROVINCE.

The Department confirms having received the Application Form and Draft Scoping Report for Environmental Authorisation for the abovementioned project on 22 July 2024. You have submitted these documents to comply with the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations, 2014, as amended.

Kindly note that your application for Environmental Authorisation falls within the ambit of an application applied for in terms of Part 3 of Chapter 4 of the EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended. You are therefore referred to Regulation 21 of the EIA Regulations, 2014 as amended.

Please take note of Regulation 40(3) of the EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended, which states that potential Interested & Affected Parties, including the Competent Authority, may be provided with an opportunity to comment on reports and plans contemplated in Regulation 40(1) of the EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended, prior to the submission of an application but must be provided an opportunity to comment on such reports once an application has been submitted to the Competent Authority.

Note that in terms of Regulation 45 of the EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended, this application will lapse if the applicant fails to meet any of the time-frames prescribed in terms of these Regulations, unless an extension has been granted by the Department in terms of Regulation 3(7) of the EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended.

You are hereby reminded of Section 24F of the National Environmental Management Act, Act No. 107 of 1998, as amended, that no activity may commence prior to an Environmental Authorisation being granted by the Department.

Kind Regards,
Lydia Kutu
Integrated Environmental Authorisations:
Coordination, Strategic Planning and Support
Tel: [\(012\) 399 9370](tel:0123999370)
Email: LKutu@dfre.gov.za

To God be the Glory!!!

From: [REDACTED]
To: [ERM Arcus Amsterdam](#)
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Recall: 14/12/16/3/3/2/2591
Date: Wednesday, 24 July 2024 07:36:10

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EXTERNAL MESSAGE

Lydia Kutu would like to recall the message, "14/12/16/3/3/2/2591".

From: [REDACTED]
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: 14/12/16/3/3/2/2592
Date: Wednesday, 24 July 2024 07:37:17

[Stephanie Gopaul](#)

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EXTERNAL MESSAGE

Dear Sir/Madam

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF RECEIPT OF THE NEW APPLICATION FORM AND DRAFT SCOPING REPORT FOR THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF THE ROCHDALE WIND ENERGY FACILITY AND AUXILIARY INFRASTRUCTURE, INCLUDING A GRID CONNECTION, NEAR ERMELO, WITHIN THE MSUKALIGWA LOCAL MUNICIPALITY, AND GERT SIBANDE DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY, MPUMALANGA PROVINCE.

The Department confirms having received the Application Form and Draft Scoping Report for Environmental Authorisation for the abovementioned project on 22 July 2024. You have submitted these documents to comply with the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations, 2014, as amended.

Kindly note that your application for Environmental Authorisation falls within the ambit of an application applied for in terms of Part 3 of Chapter 4 of the EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended. You are therefore referred to Regulation 21 of the EIA Regulations, 2014 as amended.

Please take note of Regulation 40(3) of the EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended, which states that potential Interested & Affected Parties, including the Competent Authority, may be provided with an opportunity to comment on reports and plans contemplated in Regulation 40(1) of the EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended, prior to the submission of an application but must be provided an opportunity to comment on such reports once an application has been submitted to the Competent Authority.

Note that in terms of Regulation 45 of the EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended, this application will lapse if the applicant fails to meet any of the time-frames prescribed in terms of these Regulations, unless an extension has been granted by the Department in terms of Regulation 3(7) of the EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended.

You are hereby reminded of Section 24F of the National Environmental Management Act, Act No. 107 of 1998, as amended, that no activity may commence prior to an Environmental Authorisation being granted by the Department.

Kind Regards,
Lydia Kutu
Integrated Environmental Authorisations:
Coordination, Strategic Planning and Support
Tel: (012) 399 9370
Email: LKutu@dfre.gov.za

To God be the Glory!!!

From: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: 14/12/16/3/3/2/2591
Date: Wednesday, 24 July 2024 07:38:14

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EXTERNAL MESSAGE

Dear Sir/Madam

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF RECEIPT OF THE NEW APPLICATION FORM AND DRAFT SCOPING REPORT FOR THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF THE EMVELO WIND ENERGY FACILITY AND AUXILIARY INFRASTRUCTURE, NEAR ERMELO, WITHIN THE MSUKALIGWA LOCAL MUNICIPALITY, AND GERT SIBANDE DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY, MPUMALANGA PROVINCE.

The Department confirms having received the Application Form and Draft Scoping Report for Environmental Authorisation for the abovementioned project on 22 July 2024. You have submitted these documents to comply with the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations, 2014, as amended.

Kindly note that your application for Environmental Authorisation falls within the ambit of an application applied for in terms of Part 3 of Chapter 4 of the EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended. You are therefore referred to Regulation 21 of the EIA Regulations, 2014 as amended.

Please take note of Regulation 40(3) of the EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended, which states that potential Interested & Affected Parties, including the Competent Authority, may be provided with an opportunity to comment on reports and plans contemplated in Regulation 40(1) of the EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended, prior to the submission of an application but must be provided an opportunity to comment on such reports once an application has been submitted to the Competent Authority.

Note that in terms of Regulation 45 of the EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended, this application will lapse if the applicant fails to meet any of the time-frames prescribed in terms of these Regulations, unless an extension has been granted by the Department in terms of Regulation 3(7) of the EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended.

You are hereby reminded of Section 24F of the National Environmental Management Act, Act No. 107 of 1998, as amended, that no activity may commence prior to an Environmental Authorisation being granted by the Department.

Kind Regards,
Lydia Kutu
Integrated Environmental Authorisations:
Coordination, Strategic Planning and Support
Tel: (012) 399 9370
Email: LKutu@dffe.gov.za

To God be the Glory!!!

From: [Lydia Kutu](#)
To: [ERM Arcus Amsterdam](#)
Cc: [Bathandwa Ncube](#); [EIAadmin](#); [Salome Mambane](#); [Stephen Burton](#); [Sadiya Salie](#); [Anathi Manyakanyaka](#); [Stephanie Gopaul](#)
Subject: 14/12/16/3/3/2/2593
Date: Wednesday, 24 July 2024 07:40:13

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EXTERNAL MESSAGE

Dear Sir/Madam

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF RECEIPT OF THE NEW APPLICATION FORM AND DRAFT SCOPING REPORT FOR THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF THE SHEEPMOOR WIND ENERGY FACILITY AND AUXILIARY INFRASTRUCTURE, NEAR ERMELO, WITHIN THE MSUKALIGWA LOCAL MUNICIPALITY, AND GERT SIBANDE DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY, MPUMALANGA PROVINCE.

The Department confirms having received the Application Form and Draft Scoping Report for Environmental Authorisation for the abovementioned project on 22 July 2024. You have submitted these documents to comply with the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations, 2014, as amended.

Kindly note that your application for Environmental Authorisation falls within the ambit of an application applied for in terms of Part 3 of Chapter 4 of the EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended. You are therefore referred to Regulation 21 of the EIA Regulations, 2014 as amended.

Please take note of Regulation 40(3) of the EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended, which states that potential Interested & Affected Parties, including the Competent Authority, may be provided with an opportunity to comment on reports and plans contemplated in Regulation 40(1) of the EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended, prior to the submission of an application but must be provided an opportunity to comment on such reports once an application has been submitted to the Competent Authority.

Note that in terms of Regulation 45 of the EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended, this application will lapse if the applicant fails to meet any of the time-frames prescribed in terms of these Regulations, unless an extension has been granted by the Department in terms of Regulation 3(7) of the EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended.

You are hereby reminded of Section 24F of the National Environmental Management Act, Act No. 107 of 1998, as amended, that no activity may commence prior to an Environmental Authorisation being granted by the Department.

Kind Regards,
Lydia Kutu
Integrated Environmental Authorisations:
Coordination, Strategic Planning and Support
Tel: [\(012\) 399 9370](tel:0123999370)
Email: LKutu@dfre.gov.za

To God be the Glory!!!

From: [BC Admin](#)
To: [ERM Arcus Amsterdam](#)
Cc: [Portia Makitla](#); [Tebego Kgaphola](#); [Lindiwe Victoria Dlamini](#)
Subject: RE: Notification of Submission: Draft scoping Report Mulilo Amsterdam WEFs, near Ermelo, Mpumalanga
Date: Monday, 29 July 2024 09:21:58
Attachments: [image002.png](#)
[image001.png](#)
[image005.png](#)

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EXTERNAL MESSAGE

Dear Sir/Madam

DFFE Directorate: Biodiversity Conservation hereby acknowledge receipt of the invitation to review and comment on the project mentioned on the subject line. Kindly note that the project has been allocated to Mrs P Makitla and Ms Tebego Kgaphola (Copied on this email). In addition, kindly share the shapefiles of the development footprints/application site with the Case Officers.

Please note: All Public Participation Process documents related to Biodiversity EIA review and any other Biodiversity EIA queries must be submitted to the Directorate: Biodiversity Conservation at Email: BCAdmin@dffe.gov.za for attention of Mr Seoka Lekota



Tebego Kgaphola

Directorate: Biodiversity Mainstreaming and EIA
Branch: Biodiversity and Conservation
473 Steve Biko Road | Private Bag X477 | Pretoria | 001
Cell: 0608408195 | Email: tkgaphola1@dffe.gov.za
Website: www.environment.gov.za



From: ERM Arcus Amsterdam <ERM.ArcusAmsterdam@erm.com>
Sent: Friday, 19 July 2024 16:37
To: ERM Arcus Amsterdam <ERM.ArcusAmsterdam@erm.com>
Subject: Notification of Submission: Draft scoping Report Mulilo Amsterdam WEFs, near Ermelo, Mpumalanga

**SUBMISSION OF DRAFT SCOPING REPORT FOR THE WIND ENERGY FACILITY
(SHEEPMOOR, ROCHDALE AND EMVELO) CLUSTER**

Dear Interested and Affected Party,

This email serves to inform you about the submission of the Draft Scoping Reports for the proposed Mulilo Amsterdam WEFs, near Ermelo, Mpumalanga.

Public Participation Process (PPP), which is being undertaken in accordance with the requirements of Section 24 (5) and Chapter 6 (41, 42, 43, and 44) of GN R. 326 of the NEMA, 1998 EIA Regulations, 2014 (as amended) and the Western Cape Department of Environmental Affairs & Development Planning (DEA&DP) Guideline on Public Participation (2011). The reports will be available for a 30 day comment period from 19 July 2024 to 20 August 2024.

Please ensure that you have submitted your comment before the close of the comment period should you wish to have your input considered in the submission of the Final Scoping Report.

More information on how you are able to participate in this process is attached in the above documentation.

Please indicate which application your comment in respect of.

Should you be a Land Owner directly affected by the proposed project (within the project boundary or adjacent thereto) please could you notify all occupants on your properties with regards to the proposed project.

Thank you and regards,

Stephanie Gopaul

Environmental Assessment Practitioner

Consultant
Lucien Barbeau

ERM
240 Main Road, Rondebosch, Cape Town
T +27 21 681 5400
E lucien.barbeau@erm.com | W www.erm.com



From: [ERM Arcus Amsterdam](#)
To: [John Geeringh](#); [ERM Arcus Amsterdam](#)
Subject: RE: [CAUTION:EXTERNAL EMAIL] Notification of Submission: Draft scoping Report Mulilo Amsterdam WEFs, near Ermelo, Mpumalanga
Date: Monday, 29 July 2024 17:55:00
Attachments: [image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)
[Amsterdam \(2023-07-12\).kmz](#)

Dear John,

Thank you for your e-mail. Please find attached a KMZ file of each WEF.

Thank You

Kind Regards



ERM

Sustainability is our business

Lucien Barbeau
Consultant

Cape Town
+27105963488

erm.com

From: John Geeringh <GeerinJH@ntcsa.co.za>
Sent: Tuesday, July 23, 2024 11:50 AM
To: ERM Arcus Amsterdam <ERM.ArcusAmsterdam@erm.com>
Subject: RE: [CAUTION:EXTERNAL EMAIL] Notification of Submission: Draft scoping Report Mulilo Amsterdam WEFs, near Ermelo, Mpumalanga

You don't often get email from geerinjh@ntcsa.co.za. [Learn why this is important](#)

EXTERNAL MESSAGE

Please send me KMZ files of the proposed developments and grid connection. Please find attached Eskom requirements for work at or near Eskom infrastructure and servitudes, as well as a setbacks guideline for RE Developments.

Kind regards

John Geeringh (Pr Sci Nat) Reg. EAP (EAPASA)
Senior Consultant Environmental Management
Grid Planning: Land and Rights
National Transmission Company South Africa SOC Ltd (NTCSA)
Megawatt Park, B2Y25, Maxwell Drive, Sunninghill, Sandton.
P O Box 1091, Johannesburg, 2000.



E-mail: john.geeringh@ntcsa.co.za

Disclaimer

NB: This Email and its contents are subject to the NTCSA EMAIL LEGAL NOTICE which can be viewed [here](#).

From: ERM Arcus Amsterdam <ERM.ArcusAmsterdam@erm.com>

Sent: Friday, 19 July 2024 16:40

To: ERM Arcus Amsterdam <ERM.ArcusAmsterdam@erm.com>

Subject: [CAUTION:EXTERNAL EMAIL] Notification of Submission: Draft scoping Report Mulilo Amsterdam WEFs, near Ermelo, Mpumalanga

SUBMISSION OF DRAFT SCOPING REPORT FOR THE WIND ENERGY FACILITY (SHEEPMOOR, ROCHDALE AND EMVELO) CLUSTER

Dear Interested and Affected Party,

This email serves to inform you about the submission of the Draft Scoping Reports for the proposed Mulilo Amsterdam WEFs, near Ermelo, Mpumalanga.

Public Participation Process (PPP), which is being undertaken in accordance with the requirements of Section 24 (5) and Chapter 6 (41, 42, 43, and 44) of GN R. 326 of the NEMA, 1998 EIA Regulations, 2014 (as amended) and the Western Cape Department of Environmental Affairs & Development Planning (DEA&DP) Guideline on Public Participation (2011). The reports will be available for a 30 day comment period from 19 July 2024 to 20 August 2024.

Please ensure that you have submitted your comment before the close of the comment period should you wish to have your input considered in the submission of the Final Scoping Report.

More information on how you are able to participate in this process is attached in the above documentation.

Please indicate which application your comment in respect of.

Should you be a Land Owner directly affected by the proposed project (within the project boundary or adjacent thereto) please could you notify all occupants on your properties with regards to the proposed project.

Thank you and regards,

Stephanie Gopaul

Environmental Assessment Practitioner

Consultant
Lucien Barbeau

ERM

240 Main Road, Rondebosch, Cape Town

T +27 21 681 5400

E lucien.barbeau@erm.com | W www.erm.com



Stakeholder Engagement Form

<https://mulilowef.aidaform.com/public-participation-form>

Tuesday, July 30, 2024 06:59 UTC

What's your name?

First Name

tg

Last Name

rf

Who do you represent?

Organisation

rf

Designation

i

Your Email

i@gmail.com

Your Phone Number

+12

Alternative Phone Number

+12

Your Address

Street Address

12

Street Address Line 2

df

City

sd

State/Province

NA

Zip Code

12

Country

na

What is your interest in the projects?

NA

Please visit the ERM website (link below) for more info and access to the reports. Are you able to access the website?

Yes

What are your comments regarding the Rochdale, Emvelo and Sheepmoor WEF Cluster?

NA

Protection of Personal Information (POPI) Act, Act 4 of 2013

Yes (0)

From: [Josua Meyer](#)
To: [ERM Arcus Amsterdam](#)
Subject: Fwd: SHEEPMOOR, EMVELO WIND ENERGIE PROJEKTE
Date: Tuesday, 30 July 2024 11:00:29

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EXTERNAL MESSAGE

----- Forwarded message -----

From: [REDACTED]
Date: Tue, Jul 30, 2024 at 10:59 AM
Subject: SHEEPMOOR, EMVELO WIND ENERGIE PROJEKTE
To: <lucien.barbeau@erm.com>

VERSOEK VORM OM TE REGISTREER AS BELANGHEBBENDE PARTY OP
BOGEMELDE PROJEKTE sodat kommentaar gelewer kan word.

Het nie rekening op aida om aanlyn te registreer nie en die foon nommer 011-798 5400 is
foutief.

Waardeer

[REDACTED]

From: [ERM Arcus Amsterdam](#)
To: [Lloyd Barnes](#); [ERM Arcus Amsterdam](#); [Lucien Barbeau](#)
Cc: [Gail Wheeler](#); [Stephen Burton](#)
Subject: RE: Notification of Submission: Draft scoping Report Mulilo Amsterdam WEFs, near Ermelo, Mpumalanga
Date: Wednesday, 31 July 2024 08:33:20
Attachments: [image002.png](#)
[image006.png](#)
[image007.png](#)
[image008.png](#)
[image009.png](#)
[1412163322592.msg](#)
[1412163322591.msg](#)
[1412163322593.msg](#)

Hi Lloyd,

The DFFE has acknowledge submission, please see attached correspondence.

Kind regards,



ERM

Sustainability is our business

Lucien Barbeau
Consultant

Cape Town
+27105963488

erm.com

From: Lloyd Barnes <Lloyd@mulilo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, July 30, 2024 9:21 AM
To: ERM Arcus Amsterdam <ERM.ArcusAmsterdam@erm.com>; Lucien Barbeau <Lucien.Barbeau@erm.com>
Cc: Gail Wheeler <Gail@mulilo.com>; Stephen Burton <Stephen.Burton@erm.com>
Subject: RE: Notification of Submission: Draft scoping Report Mulilo Amsterdam WEFs, near Ermelo, Mpumalanga

EXTERNAL MESSAGE

Good day Lucien,

Thank you for the response.

Yes, the documents are accessible now. And updated, thank you.

Has the DFFE acknowledged submission?

Kind Regards,

Lloyd Barnes
Project Manager: Environmental
O: +27 21 685 3240 C:+27 83 499 0280
www.mulilo.com
21st Floor, Portside, 5 Buitengracht Street, Cape Town, 8001



From: ERM Arcus Amsterdam <ERM.ArcusAmsterdam@erm.com>
Sent: Monday, July 29, 2024 5:01 PM
To: [REDACTED] ERM Arcus Amsterdam
<ERM.ArcusAmsterdam@erm.com>; Lucien Barbeau <Lucien.Barbeau@erm.com>
Cc: Gail Wheeler <Gail@mulilo.com>; Stephen Burton <Stephen.Burton@erm.com>
Subject: RE: Notification of Submission: Draft scoping Report Mulilo Amsterdam WEFs, near Ermelo, Mpumalanga

Hi Lloyd,

Are you able to try and access the link once again? We have slightly modified the form now that allows the IAP to view the ERM website for the WEF Cluster. Additionally, the landing page has been updated accordingly. Noted all documents will be reviewed to not mention Mulilo prior to Final scoping submission.

Kind Regards



Sustainability is our business

Lucien Barbeau
Consultant

Cape Town
+27105963488

erm.com

From: Lloyd Barnes <Lloyd@mulilo.com>
Sent: Monday, July 29, 2024 3:46 PM
To: ERM Arcus Amsterdam <ERM.ArcusAmsterdam@erm.com>; Lucien Barbeau
<Lucien.Barbeau@erm.com>
Cc: [REDACTED] Stephen Burton <Stephen.Burton@erm.com>
Subject: RE: Notification of Submission: Draft scoping Report Mulilo Amsterdam WEFs, near Ermelo, Mpumalanga

EXTERNAL MESSAGE

Good day Lucien,

I followed the link provided below and it took me to a landing page. After completing the required information, I didn't receive a link to the reports, nor did the documents automatically download.

Please may you kindly explain how an I&AP would access docs? Worryingly, we can only find Emvelo and Sheepmoor when doing a simple Google Search.

Once updated, could you please let me know, as we like to furnish the LO's with the links

personally. Ideally today.

Also, I noted that within the Draft Scoping Reports, and now on the I&AP landing page, that **Mulilo** is constantly referred to. i.e below.

ERM

Proposed Mulilo Wind Energy (Rochdale, Emvelo and Sheepmoor) Cluster and Associated Grid Infrastructure, Mpumalanga Province



What are your comments regarding the Mulilo WEF Cluster?

Let me tell you about this...



Please give an answer

Earlier on in the process, it was explicitly mentioned that there should be **NO** reference to Mulilo. We did not name it the Mulilo WEF cluster, nor is Mulilo the applicant. Please could this landing page be updated to remove reference to Mulilo. Post PP, could **all** documents please be reviewed to remove this reference, unless extremely necessary.

Kind Regards,

Lloyd Barnes

Project Manager: Environmental



mulilo

From: ERM Arcus Amsterdam <ERM.ArcusAmsterdam@erm.com>

Sent: Friday, July 19, 2024 4:37 PM

To: ERM Arcus Amsterdam <ERM.ArcusAmsterdam@erm.com>

Subject: Notification of Submission: Draft scoping Report Mulilo Amsterdam WEFs, near Ermelo, Mpumalanga

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(SHEEPMOOR, ROCHDALE AND EMVELO) CLUSTER

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Thank you and regards,

Stephanie Gopaul

Environmental Assessment Practitioner

Consultant
Lucien Barbeau

ERM
240 Main Road, Rondebosch, Cape Town
T +27 21 681 5400
E lucien.barbeau@erm.com | W www.erm.com



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From: [Lydia Kutu](#)
To: [ERM Arcus Amsterdam](#)
Cc: [REDACTED]
[Stephanie Gopaul](#)
Subject: 14/12/16/3/3/2/2591
Date: Wednesday, 24 July 2024 07:38:14

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EXTERNAL MESSAGE

Dear Sir/Madam

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF RECEIPT OF THE NEW APPLICATION FORM AND DRAFT SCOPING REPORT FOR THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF THE EMVELO WIND ENERGY FACILITY AND AUXILIARY INFRASTRUCTURE, NEAR ERMELO, WITHIN THE MSUKALIGWA LOCAL MUNICIPALITY, AND GERT SIBANDE DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY, MPUMALANGA PROVINCE.

The Department confirms having received the Application Form and Draft Scoping Report for Environmental Authorisation for the abovementioned project on 22 July 2024. You have submitted these documents to comply with the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations, 2014, as amended.

Kindly note that your application for Environmental Authorisation falls within the ambit of an application applied for in terms of Part 3 of Chapter 4 of the EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended. You are therefore referred to Regulation 21 of the EIA Regulations, 2014 as amended.

Please take note of Regulation 40(3) of the EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended, which states that potential Interested & Affected Parties, including the Competent Authority, may be provided with an opportunity to comment on reports and plans contemplated in Regulation 40(1) of the EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended, prior to the submission of an application but must be provided an opportunity to comment on such reports once an application has been submitted to the Competent Authority.

Note that in terms of Regulation 45 of the EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended, this application will lapse if the applicant fails to meet any of the time-frames prescribed in terms of these Regulations, unless an extension has been granted by the Department in terms of Regulation 3(7) of the EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended.

You are hereby reminded of Section 24F of the National Environmental Management Act, Act No. 107 of 1998, as amended, that no activity may commence prior to an Environmental Authorisation being granted by the Department.

Kind Regards,
Lydia Kutu
Integrated Environmental Authorisations:
Coordination, Strategic Planning and Support
Tel: (012) 399 9370
Email: LKutu@dffe.gov.za

To God be the Glory!!!

From: [Lydia Kutu](#)
To: [ERM Arcus Amsterdam](#)
Cc: [Bathandwa Ncube](#); [EIAadmin](#); [Salome Mambane](#); [Stephen Burton](#); [Sadiya Salie](#); [Anathi Manyakanyaka](#); [Stephanie Gopaul](#)
Subject: 14/12/16/3/3/2/2592
Date: Wednesday, 24 July 2024 07:37:17

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Lydia Kutu
Integrated Environmental Authorisations:
Coordination, Strategic Planning and Support
Tel: [\(012\) 399 9370](tel:(012)3999370)
Email: LKutu@dfre.gov.za

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To: [ERM Arcus Amsterdam](#)
Cc: [Bathandwa Ncube](#); [EIAadmin](#); [Salome Mambane](#); [Stephen Burton](#); [Sadiya Salie](#); [Anathi Manyakanyaka](#); [Stephanie Gopaul](#)
Subject: 14/12/16/3/3/2/2593
Date: Wednesday, 24 July 2024 07:40:13

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EXTERNAL MESSAGE

Dear Sir/Madam

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF RECEIPT OF THE NEW APPLICATION FORM AND DRAFT SCOPING REPORT FOR THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF THE SHEEPMOOR WIND ENERGY FACILITY AND AUXILIARY INFRASTRUCTURE, NEAR ERMELO, WITHIN THE MSUKALIGWA LOCAL MUNICIPALITY, AND GERT SIBANDE DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY, MPUMALANGA PROVINCE.

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Integrated Environmental Authorisations:
Coordination, Strategic Planning and Support
Tel: [\(012\) 399 9370](tel:0123999370)
Email: LKutu@dfre.gov.za

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To: [ERM Arcus Amsterdam](#)
Cc: [Bathandwa Ncube](#); [EIAadmin](#); [Salome Mambane](#); [Stephen Burton](#); [Sadiya Salie](#); [Anathi Manyakanyaka](#); [Stephanie Gopaul](#)
Subject: 14/12/16/3/3/2/2591
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Integrated Environmental Authorisations:
Coordination, Strategic Planning and Support
Tel: (012) 399 9370
Email: LKutu@dfpe.gov.za

To God be the Glory!!!

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To: [ERM Arcus Amsterdam](#)
Cc: [Bathandwa Ncube](#); [EIAadmin](#); [Salome Mambane](#); [Stephen Burton](#); [Sadiya Salie](#); [Anathi Manyakanyaka](#); [Stephanie Gopaul](#)
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Tel: [\(012\) 399 9370](tel:(012)3999370)
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To God be the Glory!!!

From: [Lloyd Barnes](#)
To: [ERM Arcus Amsterdam](#); [Lucien Barbeau](#)
Cc: [Gail Wheeler](#); [Stephen Burton](#)
Subject: RE: Notification of Submission: Draft scoping Report Mulilo Amsterdam WEFs, near Ermelo, Mpumalanga
Date: Wednesday, 31 July 2024 09:17:32
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)
[image004.png](#)
[image005.png](#)

EXTERNAL MESSAGE

Thank you, Lucien.

As discussed, we intend on submitting the Final Scoping report one day after PP has ended (barring no issues).

Other than the layout and one outstanding LO consent form (Pieter Langenhoven), please may you indicate if there are any other outstanding items required for you to update the Draft Scoping Reports to Final?

Kind Regards,

Lloyd Barnes

Project Manager: Environmental

O: +27 21 685 3240 C: +27 83 499 0280

www.mulilo.com

21st Floor, Portside, 5 Buitengracht Street, Cape Town, 8001



From: ERM Arcus Amsterdam <ERM.ArcusAmsterdam@erm.com>
Sent: Wednesday, July 31, 2024 8:33 AM
To: [REDACTED] ERM Arcus Amsterdam
<ERM.ArcusAmsterdam@erm.com>; Lucien Barbeau <Lucien.Barbeau@erm.com>
Cc: Gail Wheeler <Gail@mulilo.com>; Stephen Burton <Stephen.Burton@erm.com>
Subject: RE: Notification of Submission: Draft scoping Report Mulilo Amsterdam WEFs, near Ermelo, Mpumalanga

Hi Lloyd,

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Kind regards,



Sustainability is our business

Lucien Barbeau
Consultant

Cape Town
+27105963488

erm.com

From: [John Geeringh](#)
To: [ERM Arcus Amsterdam](#)
Subject: RE: [CAUTION:EXTERNAL EMAIL] Notification of Submission: Draft scoping Report Mulilo Amsterdam WEFs, near Ermelo, Mpumalanga
Date: Wednesday, 31 July 2024 15:48:01
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)

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EXTERNAL MESSAGE

Thanks, they will have to relook at their turbine layouts with regards to the setbacks requirements of 3 x tip height from TX lines and 1 x tip height from Dx lines. Lines connecting to power stations are extremely sensitive and chance are we may no grant setbacks relaxation.

Regards

John Geeringh (Pr Sci Nat) Reg. EAP (EAPASA)
Senior Consultant Environmental Management
Grid Planning: Land and Rights
National Transmission Company South Africa SOC Ltd (NTCSA)
Megawatt Park, B2Y25, Maxwell Drive, Sunninghill, Sandton.
P O Box 1091, Johannesburg, 2000.



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From: ERM Arcus Amsterdam <ERM.ArcusAmsterdam@erm.com>
Sent: Monday, 29 July 2024 17:57
To: [REDACTED] Arcus Amsterdam
<ERM.ArcusAmsterdam@erm.com>
Subject: RE: [CAUTION:EXTERNAL EMAIL] Notification of Submission: Draft scoping Report Mulilo Amsterdam WEFs, near Ermelo, Mpumalanga

Dear John,

Thank you for your e-mail. Please find attached a KMZ file of each WEF.

Thank You
Kind Regards



ERM

Sustainability is our business

Lucien Barbeau
Consultant

Cape Town
+27105963488

erm.com

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: Tuesday, July 23, 2024 11:50 AM

To: ERM Arcus Amsterdam <ERM.ArcusAmsterdam@erm.com>

Subject: RE: [CAUTION:EXTERNAL EMAIL] Notification of Submission: Draft scoping Report Mulilo Amsterdam WEFs, near Ermelo, Mpumalanga

You don't often get email from geerinh@ntcsa.co.za. [Learn why this is important](#)

EXTERNAL MESSAGE

Please send me KMZ files of the proposed developments and grid connection. Please find attached Eskom requirements for work at or near Eskom infrastructure and servitudes, as well as a setbacks guideline for RE Developments.

Kind regards

John Geeringh (Pr Sci Nat) Reg. EAP (EAPASA)
Senior Consultant Environmental Management
Grid Planning: Land and Rights
National Transmission Company South Africa SOC Ltd (NTCSA)



Disclaimer

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From: ERM Arcus Amsterdam <ERM.ArcusAmsterdam@erm.com>

Sent: Friday, 19 July 2024 16:40

To: ERM Arcus Amsterdam <ERM.ArcusAmsterdam@erm.com>

Subject: [CAUTION:EXTERNAL EMAIL] Notification of Submission: Draft scoping Report Mulilo Amsterdam WEFs, near Ermelo, Mpumalanga

SUBMISSION OF DRAFT SCOPING REPORT FOR THE WIND ENERGY FACILITY

(SHEEPMOOR, ROCHDALE AND EMVELO) CLUSTER

Dear Interested and Affected Party,

This email serves to inform you about the submission of the Draft Scoping Reports for the proposed Mulilo Amsterdam WEFs, near Ermelo, Mpumalanga.

Public Participation Process (PPP), which is being undertaken in accordance with the requirements of Section 24 (5) and Chapter 6 (41, 42, 43, and 44) of GN R. 326 of the NEMA, 1998 EIA Regulations, 2014 (as amended) and the Western Cape Department of Environmental Affairs & Development Planning (DEA&DP) Guideline on Public Participation (2011). The reports will be available for a 30 day comment period from 19 July 2024 to 20 August 2024.

Please ensure that you have submitted your comment before the close of the comment period should you wish to have your input considered in the submission of the Final Scoping Report.

More information on how you are able to participate in this process is attached in the above documentation.

Please indicate which application your comment in respect of.

Should you be a Land Owner directly affected by the proposed project (within the project boundary or adjacent thereto) please could you notify all occupants on your properties with regards to the proposed project.

Thank you and regards,

Stephanie Gopaul

Environmental Assessment Practitioner

Consultant
Lucien Barbeau

ERM
240 Main Road, Rondebosch, Cape Town
T +27 21 681 5400
E lucien.barbeau@erm.com | W www.erm.com



From: [REDACTED]
To: [ERM Arcus Amsterdam](#)
Subject: VOORGESTELDE ERMELO WINDPLASE
Date: Thursday, 01 August 2024 21:06:21

You don't often get email from meyerjosua55@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

EXTERNAL MESSAGE

Plasing, groottes van turbines onduidelik
Versoek duidelijke kaart waar turbines geplaas gaan word. Eiendom grense en distrikspaaie moet duidelik getoon word.

From: [Robyn Luyt](#)
To: [ERM Arcus Amsterdam](#)
Cc: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Date: Consultation | Mlulo Wind Farms Mpumalanga
Saturday, 03 August 2024 15:09:43
Importance: High

You don't often get email from rluyt@mpg.gov.za. [Learn why this is important](#)

EXTERNAL MESSAGE

Good day Ms Gopaul,

It has come to our attention, and not via any official notification from ERM, that draft Scoping Reports for the following wind farms proposed in the Gert Sibande District in Mpumalanga Province are out for public comment from 19 July 2024 to 20 August 2024 (as per ERM website), where ERM is the EAP:

- 1. Shepmoore WEF
- 2. Emvelo WEF
- 3. Rochdale WEF

Neither DARDLEA nor MTPA have been consulted to date, nor have we received copies of any of the draft Scoping Reports. Aside from the requirements of the EIA Regulations, DARDLEA and MTPA have through internal arrangements with DFFE requested to be included in all pre-application consultations for Renewable Energy projects in Mpumalanga, particularly wind energy facilities. DARDLEA and MTPA must be included during all pre-application meetings and in all in-process consultations.

For the purpose of commenting on draft reports during the regulatory periods, we request that hard copies of all reports are submitted to Ms Sindi Mbuyane in our Ermelo office (where projects are located in the Gert Sibande District), and sent electronically to me via WeTransfer. Please also ensure that MTPA receives the reports in the manner requested by them. For your records I include the contact details of all relevant officials to be consulted in DARDLEA (when an application is in the Gert Sibande District) and MTPA:

DARDLEA	DESIGNATION	EMAIL	PHONE
Robyn Luyt	Director: Environmental Impact Management (EIM)	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
Sindisiwe Mbuyane	Deputy Director: EIM Gert Sibande District	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
Gavin Cowden	Deputy Director: Environmental Policy, Planning and Coordination	[REDACTED]	
MTPA	DESIGNATION	EMAIL	PHONE
Mervyn Lotter	Manager: Biodiversity Planning	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
Frans Krige	Land Use Advisor	[REDACTED]	
Khumbelo Malele	Land Use Advisor		[REDACTED]
Celia de	EIA Data Capturer		[REDACTED]

Please note that time frames for commenting on draft reports can only commence on the date that hard copies of the reports are received, and we request that our 30 day time frame aligns with DFFE's.

Kind Regards
Robyn

Robyn Luyt B.A., B.Sc., B.Sc (Hons) M.Sc., Pr.Sci.Nat. (400327/11), EAPASA (2019/1293)
Director: Environmental Impact Management
Department of Agriculture, Rural Development, Land & Environmental Affairs
Mpumalanga Provincial Government
Riverside Office Park, Aqua Street (Cycad Building - Block 4)
Nelspruit, 1200
Tel: 013 759 4000
Email: rluyt@mpg.gov.za

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From: [REDACTED]
To: [ERM Arcus Amsterdam](#)
Cc: [Mervyn Lotter](#); [Johan Eksteen](#); [Frans Krige](#); [Khumbelo Malele](#)
Subject: FW: Register for the Zephyr WEF Meeting and site visit
Date: Tuesday, 06 August 2024 09:39:58

You don't often get email from celia@mtpa.co.za. [Learn why this is important](#)

WARNING: The sender of this email could not be validated and may not match the person in the "From" field.

EXTERNAL MESSAGE

Good morning

Kindly send us, the MTPA, hard copies of the 3 Wind Farm reports, for our Scientists to comment on, to the following physical address:

To: Cecilia de Waal (EIA Data Capturer)
MTPA Office Building (Lydenburg)
End of Morgan street
Lydenburg 1120

[REDACTED]

Kind regards

Celia de Waal



Cecilia de Waal

Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Data Capturer
Land Use Advisory (LUA)

[REDACTED]

From: Mervyn Lotter <mervyn@mtpa.co.za>

Sent: Saturday, August 3, 2024 9:00 AM

To: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Subject: FW: Register for the Zephyr WEF Meeting and site visit

Hi there

Christophe sent me the attached KML file and the below links. I see these are links to scoping reports dated 19 July 2024. They seem to have started with the application process while not yet consulting us.

Celia, could you please write to ERM to request copies of the three wind farm documents for comment.

Robyn/Sindy, you may want to do the same.

I have updated our webmap with these latest boundaries from the KML file.

Best wishes

Mervyn

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: Friday, August 2, 2024 12:19 PM

To: [REDACTED]

Subject: RE: Register for the Zephyr WEF Meeting and site visit

Hi Mervyn,

Many thanks for reaching out.

Please find attached the kmz of the Mullilo WEF projects in Mpumalanga.

Please also find below the publicly available documents for their respective projects

https://www.sustainability.com/globalassets/documents/proposed-amsterdam/0684401_sheepmoor-wef-dsr.pdf

https://www.sustainability.com/globalassets/documents/proposed-amsterdam/0684401_emvelo-wef-dsr.pdf

https://www.sustainability.com/globalassets/documents/proposed-amsterdam/0684401_rochdale-wef-dsr.pdf

I hope this helps.

Kind regards,

Christophe

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, August 1, 2024 8:25 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Register for the Zephyr WEF Meeting and site visit

EXTERNAL MAIL

Hi Christophe

Thank you for writing. Would you please send me an image or shapefile for the Mulilo WEF boundaries when you get a chance?

Best wishes
Mervyn

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, August 1, 2024 4:50 PM
To: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Register for the Zephyr WEF Meeting and site visit

Good afternoon everyone,

Thank you so much for your time and very valuable feedback and recommendations.

Ryan and I are now back in Cape Town and addressing your comments.

We have liaised back with our EAP and will provide you with further information shortly.

Thanks again for taking the time to meet with us and for the transparency, we highly appreciate it.

I will be sending a couple of emails in the next few days in line with our engagement.

Kind regards,

Christophe

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: Wednesday, July 31, 2024 11:23 AM

To: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]t
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Subject: Register for the Zephyr WEF Meeting and site visit

EXTERNAL MAIL

Good day All,

Find attached for your attention.

Kind Regards,

Sindisiwe Mbuyane

EAPASA Reg: 2021/3509, IAIA Sa 2040304

Environmental Officer Control Grade B

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

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From: [ERM Arcus Amsterdam](#)
To: [REDACTED]
Date: Tuesday, 06 August 2024 09:46:44
Attachments: [0684401-GIS-010 Fig 3 Emvelo WEF Preferred Site Development Plan Map.pdf](#)
[0684401-GIS-003 Fig 3 Rochdale Preferred Site Development Plan Map.pdf](#)
[0684401-GIS-017 Fig 3 Sheepmoor Preferred Site Development Plan Map.pdf](#)
[image001.png](#)

Good day,

Kindly see attached Layout of Proposed WEF's. Additional information on the project can be found in the link below:

<https://www.erm.com/public-information-sites/proposed-amsterdam-wind-energy-facility-and-auxiliary-infrastructure-cluster-mpumalanga/>

Kind Regards,



ERM

Sustainability is our business

Lucien Barbeau
Consultant

Cape Town
+27105963488

[erm.com](https://www.erm.com)

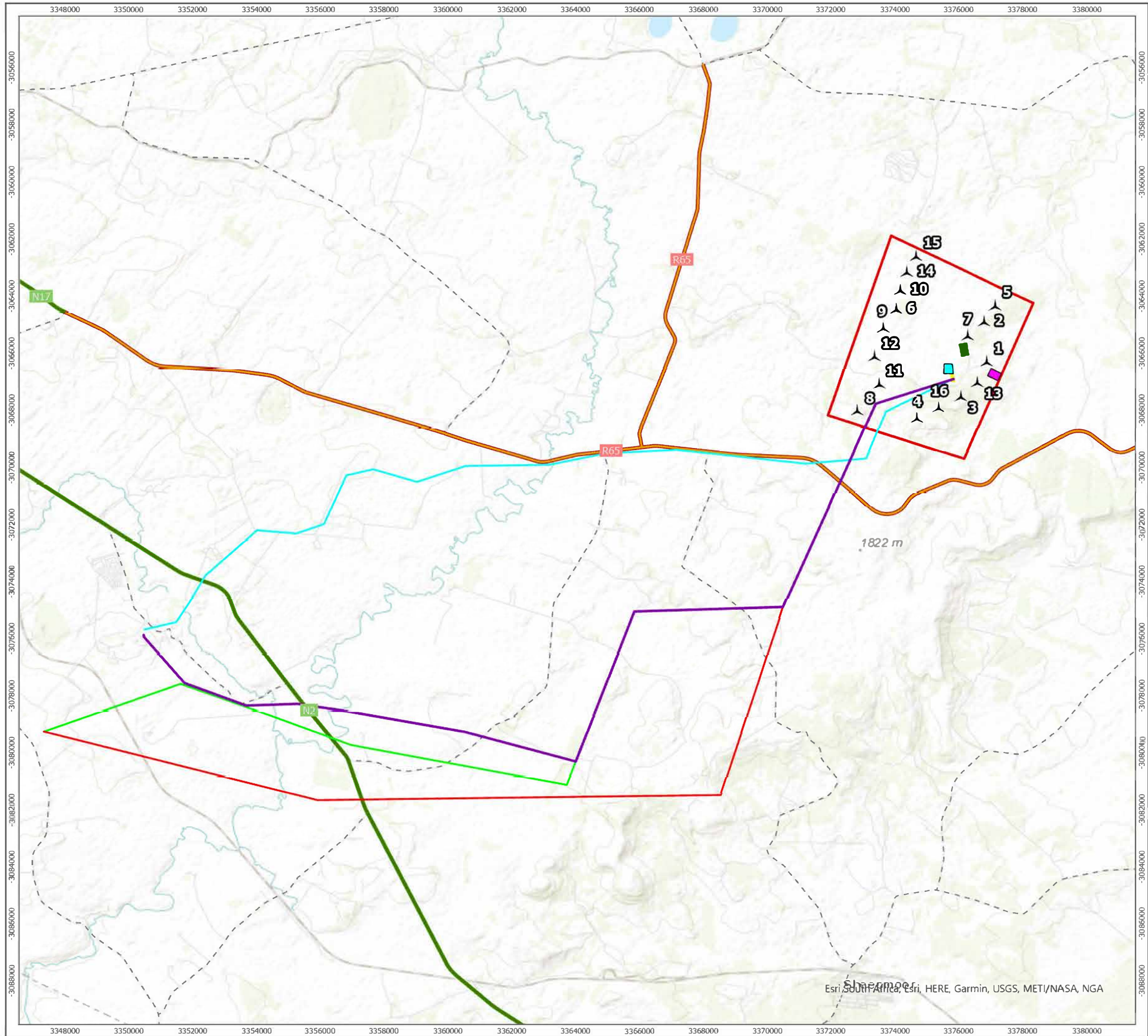
From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, August 1, 2024 9:06 PM
To: ERM Arcus Amsterdam <erm.arcusamsterdam@erm.com>
Subject: VOORGESTELDE ERMELO WINDPLASE

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EXTERNAL MESSAGE

Plasing, groottes van turbines onduidelik

Versoek duidelike kaart waar turbines geplaas gaan word. Eiendom grense en distrikspaaie moet duidelik getoon word.



Rochdale WEF Infrastructure

- Turbine Locations
- Rochdale WEF Boundary

Associated Infrastructure Locations

- Substation
- O&M Buildings
- Laydown Area Alternative
- Laydown Area

Grid Connection Options

- Preferred Grid Connection
- Alternative 1 Grid Connection
- Alternative 2 Grid Connection
- Alternative 3 Grid Connection

Public Roads

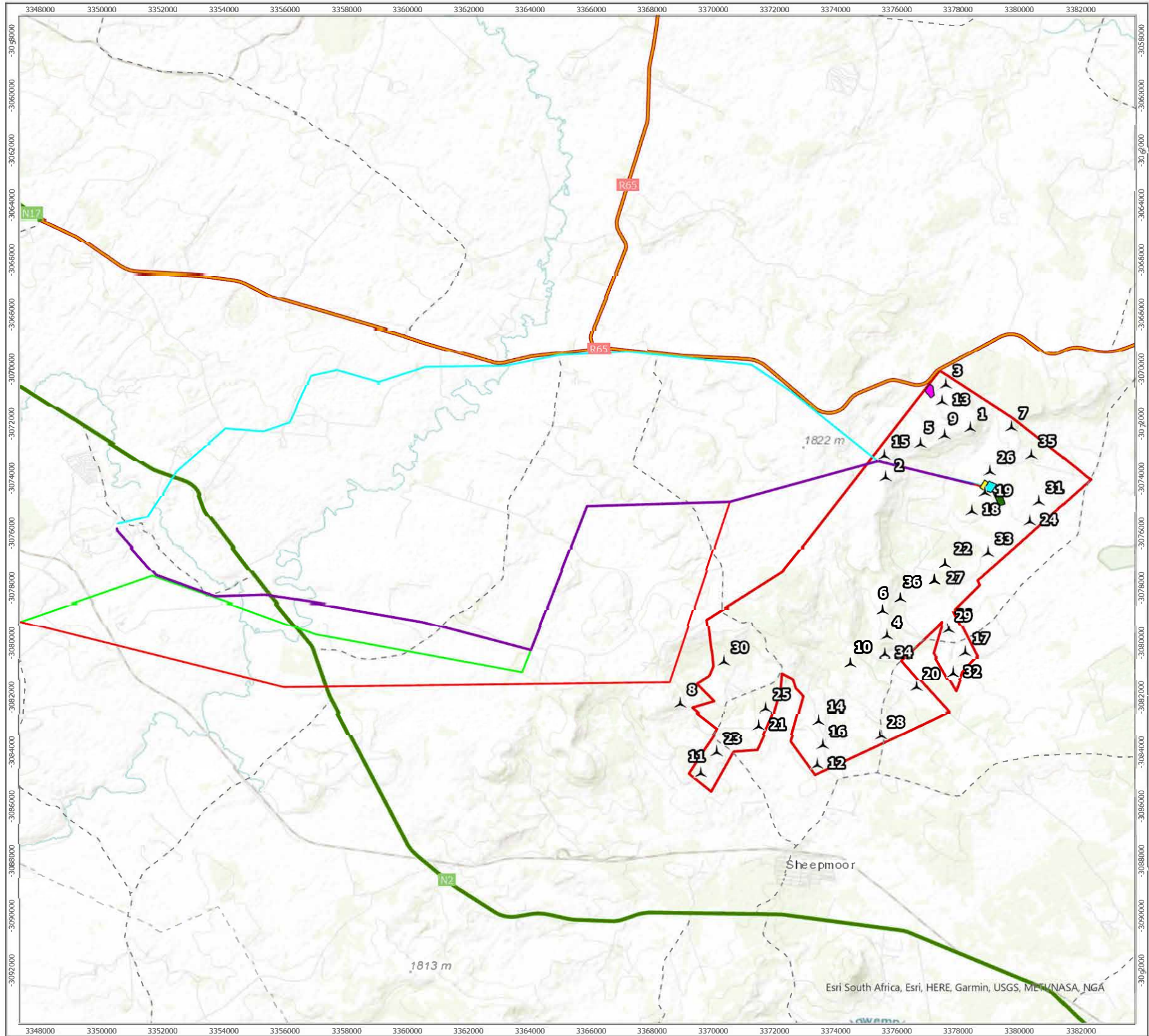
- National Road
- Arterial Road
- Secondary Road



Produced By: KM	Ref: 0684401-GIS-003
Checked By:LB	Date: 6/9/2024

**Preferred
Site Development Plan**
Figure 1-2

**Rochdale WEF
Scoping Report**



ERM

Emvelo WEF Infrastructure

- Turbine Locations
- Emvelo WEF Boundary

Associated Infrastructure Locations

- Substation
- O&M Buildings
- Laydown Area (Preferred)
- Laydown Area (Alternative)

Grid Connection Options

- Preferred Grid Connection
- Alternative 1 Grid Connection
- Alternative 2 Grid Connection
- Alternative 3 Grid Connection

Public Roads

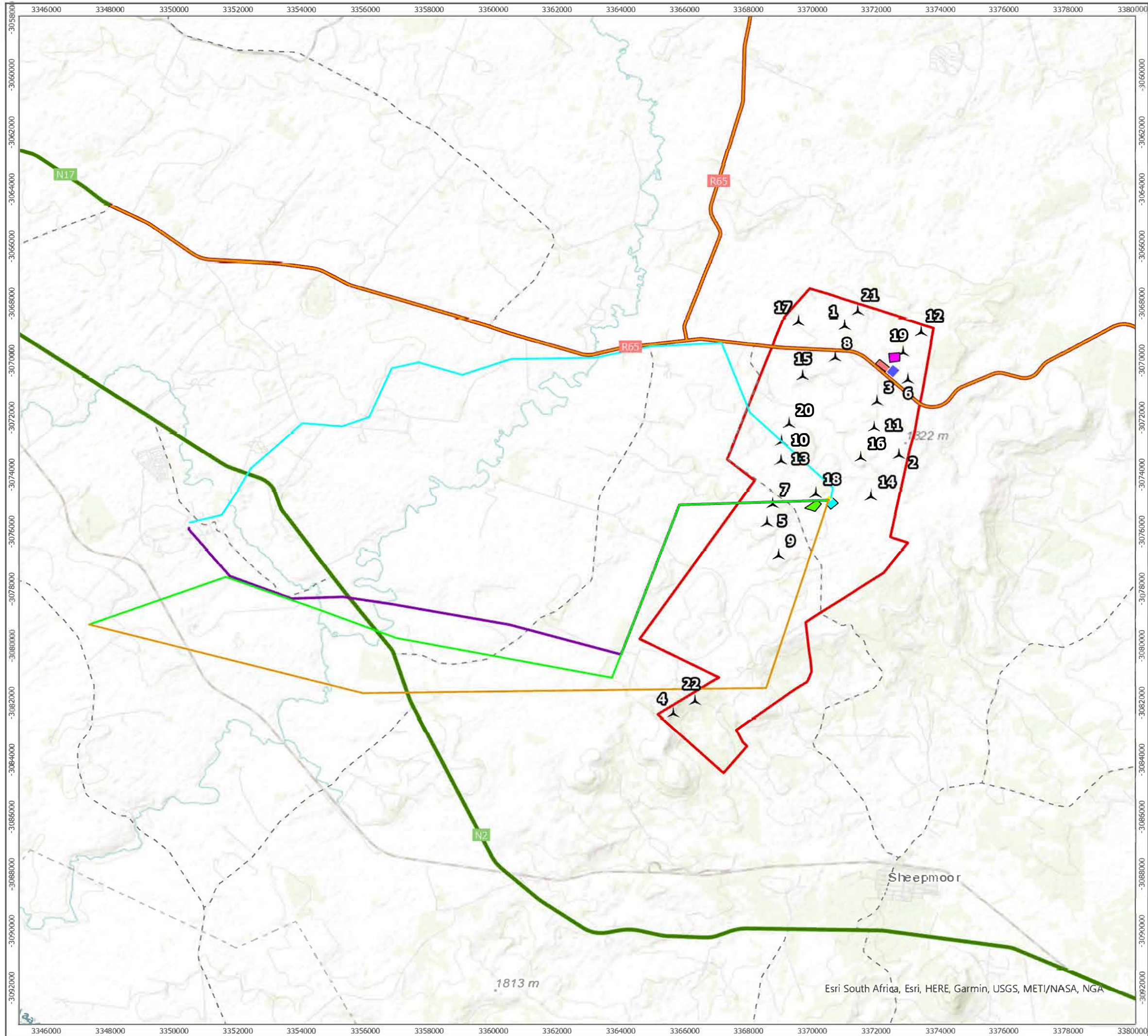
- National Road
- Arterial Road
- Secondary Road



Produced By: KM	Ref: 0684401-GIS-010
Checked By: AA	Date: 6/9/2024

**Preferred
Site Development Plan**
Figure 1-2

**Emvelo WEF
Scoping Report**



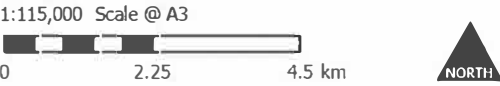
ERM

Sheepmoor WEF Infrastructure

- Turbine Locations
- Sheepmoor WEF Boundary
- Associated Infrastructure**
- Substation (Preferred)
- Substation (Alternative)
- Laydown Area (Preferred)
- Laydown Area (Alternative)
- O&M Buildings (Alternative)
- O&M Buildings (Preferred)

- Grid Connection Options
- Preferred Grid Connection
 - Alternative 1 Grid Connection
 - Alternative 2 Grid Connection
 - Alternative 3 Grid Connection

- Public Roads**
- National Road
 - Arterial Road
 - Secondary Road



Produced By: KM	Ref: 0684401-GIS-017
Checked By: AA	Date: 6/9/2024

**Preferred
Site Development Plan
Figure 1-2**

**Sheepmoor WEF
Scoping Report**

From: [ERM Arcus Amsterdam](#)
To: [REDACTED] [ERM Arcus Amsterdam](#)
Subject: RE: SHEEPMOOR, EMVELO WIND ENERGIE PROJEKTE
Date: Tuesday, 06 August 2024 12:09:54
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

Good day,

Thank you for your comment, you will now be added to the I&AP database.

Below is a link to the Aida form, there will be no need to register in order to fill out the form:

<https://mulilowef.aidaform.com/public-participation-form>

Thank you,



ERM

Sustainability is our business

Lucien Barbeau
Consultant

Cape Town
+27105963488

erm.com

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, July 30, 2024 11:00 AM
To: ERM Arcus Amsterdam <ERM.ArcusAmsterdam@erm.com>
Subject: Fwd: SHEEPMOOR, EMVELO WIND ENERGIE PROJEKTE

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EXTERNAL MESSAGE

----- Forwarded message -----

From: [REDACTED]
Date: Tue, Jul 30, 2024 at 10:59 AM
Subject: SHEEPMOOR, EMVELO WIND ENERGIE PROJEKTE
To: <lucien.barbeau@erm.com>

VERSOEK VORM OM TE REGISTREER AS BELANGHEBBENDE PARTY OP BOGEMELDE PROJEKTE sodat kommentaar gelewer kan word.

Het nie rekening op aida om aanlyn te registreer nie en die foon nommer 011-798 5400 is foutief.

Waardeer

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: [ERM Arcus Amsterdam](#)
To: [Robyn Luyt](#); [ERM Arcus Amsterdam](#)
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Consultation | Mulilo Wind Farms Mpumalanga
Date: Tuesday, 06 August 2024 13:43:17
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)

Good day Robyn,

Please note that DARDLEA and MTPA were notified regarding the PP for the Draft scoping Phase on the 19th July 2024. Kindly see proof of notification below:



SUBMISSION OF DRAFT SCOPING REPORT FOR THE WIND ENERGY FACILITY (SHEEPMOOR, ROCHDALE AND EMVELO) CLUSTER

Dear Interested and Affected Party,

This email serves to inform you about the submission of the Draft Scoping Reports for the proposed Mulilo Amsterdam WEFs, near Ermelo, Mpumalanga.

Public Participation Process (PPP), which is being undertaken in accordance with the requirements of Section 24 (5) and Chapter 6 (41, 42, 43, and 44) of GN R. 326 of the NEMA, 1998 EIA Regulations, 2014 (as amended) and the Western Cape Department of Environmental Affairs & Development Planning (DEA&DP) Guideline on Public Participation (2011). The reports will be available for a 30 day comment period from 19 July 2024 to 20 August 2024.

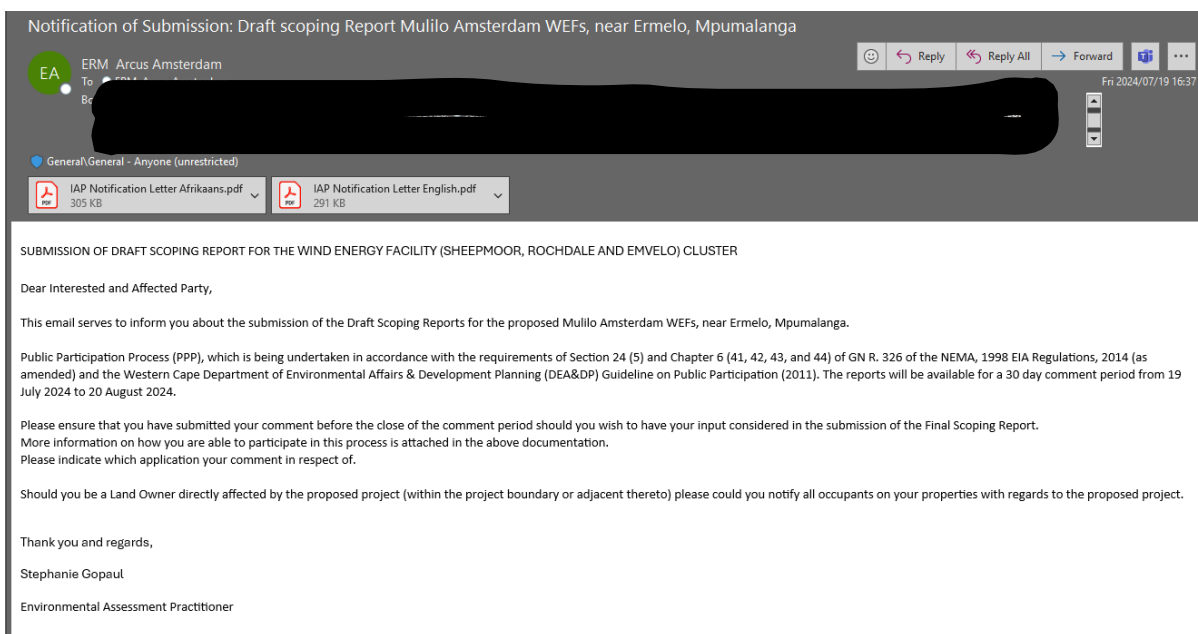
Please ensure that you have submitted your comment before the close of the comment period should you wish to have your input considered in the submission of the Final Scoping Report. More information on how you are able to participate in this process is attached in the above documentation. Please indicate which application your comment in respect of.

Should you be a Land Owner directly affected by the proposed project (within the project boundary or adjacent thereto) please could you notify all occupants on your properties with regards to the proposed project.

Thank you and regards,

Stephanie Gopaul

Environmental Assessment Practitioner



If required, we will send through hard copies and also resend to the below contacts and will update our I&AP database accordingly. Additionally, kindly note that PPP for the Mulilo Wind Energy Farm in Mpumalanga closes the 20th of August 2024.

Thank you,



Lucien Barbeau
Consultant

Cape Town
+27105963488

erm.com

From: Robyn Luyt <rluyt@mpg.gov.za>
Sent: Saturday, August 3, 2024 3:09 PM
To: ERM Arcus Amsterdam <Erm.arcusamsterdam@erm.com>
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Consultation | Mlulio Wind Farms Mpumalanga
Importance: High

You don't often get email from rluyt@mpg.gov.za. [Learn why this is important](#)

EXTERNAL MESSAGE

Good day Ms Gopaul,

It has come to our attention, and not via any official notification from ERM, that draft Scoping Reports for the following wind farms proposed in the Gert Sibande District in Mpumalanga Province are out for public comment from 19 July 2024 to 20 August 2024 (as per ERM website), where ERM is the EAP:

1. Shepmoore WEF
2. Emvelo WEF
3. Rochdale WEF

Neither DARDLEA nor MTPA have been consulted to date, nor have we received copies of any of the draft Scoping Reports. Aside from the requirements of the EIA Regulations, DARDLEA and MTPA have through internal arrangements with DFFE requested to be included in all pre-application consultations for Renewable Energy projects in Mpumalanga, particularly wind energy facilities. DARDLEA and MTPA must be included during all pre-application meetings and in all in-process consultations.

For the purpose of commenting on draft reports during the regulatory periods, we request that hard copies of all reports are submitted to Ms Sindi Mbuyane in our Ermelo office (where projects are located in the Gert Sibande District), and sent electronically to me via WeTransfer. Please also ensure that MTPA receives the reports in the manner requested by them. For your records I include the contact details of all relevant officials to be consulted in DARDLEA (when an application is in the Gert Sibande District) and MTPA:

DARDLEA	DESIGNATION	EMAIL	PHONE
Robyn Luyt	Director: Environmental Impact Management (EIM)	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
Sindisiwe Mbuyane	Deputy Director: EIM Gert Sibande District	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
Gavin Cowden	Deputy Director: Environmental Policy, Planning and Coordination	[REDACTED]	
MTPA	DESIGNATION	EMAIL	PHONE
Mervyn Lotter	Manager: Biodiversity Planning	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
Frans Krige	Land Use Advisor	[REDACTED]	
Khumbelo Malele	Land Use Advisor	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
Celia de Waal	EIA Data Capturer LUA	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]

Please note that time frames for commenting on draft reports can only commence on the date that hard copies of the reports are received, and we request that our 30 day time frame aligns with DFFE's.

Kind Regards
Robyn

Robyn Luyt B.A., B.Sc., B.Sc (Hons) M.Sc., Pr.Sci.Nat. (400327/11), EAPASA (2019/1293)
Director: Environmental Impact Management
Department of Agriculture, Rural Development, Land & Environmental Affairs
Mpumalanga Provincial Government
Riverside Office Park, Aqua Street (Cycad Building - Block 4)
Nelspruit, 1200
[REDACTED]

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From: [Celia de Waal](#)
To: [ERM Arcus Amsterdam](#)
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: FW: Consultation | Mlulio Wind Farms Mpumalanga
Date: Tuesday, 06 August 2024 15:16:03
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)

WARNING: The sender of this email could not be validated and may not match the person in the "From" field.

EXTERNAL MESSAGE

Good afternoon

Kindly send us the MTPA a hard copy of the Draft Scoping report for the Mlulio Wind Farms, for our Scientists to comment on, to the following physical address:

To: Cecilia de Waal (EIA Data Capturer)
MTPA Office Buildings (Lydenburg)
End of Morgan Street
Lydenburg
1120

My contact details are: 013 065 0062 or 082 841 7163

Kind regards

Celia de Waal



Cecilia de Waal
Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Data Capturer
Land Use Advisory (LUA)
Biodiversity Conservation: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

From: ERM Arcus Amsterdam <ERM.ArcusAmsterdam@erm.com>

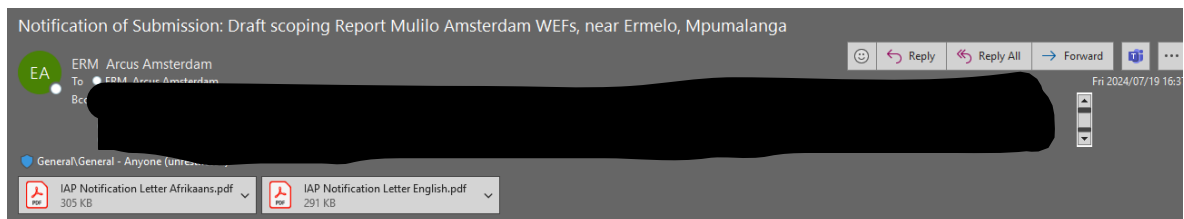
Sent: Tuesday, August 6, 2024 1:43 PM

To: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Subject: RE: Consultation | Mlulio Wind Farms Mpumalanga

Good day Robyn,

Please note that DARDLEA and MTPA were notified regarding the PP for the Draft scoping Phase on the 19th July 2024. Kindly see proof of notification below:



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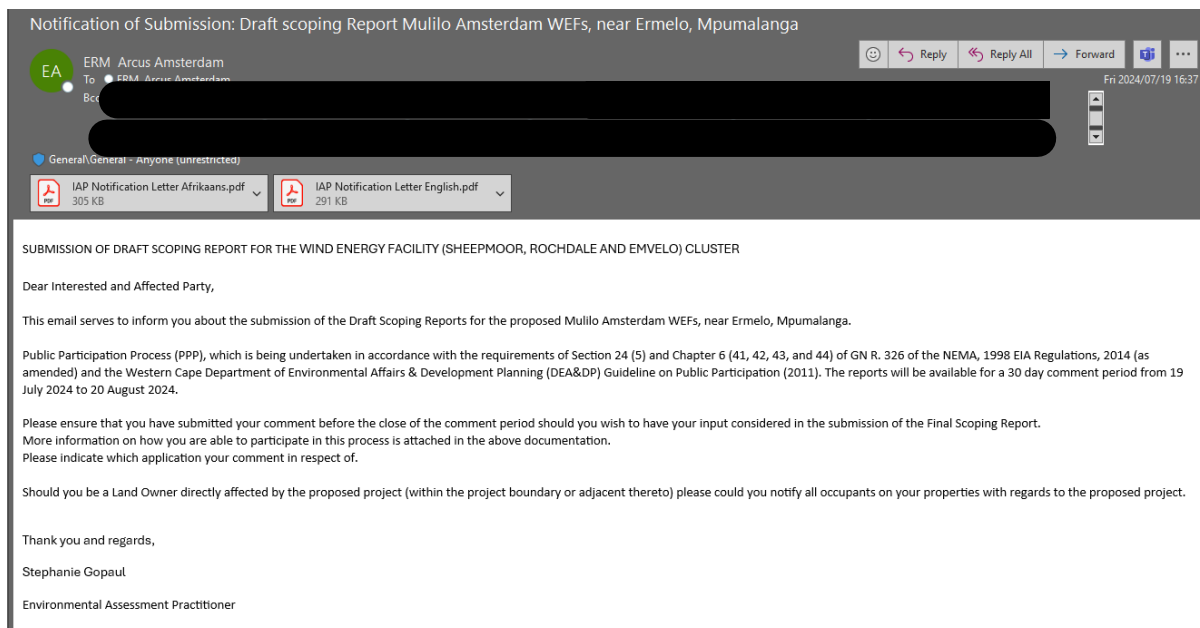
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Thank you and regards,

Stephanie Gopaul

Environmental Assessment Practitioner



If required, we will send through hard copies and also resend to the below contacts and will update our I&AP database accordingly. Additionally, kindly note that PPP for the Mulilo Wind Energy Farm in Mpumalanga closes the 20th of August 2024.

Thank you,



Lucien Barbeau
Consultant

Cape Town
+27105963488

erm.com

From: Robyn Luyt <rluyt@mpg.gov.za>
Sent: Saturday, August 3, 2024 3:09 PM
To: ERM Arcus Amsterdam <Erm.arcusamsterdam@erm.com>
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Consultation | Mlulio Wind Farms Mpumalanga
Importance: High

You don't often get email from rluyt@mpg.gov.za. [Learn why this is important](#)

EXTERNAL MESSAGE

Good day Ms Gopaul,

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- 1. Shepmoore WEF
- 2. Emvelo WEF
- 3. Rochdale WEF

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DARDLEA	DESIGNATION	EMAIL	PHONE
Robyn Luyt	Director: Environmental Impact Management (EIM)		
Sindisiwe Mbuyane	Deputy Director: EIM Gert Sibande District		
Gavin Cowden	Deputy Director: Environmental Policy, Planning and Coordination		
MTPA	DESIGNATION	EMAIL	PHONE
Mervyn Lotter	Manager: Biodiversity Planning		
Frans Krige	Land Use Advisor		
Khumbelo Malele	Land Use Advisor		
Celia de Waal	EIA Data Capturer LUA		

Please note that time frames for commenting on draft reports can only commence on the date that hard copies of the reports are received, and we request that our 30 day time frame aligns with DFFE's.

Kind Regards
Robyn

Robyn Luyt B.A., B.Sc., B.Sc (Hons) M.Sc., Pr.Sci.Nat. (400327/11), EAPASA (2019/1293)
Director: Environmental Impact Management
Department of Agriculture, Rural Development, Land & Environmental Affairs
Mpumalanga Provincial Government
Riverside Office Park, Aqua Street (Cycad Building - Block 4)
Nelspruit, 1200

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From: [ERM Arcus Amsterdam](#)
To: [Celia de Waal](#); [ERM Arcus Amsterdam](#)
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Consultation | Mlulo Wind Farms Mpumalanga
Date: Tuesday, 06 August 2024 15:27:29
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image005.png](#)
[image006.png](#)

Good day Cecilia,

Thank you for your email. The reports are on their way to the below address as we speak.

Kind Regards,



ERM

Sustainability is our business

Lucien Barbeau
Consultant

Cape Town
+27105963488

erm.com

From: Celia de Waal <Celia.dewaal@mtpa.co.za>
Sent: Tuesday, August 6, 2024 3:16 PM
To: ERM Arcus Amsterdam <ERM.ArcusAmsterdam@erm.com>
Cc: Johan Eksteen <johan@mtpa.co.za>; Frans Krige <frans@mtpa.co.za>; Khumbelo Malele <Khumbelo.Malele@mtpa.co.za>; Mervyn Lotter <Mervyn.Lotter@mtpa.co.za>
Subject: FW: Consultation | Mlulo Wind Farms Mpumalanga

WARNING: The sender of this email could not be validated and may not match the person in the "From" field.

EXTERNAL MESSAGE

Good afternoon

Kindly send us the MTPA a hard copy of the Draft Scoping report for the Mlulo Wind Farms, for our Scientists to comment on, to the following physical address:

To: Cecilia de Waal (EIA Data Capturer)
MTPA Office Buildings (Lydenburg)
End of Morgan Street
Lydenburg
1120

[REDACTED]

Kind regards

Celia de Waal



Cecilia de Waal
Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Data Capturer
Land Use Advisory (LUA)
Biodiversity Conservation: Scientific Services
[REDACTED]
e-mail: [REDACTED]

From: ERM Arcus Amsterdam <ERM.ArcusAmsterdam@erm.com>

Sent: Tuesday, August 6, 2024 1:43 PM

To: [Redacted]
[Redacted]
[Redacted]

Subject: RE: Consultation | Mlulo Wind Farms Mpumalanga

Good day Robyn,

Please note that DARDLEA and MTPA were notified regarding the PP for the Draft scoping Phase on the 19th July 2024. Kindly see proof of notification below:

Notification of Submission: Draft scoping Report Mulilo Amsterdam WEFs, near Ermelo, Mpumalanga

EA

ERM Arcus Amsterdam

To

ERM Arcus Amsterdam

B

[Redacted]

General/General - Anyone (unrestricted)

IAP Notification Letter Afrikaans.pdf

305 KB

IAP Notification Letter English.pdf

291 KB

Reply

Reply All

Forward

Fri 2024/07/19 16:37

SUBMISSION OF DRAFT SCOPING REPORT FOR THE WIND ENERGY FACILITY (SHEEPMOOR, ROCHDALE AND EMVELO) CLUSTER

Dear Interested and Affected Party,

This email serves to inform you about the submission of the Draft Scoping Reports for the proposed Mulilo Amsterdam WEFs, near Ermelo, Mpumalanga.

Public Participation Process (PPP), which is being undertaken in accordance with the requirements of Section 24 (5) and Chapter 6 (41, 42, 43, and 44) of GN R. 326 of the NEMA, 1998 EIA Regulations, 2014 (as amended) and the Western Cape Department of Environmental Affairs & Development Planning (DEA&DP) Guideline on Public Participation (2011). The reports will be available for a 30 day comment period from 19 July 2024 to 20 August 2024.

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Thank you and regards,

Stephanie Gopaul

Environmental Assessment Practitioner

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EA

ERM Arcus Amsterdam

To

ERM Arcus Amsterdam

B

[Redacted]

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Thank you,



Lucien Barbeau
Consultant

Cape Town
+27105963488

erm.com

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Sent: Saturday, August 3, 2024 3:09 PM
To: ERM Arcus Amsterdam <Erm.arcusamsterdam@erm.com>
Cc: [REDACTED] indy
Subject: Consultation | Mlulio Wind Farms Mpumalanga
Importance: High

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DARDLEA	DESIGNATION	EMAIL	PHONE
Robyn Luyt	Director: Environmental Impact Management (EIM)	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
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Mervyn Lotter	Manager: Biodiversity Planning	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
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Kind Regards
Robyn

*Robyn Luyt B.A., B.Sc., B.Sc (Hons) M.Sc., Pr.Sci.Nat. (400327/11), EAPASA (2019/1293)
Director: Environmental Impact Management
Department of Agriculture, Rural Development, Land & Environmental Affairs
Mpumalanga Provincial Government
Riverside Office Park, Aqua Street (Cycad Building - Block 4)
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From: [Celia de Waal](#)
To: [ERM Arcus Amsterdam](#)
Subject: RE: Consultation | Mlulio Wind Farms Mpumalanga
Date: Tuesday, 06 August 2024 15:37:14
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image003.png](#)
[image004.png](#)

WARNING: The sender of this email could not be validated and may not match the person in the "From" field.

EXTERNAL MESSAGE

Thank you

From: ERM Arcus Amsterdam <ERM.ArcusAmsterdam@erm.com>

Sent: Tuesday, August 6, 2024 3:27 PM

To: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Subject: RE: Consultation | Mlulio Wind Farms Mpumalanga

Good day Cecilia,

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Kind Regards,



ERM

Sustainability is our business

Lucien Barbeau
Consultant

Cape Town
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Lydenburg
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[REDACTED]

Kind regards

Celia de Waal

Cecilia de Waal

Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Data Capturer
Land Use Advisory (LUA)
Biodiversity Conservation: Scientific Services

[REDACTED]

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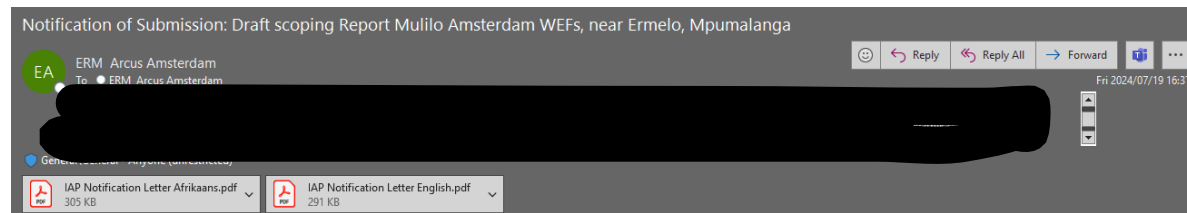
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Notification of Submission: Draft scoping Report Mulilo Amsterdam WEFs, near Ermelo, Mpumalanga

ERM Arcus Amsterdam

To: ERM Arcus Amsterdam

General/General - Anyone (unrestricted)

IAP Notification Letter Afrikaans.pdf 305 KB

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Consultant

Cape Town
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Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Consultation | Mlulio Wind Farms Mpumalanga
Importance: High

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DARDLEA	DESIGNATION	EMAIL	PHONE
Robyn Luyt	Director: Environmental Impact Management (EIM)	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
Sindisiwe	Deputy Director:	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]

Mbuyane	EIM Gert Sibande District		5543
Gavin Cowden	Deputy Director: Environmental Policy, Planning and Coordination		
MTPA	DESIGNATION	EMAIL	PHONE
Mervyn Lotter	Manager: Biodiversity Planning		
Frans Krige	Land Use Advisor		
Khumbelo Malele	Land Use Advisor		
Celia de Waal	EIA Data Capturer LUA		

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Robyn

*Robyn Luyt B.A., B.Sc., B.Sc (Hons) M.Sc., Pr.Sci.Nat. (400327/11), EAPASA (2019/1293)
Director: Environmental Impact Management
Department of Agriculture, Rural Development, Land & Environmental Affairs
Mpumalanga Provincial Government
Riverside Office Park, Aqua Street (Cycad Building - Block 4)*

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Disclaimer

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From: ERM Arcus Amsterdam <ERM.ArcusAmsterdam@erm.com>

Sent: Monday, 29 July 2024 17:57

To: [REDACTED]; ERM Arcus Amsterdam
<ERM.ArcusAmsterdam@erm.com>

Subject: RE: [CAUTION:EXTERNAL EMAIL] Notification of Submission: Draft scoping Report Mulilo Amsterdam WEFs, near Ermelo, Mpumalanga

Dear John,

Thank you for your e-mail. Please find attached a KMZ file of each WEF.

Thank You

Kind Regards



ERM

Sustainability is our business

Lucien Barbeau
Consultant

Cape Town
+27105963488

erm.com

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: Tuesday, July 23, 2024 11:50 AM

To: ERM Arcus Amsterdam <ERM.ArcusAmsterdam@erm.com>

Subject: RE: [CAUTION:EXTERNAL EMAIL] Notification of Submission: Draft scoping Report Mulilo Amsterdam WEFs, near Ermelo, Mpumalanga

You don't often get email from geerinh@ntcsa.co.za. [Learn why this is important](#)

EXTERNAL MESSAGE

Please send me KMZ files of the proposed developments and grid connection. Please find attached Eskom requirements for work at or near Eskom infrastructure and servitudes, as well as a setbacks guideline for RE Developments.

Kind regards

John Geeringh (Pr Sci Nat) Reg. EAP (EAPASA)
Senior Consultant Environmental Management
Grid Planning: Land and Rights
National Transmission Company South Africa SOC Ltd (NTCSA)
Megawatt Park, B2Y25, Maxwell Drive, Sunninghill, Sandton.
P O Box 1091, Johannesburg, 2000.



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From: ERM Arcus Amsterdam <ERM.ArcusAmsterdam@erm.com>

Sent: Friday, 19 July 2024 16:40

To: ERM Arcus Amsterdam <ERM.ArcusAmsterdam@erm.com>

Subject: [CAUTION:EXTERNAL EMAIL] Notification of Submission: Draft scoping Report Mulilo Amsterdam WEFs, near Ermelo, Mpumalanga

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Thank you and regards,

Stephanie Gopaul

Environmental Assessment Practitioner

Consultant
Lucien Barbeau

ERM
240 Main Road, Rondebosch, Cape Town
T +27 21 681 5400
E lucien.barbeau@erm.com | W www.erm.com



From: [REDACTED]

Sent: Wednesday, July 31, 2024 3:45 PM

To: ERM Arcus Amsterdam <ERM.ArcusAmsterdam@erm.com>

Subject: RE: [CAUTION:EXTERNAL EMAIL] Notification of Submission: Draft scoping Report Mulilo Amsterdam WEFs, near Ermelo, Mpumalanga

You don't often get email from geerinh@ntcsa.co.za. [Learn why this is important](#)

EXTERNAL MESSAGE

Thanks, they will have to relook at their turbine layouts with regards to the setbacks requirements of 3 x tip height from TX lines and 1 x tip height from Dx lines. Lines connecting to power stations are extremely sensitive and chance are we may no grant setbacks relaxation.

Regards

John Geeringh (Pr Sci Nat) Reg. EAP (EAPASA)
Senior Consultant Environmental Management
Grid Planning: Land and Rights
National Transmission Company South Africa SOC Ltd (NTCSA)
Megawatt Park, B2Y25, Maxwell Drive, Sunninghill, Sandton.
P O Box 1091, Johannesburg, 2000.

[REDACTED]

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Thank You

Kind Regards



ERM

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Lucien Barbeau
Consultant

Cape Town
+27105963488

erm.com

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: Tuesday, July 23, 2024 11:50 AM

To: ERM Arcus Amsterdam <ERM.ArcusAmsterdam@erm.com>

Subject: RE: [CAUTION:EXTERNAL EMAIL] Notification of Submission: Draft scoping Report Mulilo Amsterdam WEFs, near Ermelo, Mpumalanga

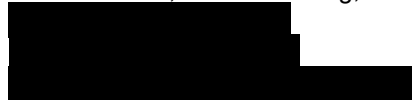
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EXTERNAL MESSAGE

Please send me KMZ files of the proposed developments and grid connection. Please find attached Eskom requirements for work at or near Eskom infrastructure and servitudes, as well as a setbacks guideline for RE Developments.

Kind regards

John Geeringh (Pr Sci Nat) Reg. EAP (EAPASA)
Senior Consultant Environmental Management
Grid Planning: Land and Rights
National Transmission Company South Africa SOC Ltd (NTCSA)
Megawatt Park, B2Y25, Maxwell Drive, Sunninghill, Sandton.
P O Box 1091, Johannesburg, 2000.



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From: ERM Arcus Amsterdam <ERM.ArcusAmsterdam@erm.com>

Sent: Friday, 19 July 2024 16:40

To: ERM Arcus Amsterdam <ERM.ArcusAmsterdam@erm.com>

Subject: [CAUTION:EXTERNAL EMAIL] Notification of Submission: Draft scoping Report Mulilo

Amsterdam WEFs, near Ermelo, Mpumalanga

**SUBMISSION OF DRAFT SCOPING REPORT FOR THE WIND ENERGY FACILITY
(SHEEPMOOR, ROCHDALE AND EMVELO) CLUSTER**

Dear Interested and Affected Party,

This email serves to inform you about the submission of the Draft Scoping Reports for the proposed Mulilo Amsterdam WEFs, near Ermelo, Mpumalanga.

Public Participation Process (PPP), which is being undertaken in accordance with the requirements of Section 24 (5) and Chapter 6 (41, 42, 43, and 44) of GN R. 326 of the NEMA, 1998 EIA Regulations, 2014 (as amended) and the Western Cape Department of Environmental Affairs & Development Planning (DEA&DP) Guideline on Public Participation (2011). The reports will be available for a 30 day comment period from 19 July 2024 to 20 August 2024.

Please ensure that you have submitted your comment before the close of the comment period should you wish to have your input considered in the submission of the Final Scoping Report.

More information on how you are able to participate in this process is attached in the above documentation.

Please indicate which application your comment in respect of.

Should you be a Land Owner directly affected by the proposed project (within the project boundary or adjacent thereto) please could you notify all occupants on your properties with regards to the proposed project.

Thank you and regards,

Stephanie Gopaul

Environmental Assessment Practitioner

Consultant
Lucien Barbeau

ERM
240 Main Road, Rondebosch, Cape Town
T +27 21 681 5400
E lucien.barbeau@erm.com | W www.erm.com



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Grid Planning: Land and Rights
National Transmission Company South Africa SOC Ltd (NTCSA)
Megawatt Park, B2Y25, Maxwell Drive, Sunninghill, Sandton.
P O Box 1091, Johannesburg, 2000.



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From: ERM Arcus Amsterdam <ERM.ArcusAmsterdam@erm.com>

Sent: Monday, 29 July 2024 17:57

To:



<ERM.ArcusAmsterdam@erm.com>

Subject: RE: [CAUTION:EXTERNAL EMAIL] Notification of Submission: Draft scoping Report Mulilo Amsterdam WEFs, near Ermelo, Mpumalanga

Dear John,

Thank you for your e-mail. Please find attached a KMZ file of each WEF.

Thank You

Kind Regards



ERM

Sustainability is our business

Lucien Barbeau
Consultant

Cape Town
+27105963488

erm.com

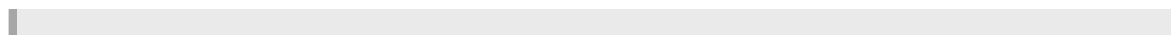
From:



Sent: Tuesday, July 23, 2024 11:50 AM

To: ERM Arcus Amsterdam <ERM.ArcusAmsterdam@erm.com>

Subject: RE: [CAUTION:EXTERNAL EMAIL] Notification of Submission: Draft scoping Report Mulilo Amsterdam WEFs, near Ermelo, Mpumalanga



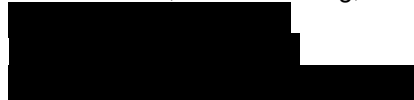
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 Eskom	SCOT	Technology
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Title: **Renewable Energy Generation Plant Setbacks to Eskom Infrastructure** Unique Identifier: **240-65559775**

Alternative Reference Number: **N/A**

Area of Applicability: **Power Line Engineering**



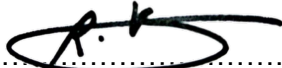
Documentation Type: **Guideline**

Revision: **2**

Total Pages: **9**

Next Review Date: **N/A**

Disclosure Classification: **CONTROLLED DISCLOSURE**

Compiled by	Approved by	Authorised by
		
J W Chetty Mechanical Engineer	B Ntshuntsha Chief Engineer (Lines)	R A Vajeth Snr Manager (Lines) and SCOT/SC/ Chairperson
Date: 15 / 09 / 2020	Date: 30/10/2020	Date: 30/10/2020

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In recent decades, the use of wind turbines, concentrated solar plants and photovoltaic plants have been on the increase as it serves as an abundant source of energy. This document specifies proposed setbacks for wind turbines and the reasons for these setbacks from infrastructure as well as setbacks for concentrated solar plants and photovoltaic plants. Setbacks for wind turbines employed in other countries were compared and a general setback to be used by Eskom was suggested for use with wind turbines and other renewable energy generation plants.

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1. INTRODUCTION

During the last few decades, a large amount of wind turbines have been installed in wind farms to accommodate for the large demand of energy and depleting fossil fuels. Wind is one of the most abundant sources of renewable energy. Wind turbines harness the energy of this renewable resource for integration in electricity networks. The extraction of wind energy is its primary function and thus the aerodynamics of the wind turbine is important. There are many different types of wind turbines which will all exhibit different wind flow characteristics. The most common wind turbine used commercially is the Horizontal Axis Wind Turbine. Wind flow characteristics of this turbine are important to analyse as it may have an effect on surrounding infrastructure.

Wind turbines also cause large turbulence downwind that may affect existing infrastructure. Debris or parts of the turbine blade, in the case of a failure, may be tossed behind the turbine and may lead to damage of infrastructure in the wake path.

This document outlines the minimum distances that need to be introduced between a wind turbine and Eskom infrastructure to ensure that debris and / or turbulence would not negatively impact on the infrastructure and future expansion of infrastructure (lines and substation) as per the long term planning scenario.

Safety distances of wind turbines from other structures as implemented by other countries were also considered and the reasons for their selection were noted. All renewable energy developments are approved by The Department of Environmental Affairs, Forestry and Fisheries (DEFF) in terms of NEMA. The DEFF is aware of the setbacks guideline, however they cannot use it in terms of decision making since the setbacks document has no legal standing in SA and it would be outside of their mandate who have been advised to follow the guidelines herein.

Concentrated solar plants and photovoltaic plants setbacks away from substations were also to be considered to prevent restricting possible power line access routes to the substation and possible expansion of substations.

2. SUPPORTING CLAUSES

2.1 SCOPE

This document provides guidance on the safe distance that a wind turbine should be located from any Eskom power line or substation. Although it is not based on any legislative requirement, it is deemed important that Eskom's infrastructure and future network expansion planning is not impeded. The document specifies proposed setback distances for transmission lines (220 kV to 765 kV), distribution lines

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(66 kV to 132 kV) and all Eskom substations. Proposed setbacks for concentrated solar plants and photovoltaic plants are also specified away from substations.

2.1.1 Purpose

Setbacks for wind turbines and power lines / substations are required for various reasons. These include possible catastrophic failure of the turbine blade that may release fragments and which may be thrown onto nearby power lines that may result in damage with associated unplanned outages. Turbulence behind the turbine may affect helicopter flight during routine Eskom live line maintenance and inspections that may lead to safety risk of the aircraft / personnel. Concentrated solar plants and photovoltaic plants setback away from substations were required to prevent substations from being boxed in by these renewable generation plants limiting line route access to the substations and possible future substation expansion.

2.1.2 Applicability

This document is applicable to the siting of all new and existing wind turbines, concentrated solar plants and photovoltaic plants near power lines and substations and in line of site between Eskom telecommunication infrastructure, including future Eskom renewable energy development.

2.2 NORMATIVE/INFORMATIVE REFERENCES

2.2.1 Normative

1. <http://www.envir.ee/orb.aw/class=file/action=preview/id=1170403/Hiiumaa+turbulence+impact+EMD.pdf>.
2. <http://www.energy.ca.gov/2005publications/CEC-500-2005-184/CEC-500-2005-184.PDF>
3. <http://www.adamscountywind.com/Revised%20Site/Windmills/Adams%20County%20Ordinance/Adams%20County%20Wind%20Ord.htm>
4. http://www.dsireusa.org/incentives/incentive.cfm?Incentive_Code=PA11R&RE=1&EE=1
5. <http://www.wind-watch.org/documents/european-setbacks-minimum-distance-between-wind-turbines-and-habitations/>
6. <http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201011/ldbills/017/11017.1-i.html>
7. http://www.caw.ca/assets/pdf/Turbine_Safety_Report.pdf
8. Rogers J, Slegers N, Costello M. (2011) A method for defining wind turbine setback standards. Wind energy 10.1002/we.468

2.2.2 Informative

None

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2.3 DEFINITIONS

Definition	Description
Setback	The minimum distance between a wind turbine and boundary line/dwelling/road/infrastructure/servitude etc.
Flicker	Effect caused when rotating wind turbine blades periodically cast shadows
Tip Height	The total height of the wind turbine ie. Hub height plus half rotor diameter (see Figure1)

2.3.1 Disclosure Classification

Controlled disclosure: controlled disclosure to external parties (either enforced by law, or discretionary).

2.4 ABBREVIATIONS

Abbreviation	Description
None	

2.5 ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

All parties involved in the positioning wind turbines, concentrated solar plants and photovoltaic plants near power lines/substations should endeavour to follow the setbacks outlined in this guideline.

2.6 PROCESS FOR MONITORING

Agreement by Eskom in writing on any encroachment of the setbacks distance should be requested via the Grid Access Unit. Eskom should ensure that every application for renewable energy (RE) developments are informed about the existence of the setbacks document early in the RE planning process to ensure maximum effect. This includes Eskom RE development.

2.7 RELATED/SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

None

3. DOCUMENT CONTENT

3.1 INTERNATIONAL SETBACK COMPARISON

Wind Turbine setbacks employed by various countries were considered. It was found that setbacks were determined for various reasons that include noise, flicker, turbine blade failure and wind effects as well as

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future network expansion planning. The distances (setbacks) varied based on these factors and were influenced by the type of infrastructure

Wind turbine setbacks varied for roads, power lines, dwellings, buildings and property and it was noted that the largest setbacks were employed for reasons of noise and flicker related issues [1-7]. Very few countries specified setbacks for power lines.

The literature survey [1-7], yielded information about studies and experiments were conducted to determine the distance that a broken fragment from a wind turbine might be thrown. Even though of low probability of hitting a power line [5.0×10^{-5} [8]], the distances recorded were significant [750m [8]]

Wind turbines may also cause changes in wind patterns with turbulent effects behind the hub. These factors influence the wind turbine setbacks specified in this document.

Setbacks were thus introduced to prevent any damage to Eskom infrastructure and impedance to operation and future network expansion planning.

Renewable energy plant can also limit access into substations for power lines of all voltages. A setback distance should therefore be employed to prevent substations from being boxed in by these generation plants and preventing future network expansion. These setback distances are specified in this document.

3.2 ESKOM RECOMMENDED SETBACKS

Any renewable energy applicant should engage with Eskom to determine if their plant layout or positioning of turbines, CSP or PV infrastructure would encroach on the proposed setbacks provided for in this guideline and to ensure that their planning and Eskom's future expansion planning is taken into account. Eskom must inform all renewable energy developers, including Eskom RE, of the existence of the setbacks guideline early in the development process. Should there be an encroachment, a formal request should be sent to and accepted by Eskom in writing if any of the below mentioned setback distances are infringed upon:

- Eskom requests a setback distance of 3 times the tip height of the wind turbine from the edge of the closest Eskom servitude (including vacant servitudes) for transmission lines (220kV to 765kV) and Substations.
- Eskom requests a setback distance of 1 times the tip height of the wind turbine from the edge of the closest Eskom servitude (including vacant servitudes) for distribution lines (66 kV to 132 kV) and Substations.

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- A written request should be sent to Eskom via the Grid Access Unit regarding any proposed wind turbine, concentrated solar plants and photovoltaic activity within a 5 km radius of a substation for Eskom to comment on.
- Where concentrated solar plants, photovoltaic structures, battery storage systems (BESS) and other renewable generation plants fall within a 2 km radius of the closest point of a transmission or distribution substation (66kV to 765kV), a written agreement with Eskom is recommended during the planning phase of such plant or structures to ensure Eskom's future planning is not impeded.
- Applicants should not position any wind turbine in the line of site between and two Eskom Radio Telecommunication masts. It should be proven that Eskom radio telecommunication systems (mainly microwave systems) will not be affected in any way by wind turbines due to the criticality of this infrastructure in terms of network operation. Eskom Telecommunications should be engaged on this matter.
- If the position or size of any turbine changes and subsequently infringes on any of the above stated setbacks, a request for relaxation must be sent through to Eskom as per the point mentioned above.

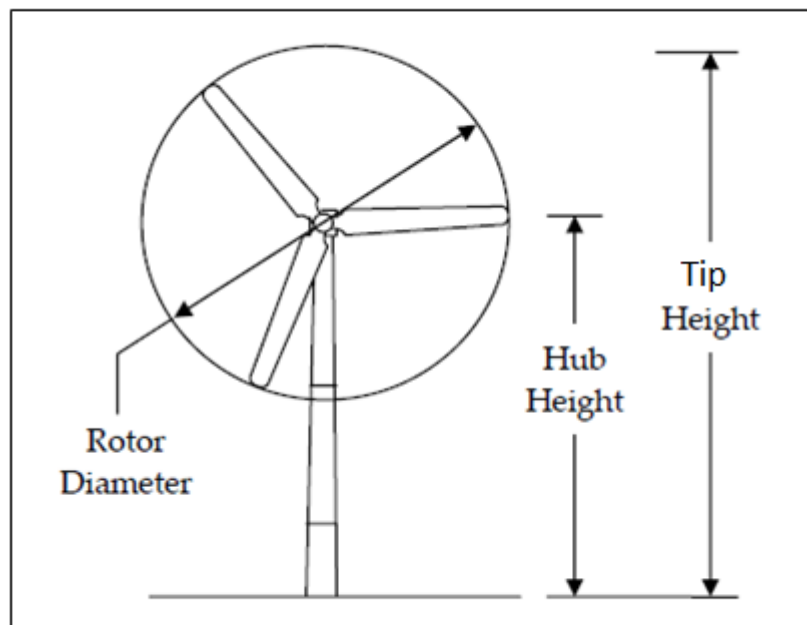


Figure 1: Horizontal Axis Wind Turbine ^[2]

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4. AUTHORISATION

This document has been seen and accepted by:

Name & Surname	Designation
V Naidoo	Chief Engineer
Dr P Pretorius	Electrical Specialist
J Geeringh	Snr Consultant Environ Mngt
B Haridass	Snr Consultant Engineer
B Ntshuntsha	Chief Engineer
R Vajeth	Snr Manager (Lines)
D A Tunnicliff	Snr Manager L&R (Acting)
B Branfield	Snr Consultant Engineer

5. REVISIONS

Date	Rev.	Compiler	Remarks
November 2013	0	J W Chetty	First Publication - No renewable energy generation plant setback specification in existence.
October 2018	1	JW Chetty	Modification to sub-section 3.2 to provide more clarity for application procedure.
June 2020	2	JW Chetty	Content within the guideline was re-worded to explain the benefits of mutual agreements between the applicants and ESKOM rather than the application being a legal obligation.

6. DEVELOPMENT TEAM

The following people were involved in the development of this document:

Jonathan Chetty (Mechanical Engineer)

Vivendhra Naidoo (Chief Engineer)

Dr Pieter Pretorius (Electrical Specialist)

John Geeringh (Snr Consultant Environ Mngt)

Bharat Haridass (Snr Consultant Engineer)

Riaz Vajeth (Snr Manager (Lines))

Bruce Ntshuntsha (Chief Engineer)

David Tunnicliff (Snr Manager L&R Acting)

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From: [Lloyd Barnes](#)
To: [ERM Arcus Amsterdam](#); [Gail Wheeler](#)
Cc: [Stephen Burton](#); [Stephanie Gopaul](#)
Subject: RE: [CAUTION:EXTERNAL EMAIL] Notification of Submission: Draft scoping Report Mulilo Amsterdam WEFs, near Ermelo, Mpumalanga
Date: Wednesday, 07 August 2024 09:15:55
Attachments: [image002.png](#)
[image004.png](#)
[image005.png](#)

EXTERNAL MESSAGE

That is sufficient, thanks Lucien!

Kind Regards,

Lloyd Barnes

Project Manager: Environmental



From: ERM Arcus Amsterdam <ERM.ArcusAmsterdam@erm.com>
Sent: Wednesday, August 7, 2024 8:48 AM
To: [REDACTED] ERM Arcus Amsterdam
<ERM.ArcusAmsterdam@erm.com>; [REDACTED]
Cc: Stephen Burton <Stephen.Burton@erm.com>; Stephanie Gopaul
<Stephanie.Gopaul@erm.com>
Subject: RE: [CAUTION:EXTERNAL EMAIL] Notification of Submission: Draft scoping Report Mulilo Amsterdam WEFs, near Ermelo, Mpumalanga

Hi Lloyd,

I would like to respond with the following:

The layout will be revised, taking into account the WTG's that are within the proximity of the existing transmission lines. We will ensure that these turbines are 3x the Tip height from existing Electrical infrastructure.

Please let me know if you are happy with the above statement. I have attached the guidelines as well.

Thank you,



ERM

Sustainability is our business

Lucien Barbeau
Consultant

Cape Town

erm.com

+27105963488

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, August 6, 2024 4:10 PM
To: ERM Arcus Amsterdam <ERM.ArcusAmsterdam@erm.com>; [REDACTED]
Cc: Stephen Burton <Stephen.Burton@erm.com>; Stephanie Gopaul <Stephanie.Gopaul@erm.com>
Subject: RE: [CAUTION:EXTERNAL EMAIL] Notification of Submission: Draft scoping Report Mulilo Amsterdam WEFs, near Ermelo, Mpumalanga

EXTERNAL MESSAGE

Good day,

Thank you for bringing this to our attention.

What is your proposed response?

Kind Regards,

Lloyd Barnes

Project Manager: Environmental

[REDACTED]



From: ERM Arcus Amsterdam <ERM.ArcusAmsterdam@erm.com>
Sent: Tuesday, August 6, 2024 4:01 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]; Stephen Burton <Stephen.Burton@erm.com>; Stephanie Gopaul <Stephanie.Gopaul@erm.com>
Subject: FW: [CAUTION:EXTERNAL EMAIL] Notification of Submission: Draft scoping Report Mulilo Amsterdam WEFs, near Ermelo, Mpumalanga

Hi Lloyd,

I am forwarding this comment to you from a design perspective. Please see below response from National Transmission Company South Africa regarding turbine locations in relation to transmission lines.

Kind regards,

Lucien Barbeau
Consultant



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Cape Town
+27105963488

erm.com

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: Wednesday, July 31, 2024 3:45 PM

To: ERM Arcus Amsterdam <ERM.ArcusAmsterdam@erm.com>

Subject: RE: [CAUTION:EXTERNAL EMAIL] Notification of Submission: Draft scoping Report Mulilo Amsterdam WEFs, near Ermelo, Mpumalanga

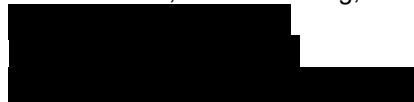
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EXTERNAL MESSAGE

Thanks, they will have to relook at their turbine layouts with regards to the setbacks requirements of 3 x tip height from TX lines and 1 x tip height from Dx lines. Lines connecting to power stations are extremely sensitive and chance are we may no grant setbacks relaxation.

Regards

John Geeringh (Pr Sci Nat) Reg. EAP (EAPASA)
Senior Consultant Environmental Management
Grid Planning: Land and Rights
National Transmission Company South Africa SOC Ltd (NTCSA)
Megawatt Park, B2Y25, Maxwell Drive, Sunninghill, Sandton.
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Thank You
Kind Regards



ERM

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Lucien Barbeau
Consultant

Cape Town
+27105963488

erm.com

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, July 23, 2024 11:50 AM
To: ERM Arcus Amsterdam <ERM.ArcusAmsterdam@erm.com>
Subject: RE: [CAUTION:EXTERNAL EMAIL] Notification of Submission: Draft scoping Report Mulilo Amsterdam WEFs, near Ermelo, Mpumalanga

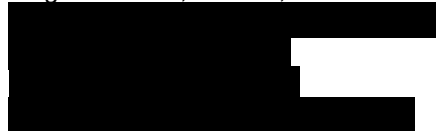
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Sent: Friday, 19 July 2024 16:40

To: ERM Arcus Amsterdam <ERM.ArcusAmsterdam@erm.com>

Subject: [CAUTION:EXTERNAL EMAIL] Notification of Submission: Draft scoping Report Mulilo Amsterdam WEFs, near Ermelo, Mpumalanga

**SUBMISSION OF DRAFT SCOPING REPORT FOR THE WIND ENERGY FACILITY
(SHEEPMOOR, ROCHDALE AND EMVELO) CLUSTER**

Dear Interested and Affected Party,

This email serves to inform you about the submission of the Draft Scoping Reports for the proposed Mulilo Amsterdam WEFs, near Ermelo, Mpumalanga.

Public Participation Process (PPP), which is being undertaken in accordance with the requirements of Section 24 (5) and Chapter 6 (41, 42, 43, and 44) of GN R. 326 of the NEMA, 1998 EIA Regulations, 2014 (as amended) and the Western Cape Department of Environmental Affairs & Development Planning (DEA&DP) Guideline on Public Participation (2011). The reports will be available for a 30 day comment period from 19 July 2024 to 20 August 2024.

Please ensure that you have submitted your comment before the close of the comment period should you wish to have your input considered in the submission of the Final Scoping Report.

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Please indicate which application your comment in respect of.

Should you be a Land Owner directly affected by the proposed project (within the project boundary or adjacent thereto) please could you notify all occupants on your properties with regards to the proposed project.

Thank you and regards,

Stephanie Gopaul

Environmental Assessment Practitioner

Consultant
Lucien Barbeau

ERM
240 Main Road, Rondebosch, Cape Town

T +27 21 681 5400

E lucien.barbeau@erm.com | W www.erm.com



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From: [ERM Arcus Amsterdam](#)
To: [REDACTED]
Date: Wednesday, 07 August 2024 09:24:32
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)

Hi John,

Thank you for your email.

The layout will be revised, taking into account the WTG's that are within the proximity of the existing transmission lines. We will ensure that these turbines are 3x the Tip height from existing Electrical infrastructure.

Kind Regards,



ERM

Sustainability is our business

Lucien Barbeau
Consultant

Cape Town
+27105963488

erm.com

From: John Geeringh <GeerinJH@ntcsa.co.za>
Sent: Wednesday, July 31, 2024 3:45 PM
To: ERM Arcus Amsterdam <ERM.ArcusAmsterdam@erm.com>
Subject: RE: [CAUTION:EXTERNAL EMAIL] Notification of Submission: Draft scoping Report Mulilo Amsterdam WEFs, near Ermelo, Mpumalanga

You don't often get email from geerinjh@ntcsa.co.za. [Learn why this is important](#)

EXTERNAL MESSAGE

Thanks, they will have to relook at their turbine layouts with regards to the setbacks requirements of 3 x tip height from TX lines and 1 x tip height from Dx lines. Lines connecting to power stations are extremely sensitive and chance are we may no grant setbacks relaxation.

Regards

John Geeringh (Pr Sci Nat) Reg. EAP (EAPASA)
Senior Consultant Environmental Management
Grid Planning: Land and Rights
National Transmission Company South Africa SOC Ltd (NTCSA)
Megawatt Park, B2Y25, Maxwell Drive, Sunninghill, Sandton.
P O Box 1091, Johannesburg, 2000.
Tel: +27 (0)11 516 7233
[REDACTED]

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From: ERM Arcus Amsterdam <ERM.ArcusAmsterdam@erm.com>
Sent: Monday, 29 July 2024 17:57
To: John Geeringh <GeerinJH@ntcsa.co.za>; ERM Arcus Amsterdam <ERM.ArcusAmsterdam@erm.com>
Subject: RE: [CAUTION:EXTERNAL EMAIL] Notification of Submission: Draft scoping Report Mulilo Amsterdam WEFs, near Ermelo, Mpumalanga

Dear John,

Thank you for your e-mail. Please find attached a KMZ file of each WEF.

Thank You
Kind Regards



ERM

Sustainability is our business

Lucien Barbeau
Consultant

Cape Town
+27105963488

erm.com

From: John Geeringh <GeerinJH@ntcsa.co.za>
Sent: Tuesday, July 23, 2024 11:50 AM
To: ERM Arcus Amsterdam <ERM.ArcusAmsterdam@erm.com>
Subject: RE: [CAUTION:EXTERNAL EMAIL] Notification of Submission: Draft scoping Report Mulilo Amsterdam WEFs, near Ermelo, Mpumalanga

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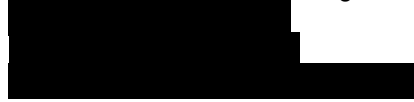
EXTERNAL MESSAGE

Please send me KMZ files of the proposed developments and grid connection. Please find attached Eskom requirements for work at or near Eskom infrastructure and servitudes, as well as

a setbacks guideline for RE Developments.

Kind regards

John Geeringh (Pr Sci Nat) Reg. EAP (EAPASA)
Senior Consultant Environmental Management
Grid Planning: Land and Rights
National Transmission Company South Africa SOC Ltd (NTCSA)
Megawatt Park, B2Y25, Maxwell Drive, Sunninghill, Sandton.
P O Box 1091, Johannesburg, 2000.



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Sent: Friday, 19 July 2024 16:40
To: ERM Arcus Amsterdam <ERM.ArcusAmsterdam@erm.com>
Subject: [CAUTION:EXTERNAL EMAIL] Notification of Submission: Draft scoping Report Mulilo Amsterdam WEFs, near Ermelo, Mpumalanga

SUBMISSION OF DRAFT SCOPING REPORT FOR THE WIND ENERGY FACILITY (SHEEPMOOR, ROCHDALE AND EMVELO) CLUSTER

Dear Interested and Affected Party,

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Public Participation Process (PPP), which is being undertaken in accordance with the requirements of Section 24 (5) and Chapter 6 (41, 42, 43, and 44) of GN R. 326 of the NEMA, 1998 EIA Regulations, 2014 (as amended) and the Western Cape Department of Environmental Affairs & Development Planning (DEA&DP) Guideline on Public Participation (2011). The reports will be available for a 30 day comment period from 19 July 2024 to 20 August 2024.

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More information on how you are able to participate in this process is attached in the above documentation.

Please indicate which application your comment in respect of.

Should you be a Land Owner directly affected by the proposed project (within the project boundary or adjacent thereto) please could you notify all occupants on your properties with regards to the proposed project.

Thank you and regards,

Stephanie Gopaul

Environmental Assessment Practitioner

Consultant
Lucien Barbeau

ERM
240 Main Road, Rondebosch, Cape Town
T +27 21 681 5400
E lucien.barbeau@erm.com | W www.erm.com



From: [Lloyd Barnes](#)
To: [ERM Arcus](#) [REDACTED]
Cc: [Stephen Burton](#); [Stephanie Gopaul](#)
Subject: RE: [CAUTION:EXTERNAL EMAIL] Notification of Submission: Draft scoping Report Mulilo Amsterdam WEFs, near Ermelo, Mpumalanga
Date: Wednesday, 07 August 2024 10:28:08
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)

EXTERNAL MESSAGE

Hi Lucien,

Could you please use the following instead:

The layout will be revised, taking into account the WTG's that are within the proximity of the existing transmission infrastructure. We will ensure that these turbines are 3x the Tip height from existing Transmission infrastructure.

Kind Regards,

Lloyd Barnes



From: Lloyd Barnes
Sent: Wednesday, August 7, 2024 9:16 AM
To: ERM Arcus Amsterdam <ERM.ArcusAmsterdam@erm.com>; Gail Wheeler <Gail@mulilo.com>
Cc: Stephen Burton <Stephen.Burton@erm.com>; Stephanie Gopaul <Stephanie.Gopaul@erm.com>
Subject: RE: [CAUTION:EXTERNAL EMAIL] Notification of Submission: Draft scoping Report Mulilo Amsterdam WEFs, near Ermelo, Mpumalanga

That is sufficient, thanks Lucien!

Kind Regards,

Lloyd Barnes

Project Manager: Environmental



From: ERM Arcus Amsterdam <ERM.ArcusAmsterdam@erm.com>
Sent: Wednesday, August 7, 2024 8:48 AM
To: [REDACTED] ERM Arcus Amsterdam

<ERM.ArcusAmsterdam@erm.com>; [REDACTED]

Cc: Stephen Burton <Stephen.Burton@erm.com>; Stephanie Gopaul <Stephanie.Gopaul@erm.com>

Subject: RE: [CAUTION:EXTERNAL EMAIL] Notification of Submission: Draft scoping Report Mulilo Amsterdam WEFs, near Ermelo, Mpumalanga

Hi Lloyd,

I would like to respond with the following:

The layout will be revised, taking into account the WTG's that are within the proximity of the existing transmission lines. We will ensure that these turbines are 3x the Tip height from existing Electrical infrastructure.

Please let me know if you are happy with the above statement. I have attached the guidelines as well.

Thank you,



ERM

Sustainability is our business

Lucien Barbeau
Consultant

Cape Town
+27105963488

erm.com

From: Lloyd Barnes <Lloyd@mulilo.com>

Sent: Tuesday, August 6, 2024 4:10 PM

To: ERM Arcus Amsterdam <ERM.ArcusAmsterdam@erm.com>; Gail Wheeler <Gail@mulilo.com>

Cc: Stephen Burton <Stephen.Burton@erm.com>; Stephanie Gopaul <Stephanie.Gopaul@erm.com>

Subject: RE: [CAUTION:EXTERNAL EMAIL] Notification of Submission: Draft scoping Report Mulilo Amsterdam WEFs, near Ermelo, Mpumalanga

EXTERNAL MESSAGE

Good day,

Thank you for bringing this to our attention.

What is your proposed response?

Kind Regards,

Lloyd Barnes

Project Manager: Environmental



From: ERM Arcus Amsterdam <ERM.ArcusAmsterdam@erm.com>

Sent: Tuesday, August 6, 2024 4:01 PM

To: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Stephen Burton <Stephen.Burton@erm.com>; Stephanie Gopaul <Stephanie.Gopaul@erm.com>

Subject: FW: [CAUTION:EXTERNAL EMAIL] Notification of Submission: Draft scoping Report Mulilo Amsterdam WEFs, near Ermelo, Mpumalanga

Hi Lloyd,

I am forwarding this comment to you from a design perspective. Please see below response from National Transmission Company South Africa regarding turbine locations in relation to transmission lines.

Kind regards,



Sustainability is our business

Lucien Barbeau
Consultant

Cape Town
+27105963488

erm.com

From: John Geeringh <GeerinJH@ntcsa.co.za>

Sent: Wednesday, July 31, 2024 3:45 PM

To: ERM Arcus Amsterdam <ERM.ArcusAmsterdam@erm.com>

Subject: RE: [CAUTION:EXTERNAL EMAIL] Notification of Submission: Draft scoping Report Mulilo Amsterdam WEFs, near Ermelo, Mpumalanga

You don't often get email from geerinjh@ntcsa.co.za. [Learn why this is important](#)

EXTERNAL MESSAGE

Thanks, they will have to relook at their turbine layouts with regards to the setbacks requirements of 3 x tip height from TX lines and 1 x tip height from Dx lines. Lines connecting to power stations are extremely sensitive and chance are we may no grant setbacks relaxation.

Regards

John Geeringh (Pr Sci Nat) Reg. EAP (EAPASA)
Senior Consultant Environmental Management
Grid Planning: Land and Rights
National Transmission Company South Africa SOC Ltd (NTCSA)

Megawatt Park, B2Y25, Maxwell Drive, Sunninghill, Sandton.

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From: ERM Arcus Amsterdam <ERM.ArcusAmsterdam@erm.com>

Sent: Monday, 29 July 2024 17:57

To: [REDACTED] ERM Arcus Amsterdam
<ERM.ArcusAmsterdam@erm.com>

Subject: RE: [CAUTION:EXTERNAL EMAIL] Notification of Submission: Draft scoping Report Mulilo Amsterdam WEFs, near Ermelo, Mpumalanga

Dear John,

Thank you for your e-mail. Please find attached a KMZ file of each WEF.

Thank You

Kind Regards



ERM

Sustainability is our business

Lucien Barbeau
Consultant

Cape Town
+27105963488

erm.com

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: Tuesday, July 23, 2024 11:50 AM

To: ERM Arcus Amsterdam <ERM.ArcusAmsterdam@erm.com>

Subject: RE: [CAUTION:EXTERNAL EMAIL] Notification of Submission: Draft scoping Report Mulilo Amsterdam WEFs, near Ermelo, Mpumalanga

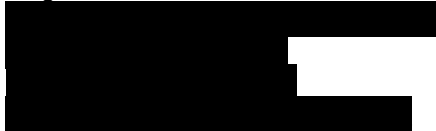
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EXTERNAL MESSAGE

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Kind regards

John Geeringh (Pr Sci Nat) Reg. EAP (EAPASA)
Senior Consultant Environmental Management
Grid Planning: Land and Rights
National Transmission Company South Africa SOC Ltd (NTCSA)
Megawatt Park, B2Y25, Maxwell Drive, Sunninghill, Sandton.



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Thank you and regards,

Stephanie Gopaul

Environmental Assessment Practitioner

Consultant
Lucien Barbeau

ERM

240 Main Road, Rondebosch, Cape Town

T +27 21 681 5400

E lucien.barbeau@erm.com | W www.erm.com



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From: [REDACTED]
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: RE: Consultation | Mlulo Wind Farms Mpumalanga
Date: Sunday, 11 August 2024 16:18:47

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EXTERNAL MESSAGE

Good afternoon,
Please confirm whether you received the below email - I have deleted all graphics from the email thread to ensure this reaches you.
Regards
Robyn

>>> Robyn Luyt 08/11/24 9:51 AM >>>
Good day Stephanie,

As of 8 August 2024, neither DARDLEA nor MTPA have received draft Scoping Reports to review and comment on, nor have we received a response to the email below.

Kind Regards
Robyn

*Robyn Luyt B.A., B.Sc., B.Sc (Hons) M.Sc., Pr.Sci.Nat. (400327/11), EAPASA (2019/1293)
Director: Environmental Impact Management
Department of Agriculture, Rural Development, Land & Environmental Affairs
Mpumalanga Provincial Government*

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Good day Stephanie,

Be advised that the names of the officials at MTPA that you have highlighted in your below notification are **not the relevant officials** that are required to be notified or the relevant officials that must review and comment on draft Scoping or EIA reports, or any reports related to an EIA process. There are also no officials in the list of officials in your screenshots that are in the Environmental Affairs Chief Directorate in MDARDLEA - as far as I am aware they are in the section that deals with Agriculture, which is an entirely different mandate.

It would **not** be acceptable to not provide the commenting authority the mandatory 30 days to review and comment on draft reports, especially in light of the fact that there has been no prior notification. The Directorate Environmental Impact Management within DARDLEA represents the MEC as Competent Authority in Mpumalanga, and the commenting authority in respect projects administered by DFFE. MTPA has the mandate for biodiversity matters on behalf of DARDLEA. As per my email to you below (3 August), hard copies of all reports must be submitted to Ms Mbuyane (Environmental Impact Management) at our Ermelo office, and the documents must be made available to me (and in this instance to Mr Cowden and Mr Lotter) electronically at the same time. You will need to contact Ms De Waal and Mr Krige at MTPA to confirm how documents must be submitted to MTPA. Please provide shape files of the 3 proposed WEFs as well.

Regards
Robyn

Robyn Luyt B.A., B.Sc., B.Sc (Hons) M.Sc., Pr.Sci.Nat. (400327/11), EAPASA (2019/1293)
Director: Environmental Impact Management
Department of Agriculture, Rural Development, Land & Environmental Affairs
Mpumalanga Provincial Government

>>> "ERM Arcus Amsterdam" <ERM.ArcusAmsterdam@erm.com> 08/06/24 1:43 PM >>>

If required, we will send through hard copies and also resend to the below contacts and will update our I&AP database accordingly. Additionally, kindly note that PPP for the Mulilo Wind Energy Farm in Mpumalanga closes the 20th of August 2024.

Thank you,

Lucien Barbeau

ERM

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, August 3, 2024 3:09 PM
To: ERM Arcus Amsterdam <Erm.arcusamsterdam@erm.com>
Cc: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Subject: Consultation | Mlulio Wind Farms Mpumalanga
Importance: High

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EXTERNAL MESSAGE

Good day Ms Gopaul,

It has come to our attention, and not via any official notification from ERM, that draft Scoping Reports for the following wind farms proposed in the Gert Sibande District in Mpumalanga Province are out for public comment from 19 July 2024 to 20 August 2024 (as per ERM website), where ERM is the EAP:

1. Shepmoore WEF
2. Emvelo WEF
3. Rochdale WEF

Neither DARDLEA nor MTPA have been consulted to date, nor have we received copies of any of the draft Scoping Reports. Aside from the requirements of the EIA Regulations, DARDLEA and MTPA have through internal arrangements with DFFE requested to be included in all pre-application consultations for Renewable Energy projects in Mpumalanga, particularly wind energy facilities. DARDLEA and MTPA must be included during all pre-application meetings and in all in-process consultations.

For the purpose of commenting on draft reports during the regulatory periods, we request that hard copies of all reports are submitted to Ms Sindi Mbuyane in our Ermelo office (where projects are located in the Gert Sibande District), and sent electronically to me via WeTransfer. Please also ensure that MTPA receives the reports in the manner requested by them. For your records I include the contact details of all relevant officials to be consulted in DARDLEA (when an application is in the Gert Sibande District) and MTPA:

DARDLEA	DESIGNATION	EMAIL	PHONE
Robyn Luyt	Director: Environmental Impact Management (EIM)	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
Sindisiwe Mbuyane	Deputy Director: EIM Gert Sibande District	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
Gavin Cowden	Deputy Director: Environmental Policy, Planning and Coordination	[REDACTED]	
MTPA	DESIGNATION	EMAIL	PHONE
Mervyn Lotter	Manager: Biodiversity Planning	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
Frans Krige	Land Use Advisor	[REDACTED] a	
Khumbelo Malele	Land Use Advisor	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
Celia de Waal	EIA Data Capturer LUA	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]

Please note that time frames for commenting on draft reports can only commence on the date that hard copies of the reports are received, and we request that our 30 day time frame aligns with DFFE's.

Kind Regards
Robyn

Robyn Luyt B.A., B.Sc., B.Sc (Hons) M.Sc., Pr.Sci.Nat. (400327/11), EAPASA (2019/1293)

Director: Environmental Impact Management

Department of Agriculture, Rural Development, Land & Environmental Affairs

Mpumalanga Provincial Government

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

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From: [ERM Arcus Amsterdam](#)
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: RE: Consultation | Mlulio Wind Farms Mpumalanga
Date: Sunday, 11 August 2024 16:22:58
Attachments: [RE Consultation Mlulio Wind Farms Mpumalanga.msg](#)
[image001.png](#)

Good day Robyn,

Emails have been received and responded to. Please see attached response.

Kind Regards



ERM

Sustainability is our business

Lucien Barbeau
Consultant

Cape Town
+27105963488

erm.com

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, August 11, 2024 4:19 PM
To: ERM Arcus Amsterdam <ERM.ArcusAmsterdam@erm.com>
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: RE: Consultation | Mlulio Wind Farms Mpumalanga

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EXTERNAL MESSAGE

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Regards
Robyn

>>> [REDACTED]/11/24 9:51 AM >>>
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Kind Regards
Robyn

*Robyn Luyt B.A., B.Sc., B.Sc (Hons) M.Sc., Pr.Sci.Nat. (400327/11), EAPASA (2019/1293)
Director: Environmental Impact Management
Department of Agriculture, Rural Development, Land & Environmental Affairs
Mpumalanga Provincial Government
Riverside Office Park, Aqua Street (Cycad Building - Block 4)*

Nelspruit, 1200
Tel: 013 759 4000
Email: rluyt@mpg.gov.za

>>> [REDACTED] 08/07/24 9:41 AM >>>
Good day Stephanie,

Be advised that the names of the officials at MTPA that you have highlighted in your below notification are **not the relevant officials** that are required to be notified or the relevant officials that must review and comment on draft Scoping or EIA reports, or any reports related to an EIA process. There are also no officials in the list of officials in your screenshots that are in the Environmental Affairs Chief Directorate in MDARDLEA - as far as I am aware they are in the section that deals with Agriculture, which is an entirely different mandate.

It would **not** be acceptable to not provide the commenting authority the mandatory 30 days to review and comment on draft reports, especially in light of the fact that there has been no prior notification. The Directorate Environmental Impact Management within DARDLEA represents the MEC as Competent Authority in Mpumalanga, and the commenting authority in respect projects administered by DFFE. MTPA has the mandate for biodiversity matters on behalf of DARDLEA. As per my email to you below (3 August), hard copies of all reports must be submitted to Ms Mbuyane (Environmental Impact Management) at our Ermelo office, and the documents must be made available to me (and in this instance to Mr Cowden and Mr Lotter) electronically at the same time. You will need to contact Ms De Waal and Mr Krige at MTPA to confirm how documents must be submitted to MTPA. Please provide shape files of the 3 proposed WEFs as well.

Regards
[REDACTED]

Robyn Luyt B.A., B.Sc., B.Sc (Hons) M.Sc., Pr.Sci.Nat. (400327/11), EAPASA (2019/1293)
Director: Environmental Impact Management
Department of Agriculture, Rural Development, Land & Environmental Affairs
Mpumalanga Provincial Government
Riverside Office Park, Aqua Street (Cycad Building - Block 4)
Nelspruit, 1200
[REDACTED]

>>> "ERM Arcus Amsterdam" <ERM.ArcusAmsterdam@erm.com> 08/06/24 1:43 PM >>>

If required, we will send through hard copies and also resend to the below contacts and will update our I&AP database accordingly. Additionally, kindly note that PPP for the Mulilo Wind Energy Farm in Mpumalanga closes the 20th of August 2024.

Thank you,

Lucien Barbeau

ERM

From: Robyn Luyt <rluyt@mpg.gov.za>
Sent: Saturday, August 3, 2024 3:09 PM
To: ERM Arcus Amsterdam <Erm.arcusamsterdam@erm.com>
Cc: cagenbach@dffe.gov.za; OLetlalo@dffe.gov.za; sdlomo@dffe.gov.za; whector@dffe.gov.za; Gavin Cowden <GCowden@mpg.gov.za>; Sindy Mbuyane <MbuyaneSB@mpg.gov.za>;

Celia.dewaal@mtpa.co.za; frans.krige@mtpa.co.za; mervyn@mtpa.co.za

Subject: Consultation | Mlulio Wind Farms Mpumalanga

Importance: High

You don't often get email from rluyt@mpg.gov.za. [Learn why this is important](#)

EXTERNAL MESSAGE

Good day Ms Gopaul,

It has come to our attention, and not via any official notification from ERM, that draft Scoping Reports for the following wind farms proposed in the Gert Sibande District in Mpumalanga Province are out for public comment from 19 July 2024 to 20 August 2024 (as per ERM website), where ERM is the EAP:

1. Shepmoore WEF
2. Emvelo WEF
3. Rochdale WEF

Neither DARDLEA nor MTPA have been consulted to date, nor have we received copies of any of the draft Scoping Reports. Aside from the requirements of the EIA Regulations, DARDLEA and MTPA have through internal arrangements with DFFE requested to be included in all pre-application consultations for Renewable Energy projects in Mpumalanga, particularly wind energy facilities. DARDLEA and MTPA must be included during all pre-application meetings and in all in-process consultations.

For the purpose of commenting on draft reports during the regulatory periods, we request that hard copies of all reports are submitted to Ms Sindi Mbuyane in our Ermelo office (where projects are located in the Gert Sibande District), and sent electronically to me via WeTransfer. Please also ensure that MTPA receives the reports in the manner requested by them. For your records I include the contact details of all relevant officials to be consulted in DARDLEA (when an application is in the Gert Sibande District) and MTPA:

DARDLEA	DESIGNATION	EMAIL	PHONE
Robyn Luyt	Director: Environmental Impact Management (EIM)		
Sindisiwe Mbuyane	Deputy Director: EIM Gert Sibande District		
Gavin Cowden	Deputy Director: Environmental Policy, Planning and Coordination		
MTPA	DESIGNATION	EMAIL	PHONE
Mervyn Lotter	Manager: Biodiversity Planning		
Frans Krige	Land Use Advisor		
Khumbelo Malele	Land Use Advisor		

Celia de Waal	EIA Data Capturer LUA		
------------------	--------------------------	--	--

Please note that time frames for commenting on draft reports can only commence on the date that hard copies of the reports are received, and we request that our 30 day time frame aligns with DFFE's.

Kind Regards
Robyn

Robyn Luyt B.A., B.Sc., B.Sc (Hons) M.Sc., Pr.Sci.Nat. (400327/11), EAPASA (2019/1293)
Director: Environmental Impact Management
Department of Agriculture, Rural Development, Land & Environmental Affairs
Mpumalanga Provincial Government

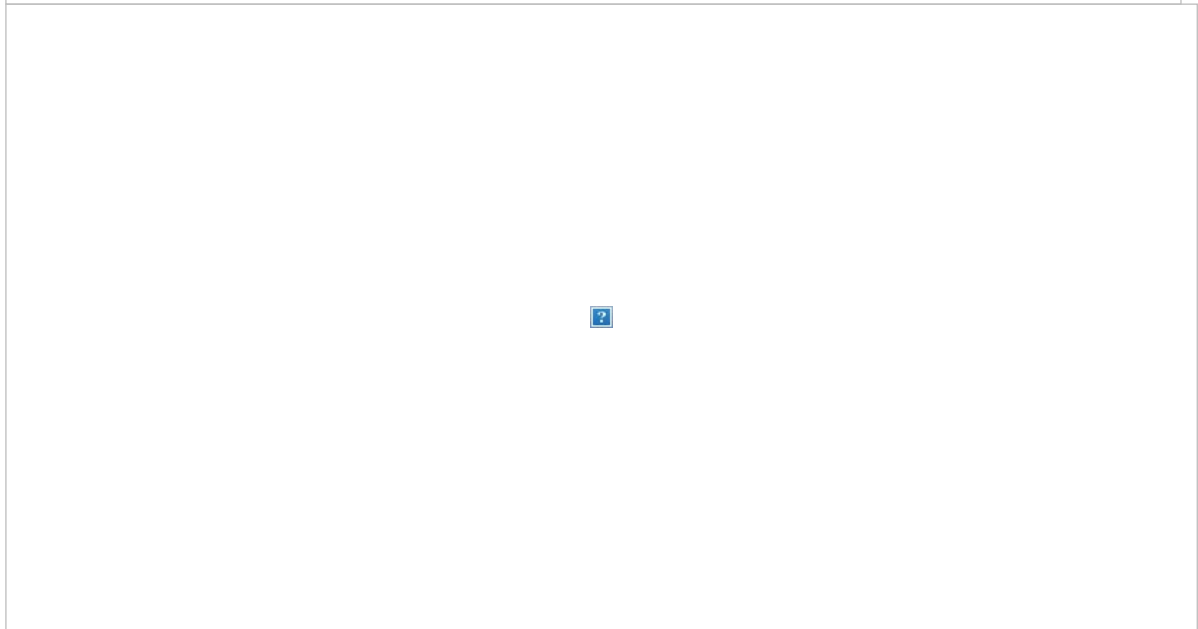
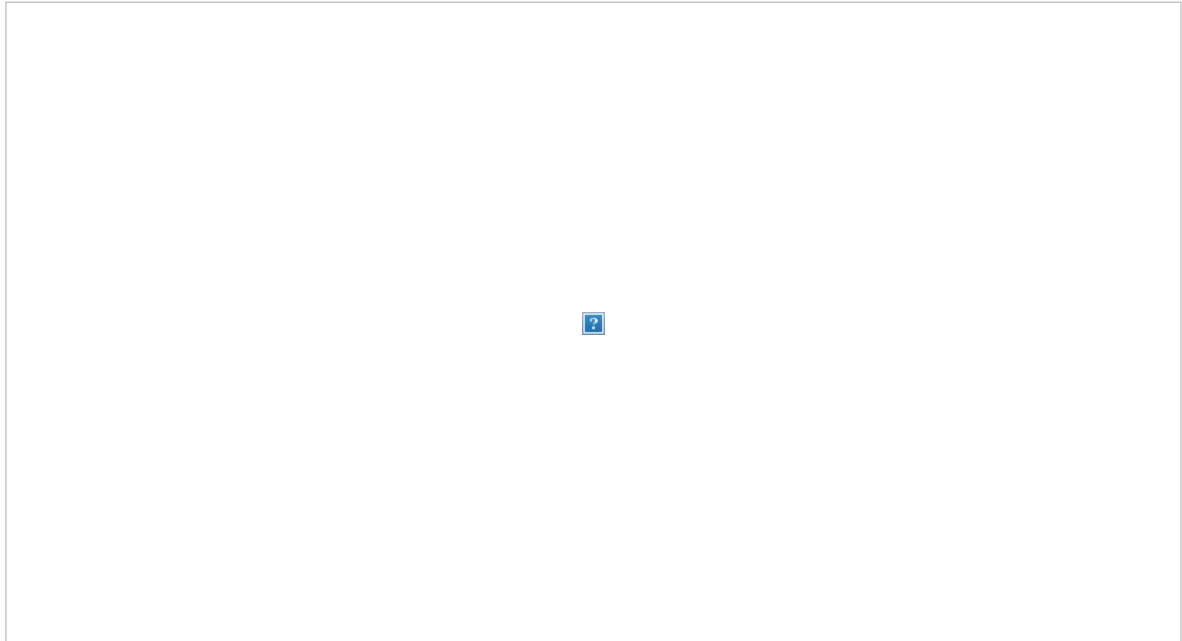
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From: [ERM Arcus Amsterdam](#)
To: [Robyn Luyt](#); [ERM Arcus Amsterdam](#)
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Consultation | Mulilo Wind Farms Mpumalanga
Date: Tuesday, 06 August 2024 13:43:00
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)

Good day Robyn,

Please note that DARDLEA and MTPA were notified regarding the PP for the Draft scoping Phase on the 19th July 2024. Kindly see proof of notification below:



If required, we will send through hard copies and also resend to the below contacts and will update our I&AP database accordingly. Additionally, kindly note that PPP for the Mulilo Wind Energy Farm in Mpumalanga closes the 20th of August 2024.

Thank you,



Lucien Barbeau
Consultant

Cape Town
+27105963488

erm.com

From: Robyn Luyt <rluyt@mpg.gov.za>
Sent: Saturday, August 3, 2024 3:09 PM
To: ERM Arcus Amsterdam <Erm.arcusamsterdam@erm.com>
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Consultation | Mlulio Wind Farms Mpumalanga
Importance: High

You don't often get email from rluyt@mpg.gov.za. [Learn why this is important](#)

EXTERNAL MESSAGE

Good day Ms Gopaul,

It has come to our attention, and not via any official notification from ERM, that draft Scoping Reports for the following wind farms proposed in the Gert Sibande District in Mpumalanga Province are out for public comment from 19 July 2024 to 20 August 2024 (as per ERM website), where ERM is the EAP:

1. Shepmoore WEF
2. Emvelo WEF
3. Rochdale WEF

Neither DARDLEA nor MTPA have been consulted to date, nor have we received copies of any of the draft Scoping Reports. Aside from the requirements of the EIA Regulations, DARDLEA and MTPA have through internal arrangements with DFFE requested to be included in all pre-application consultations for Renewable Energy projects in Mpumalanga, particularly wind energy facilities. DARDLEA and MTPA must be included during all pre-application meetings and in all in-process consultations.

For the purpose of commenting on draft reports during the regulatory periods, we request that hard copies of all reports are submitted to Ms Sindi Mbuyane in our Ermelo office (where projects are located in the Gert Sibande District), and sent electronically to me via WeTransfer. Please also ensure that MTPA receives the reports in the manner requested by them. For your records I include the contact details of all relevant officials to be consulted in DARDLEA (when an application is in the Gert Sibande District) and MTPA:

DARDLEA	DESIGNATION	EMAIL	PHONE
Robyn Luyt	Director: Environmental Impact Management (EIM)	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
Sindisiwe Mbuyane	Deputy Director: EIM Gert Sibande District	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
Gavin Cowden	Deputy Director: Environmental Policy, Planning and Coordination	[REDACTED]	
MTPA	DESIGNATION	EMAIL	PHONE
Mervyn Lotter	Manager: Biodiversity Planning	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
Frans Krige	Land Use Advisor	[REDACTED]	
Khumbelo Malele	Land Use Advisor	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
Celia de Waal	EIA Data Capturer LUA	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]

Please note that time frames for commenting on draft reports can only commence on the date that hard copies of the reports are received, and we request that our 30 day time frame aligns with DFFE's.

Kind Regards
Robyn

Robyn Luyt B.A., B.Sc., B.Sc (Hons) M.Sc., Pr.Sci.Nat. (400327/11), EAPASA (2019/1293)
Director: Environmental Impact Management
Department of Agriculture, Rural Development, Land & Environmental Affairs
Mpumalanga Provincial Government

[REDACTED]

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From: [Robyn Luyt](#)
To: [ERM Arcus Amsterdam](#)
Cc: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Date: Re: RE: RE: Consultation | Mlulio Wind Farms Mpumalanga
Sunday, 11 August 2024 16:56:10
Importance: High

EXTERNAL MESSAGE

Good day,

Please see my email response to you on 7 August as per below email thread. I have not had a response and we still await the draft reports for commenting. Please urgently advise how this is being addressed. I have just had an email from MTPA stating that you are busy sending them the draft reports. Please confirm when I will receive a link to the reports, and when our Ms Mbuyane will receive the hard copies. Please also confirm that we (both DARDLEA and MTPA) will be provided with the mandatory 30 days to comment.

Should you wish to discuss this further please call me on 0826727868.

Regards
Robyn

*Robyn Luyt B.A., B.Sc., B.Sc (Hons) M.Sc., Pr.Sci.Nat. (400327/11), EAPASA (2019/1293)
Director: Environmental Impact Management
Department of Agriculture, Rural Development, Land & Environmental Affairs
Mpumalanga Provincial Government
Riverside Office Park, Aqua Street (Cycad Building - Block 4)
Nelspruit, 1200*

>>> "ERM Arcus Amsterdam" <ERM.ArcusAmsterdam@erm.com> 08/11/24 4:23 PM >>>
Good day Robyn,

Emails have been received and responded to. Please see attached response.

Kind Regards

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, August 11, 2024 4:19 PM
To: ERM Arcus Amsterdam <ERM.ArcusAmsterdam@erm.com>
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: RE: Consultation | Mlulio Wind Farms Mpumalanga

You don't often get email from rluyt@mpg.gov.za. [Learn why this is important](#)

EXTERNAL MESSAGE

Good afternoon,
Please confirm whether you received the below email - I have deleted all graphics from the email thread to ensure this reaches you.
Regards
Robyn

>>> [REDACTED] 08/11/24 9:51 AM >>>

Good day Stephanie,

As of 8 August 2024, neither DARDLEA nor MTPA have received draft Scoping Reports to review and comment on, nor have we received a response to the email below.

Kind Regards
Robyn

Robyn Luyt B.A., B.Sc., B.Sc (Hons) M.Sc., Pr.Sci.Nat. (400327/11), EAPASA (2019/1293)

Director: Environmental Impact Management

Department of Agriculture, Rural Development, Land & Environmental Affairs

Mpumalanga Provincial Government

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

>>> [REDACTED] 08/07/24 9:41 AM >>>

Good day Stephanie,

Be advised that the names of the officials at MTPA that you have highlighted in your below notification **arenot the relevant officials** that are required to be notified or the relevant officials that must review and comment on draft Scoping or EIA reports, or any reports related to an EIA process. There are also no officials in the list of officials in your screenshots that are in the Environmental Affairs Chief Directorate in MDARDLEA - as far as I am aware they are in the section that deals with Agriculture, which is an entirely different mandate.

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Regards
Robyn

Robyn Luyt B.A., B.Sc., B.Sc (Hons) M.Sc., Pr.Sci.Nat. (400327/11), EAPASA (2019/1293)

Director: Environmental Impact Management

Department of Agriculture, Rural Development, Land & Environmental Affairs

Mpumalanga Provincial Government

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

>>> "ERM Arcus Amsterdam" <ERM.ArcusAmsterdam@erm.com> 08/06/24 1:43 PM >>>

If required, we will send through hard copies and also resend to the below contacts and will update our I&AP database accordingly. Additionally, kindly note that PPP for the Mulilo Wind Energy Farm in Mpumalanga closes the 20th of August 2024.

Thank you,

Lucien Barbeau

ERM

From: Robyn Luyt <rluyt@mpg.gov.za>

Sent: Saturday, August 3, 2024 3:09 PM

To: ERM Arcus Amsterdam <Erm.arcusamsterdam@erm.com>

Cc: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Subject: Consultation | Mlulio Wind Farms Mpumalanga

Importance: High

You don't often get email from rluyt@mpg.gov.za. [Learn why this is important](#)

EXTERNAL MESSAGE

Good day Ms Gopaul,

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3. Rochdale WEF

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DARDLEA	DESIGNATION	EMAIL	PHONE
Robyn Luyt	Director: Environmental Impact Management (EIM)	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
Sindisiwe Mbuyane	Deputy Director: EIM Gert Sibande District	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
Gavin Cowden	Deputy Director: Environmental Policy, Planning and Coordination	[REDACTED]	
MTPA	DESIGNATION	EMAIL	PHONE
Mervyn Lotter	Manager: Biodiversity Planning	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
Frans Krige	Land Use Advisor	[REDACTED]	
Khumbelo Malele	Land Use Advisor	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
Celia de Waal	EIA Data Capturer LUA	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]

Please note that time frames for commenting on draft reports can only commence on the date that hard copies of the reports are received, and we request that our 30 day time frame aligns with DFFE's.

Kind Regards

[REDACTED]

Robyn Luyt B.A., B.Sc., B.Sc (Hons) M.Sc., Pr.Sci.Nat. (400327/11), EAPASA (2019/1293)

Director: Environmental Impact Management

Department of Agriculture, Rural Development, Land & Environmental Affairs

Mpumalanga Provincial Government

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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From: [BC Admin](#)
To: [ERM Arcus Amsterdam](#)
Subject: RE: Notification of Submission: Draft scoping Report Mulilo Amsterdam WEFs, near Ermelo, Mpumalanga
Date: Monday, 12 August 2024 13:06:50
Attachments: [image002.png](#)
[image001.png](#)
[image005.png](#)

You don't often get email from bcadmin@dffe.gov.za. [Learn why this is important](#)

EXTERNAL MESSAGE

Good day

Kindly share the link for the below project.



Tebego Kgaphola

Directorate: Biodiversity Mainstreaming and EIA

Branch: Biodiversity and Conservation



Website: www.environment.gov.za



From: ERM Arcus Amsterdam <ERM.ArcusAmsterdam@erm.com>

Sent: Friday, 19 July 2024 16:37

To: ERM Arcus Amsterdam <ERM.ArcusAmsterdam@erm.com>

Subject: Notification of Submission: Draft scoping Report Mulilo Amsterdam WEFs, near Ermelo, Mpumalanga

**SUBMISSION OF DRAFT SCOPING REPORT FOR THE WIND ENERGY FACILITY
(SHEEPMOOR, ROCHDALE AND EMVELO) CLUSTER**

Dear Interested and Affected Party,

This email serves to inform you about the submission of the Draft Scoping Reports for the proposed Mulilo Amsterdam WEFs, near Ermelo, Mpumalanga.

Public Participation Process (PPP), which is being undertaken in accordance with the requirements of Section 24 (5) and Chapter 6 (41, 42, 43, and 44) of GN R. 326 of the NEMA, 1998 EIA Regulations, 2014 (as amended) and the Western Cape Department of

Environmental Affairs & Development Planning (DEA&DP) Guideline on Public Participation (2011). The reports will be available for a 30 day comment period from 19 July 2024 to 20 August 2024.

Please ensure that you have submitted your comment before the close of the comment period should you wish to have your input considered in the submission of the Final Scoping Report.

More information on how you are able to participate in this process is attached in the above documentation.

Please indicate which application your comment in respect of.

Should you be a Land Owner directly affected by the proposed project (within the project boundary or adjacent thereto) please could you notify all occupants on your properties with regards to the proposed project.

Thank you and regards,

Stephanie Gopaul

Environmental Assessment Practitioner

Consultant
Lucien Barbeau

ERM
240 Main Road, Rondebosch, Cape Town
T +27 21 681 5400
E lucien.barbeau@erm.com | W www.erm.com



From: [ERM Arcus Amsterdam](#)
To: [BC Admin](#); [ERM Arcus Amsterdam](#)
Subject: RE: Notification of Submission: Draft scoping Report Mulilo Amsterdam WEFs, near Ermelo, Mpumalanga
Date: Monday, 12 August 2024 14:06:52
Attachments: [image003.png](#)
[image004.png](#)
[image006.png](#)
[image007.png](#)

Good day Tebego,

Please see below link to the proposed project:

<https://www.erm.com/public-information-sites/proposed-amsterdam-wind-energy-facility-and-auxiliary-infrastructure-cluster-mpumalanga/>

Kindly navigate to the bottom of the page to download all reports and additional documentation related to the project.

Kind Regards



ERM

Sustainability is our business

Lucien Barbeau
Consultant

Cape Town
+27105963488

[erm.com](https://www.erm.com)

From: BC Admin <bcadmin@dfpe.gov.za>
Sent: Monday, August 12, 2024 1:07 PM
To: ERM Arcus Amsterdam <ERM.ArcusAmsterdam@erm.com>
Subject: RE: Notification of Submission: Draft scoping Report Mulilo Amsterdam WEFs, near Ermelo, Mpumalanga

You don't often get email from bcadmin@dfpe.gov.za. [Learn why this is important](#)

EXTERNAL MESSAGE

Good day

Kindly share the link for the below project.



Tebego Kgaphola

Directorate: Biodiversity Mainstreaming and EIA

Branch: Biodiversity and Conservation



Website: www.environment.gov.za



From: ERM Arcus Amsterdam <ERM.ArcusAmsterdam@erm.com>

Sent: Friday, 19 July 2024 16:37

To: ERM Arcus Amsterdam <ERM.ArcusAmsterdam@erm.com>

Subject: Notification of Submission: Draft scoping Report Mulilo Amsterdam WEFs, near Ermelo, Mpumalanga

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(SHEEPMOOR, ROCHDALE AND EMVELO) CLUSTER**

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Thank you and regards,

Stephanie Gopaul

Environmental Assessment Practitioner

Consultant
Lucien Barbeau

ERM

240 Main Road, Rondebosch, Cape Town

T +27 21 681 5400

E lucien.barbeau@erm.com | W www.erm.com



From: [Robyn Luyt](#)
To: [ERM Arcus Amsterdam](#)
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: RE: RE: Consultation | Mlulio Wind Farms Mpumalanga
Date: Monday, 12 August 2024 14:14:08
Attachments: [DARDLEA - NEMA Application Form for EA \[1 August 2023\].doc](#)
Importance: High

EXTERNAL MESSAGE

Dear Lucien,

Our telephone discussion this morning refers.

I just wanted to confirm what we discussed in writing, ie. that MTPA and DARDLEA are different entities, and that MTPA and DARDLEA must each get reports for commenting. You confirmed that you dispatched documents to Ms Celia de Waal in Lydenburg last week (to arrive this week). Note that as per the table below, Ms de Waal will receive the documents for MTPA. DARDLEA must therefore still be provided with the documents. Hard copies to Ms Mbuyane at our Ermelo office, and a link to be sent to me. Please also send me the shapefiles. I have understood that you will be discussing this with your client and with Ms Gopaul, and that ERM would revert to me.

Please see page 2 of our application form attached where you will find the physical address of our Ermelo office (Gert Sibande District).

Kind Regards
Robyn

*Robyn Luyt B.A., B.Sc., B.Sc (Hons) M.Sc., Pr.Sci.Nat. (400327/11), EAPASA (2019/1293)
Director: Environmental Impact Management
Department of Agriculture, Rural Development, Land & Environmental Affairs
Mpumalanga Provincial Government*

>>> Robyn Luyt 08/11/24 4:55 PM >>>
Good day,

Please see my email response to you on 7 August as per below email thread. I have not had a response and we still await the draft reports for commenting. Please urgently advise how this is being addressed. I have just had an email from MTPA stating that you are busy sending them the draft reports. Please confirm when I will receive a link to the reports, and when our Ms Mbuyane will receive the hard copies. Please also confirm that we (both DARDLEA and MTPA) will be provided with the mandatory 30 days to comment.

Should you wish to discuss this further please call me on 0826727868.

Regards
Robyn

*Robyn Luyt B.A., B.Sc., B.Sc (Hons) M.Sc., Pr.Sci.Nat. (400327/11), EAPASA (2019/1293)
Director: Environmental Impact Management
Department of Agriculture, Rural Development, Land & Environmental Affairs
Mpumalanga Provincial Government
Riverside Office Park, Aqua Street [REDACTED]*

>>> "ERM Arcus Amsterdam" <ERM.ArcusAmsterdam@erm.com> 08/11/24 4:23 PM >>>
Good day Robyn,

Emails have been received and responded to. Please see attached response.

Kind Regards

From: Robyn Luyt <rluyt@mpg.gov.za>
Sent: Sunday, August 11, 2024 4:19 PM
To: ERM Arcus Amsterdam <ERM.ArcusAmsterdam@erm.com>
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: RE: Consultation | Mlulio Wind Farms Mpumalanga

You don't often get email from rluyt@mpg.gov.za. [Learn why this is important](#)

EXTERNAL MESSAGE

Good afternoon,
Please confirm whether you received the below email - I have deleted all graphics from the email thread to ensure this reaches you.
Regards
Robyn

>>> Robyn Luyt 08/11/24 9:51 AM >>>
Good day Stephanie,

As of 8 August 2024, neither DARDLEA nor MTPA have received draft Scoping Reports to review and comment on, nor have we received a response to the email below.

Kind Regards
Robyn

Robyn Luyt B.A., B.Sc., B.Sc (Hons) M.Sc., Pr.Sci.Nat. (400327/11), EAPASA (2019/1293)

Director: Environmental Impact Management

Department of Agriculture, Rural Development, Land & Environmental Affairs

Mpumalanga Provincial Government

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Robyn Luyt 08/07/24 9:41 AM >>>
Good day Stephanie,

Be advised that the names of the officials at MTPA that you have highlighted in your below notification **arenot the relevant officials** that are required to be notified or the relevant officials that must review and comment on draft Scoping or EIA reports, or any reports related to an EIA process. There are also

no officials in the list of officials in your screenshots that are in the Environmental Affairs Chief Directorate in MDARDLEA - as far as I am aware they are in the section that deals with Agriculture, which is an entirely different mandate.

It would **not** be acceptable to not provide the commenting authority the mandatory 30 days to review and comment on draft reports, especially in light of the fact that there has been no prior notification. The Directorate Environmental Impact Management within DARDLEA represents the MEC as Competent Authority in Mpumalanga, and the commenting authority in respect projects administered by DFFE. MTPA has the mandate for biodiversity matters on behalf of DARDLEA. As per my email to you below (3 August), hard copies of all reports must be submitted to Ms Mbuyane (Environmental Impact Management) at our Ermelo office, and the documents must be made available to me (and in this instance to Mr Cowden and Mr Lotter) electronically at the same time. You will need to contact Ms De Waal and Mr Krige at MTPA to confirm how documents must be submitted to MTPA. Please provide shape files of the 3 proposed WEFs as well.

Regards
Robyn

Robyn Luyt B.A., B.Sc., B.Sc (Hons) M.Sc., Pr.Sci.Nat. (400327/11), EAPASA (2019/1293)

Director: Environmental Impact Management

Department of Agriculture, Rural Development, Land & Environmental Affairs

Mpumalanga Provincial Government

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

>>> "ERM Arcus Amsterdam" <ERM.ArcusAmsterdam@erm.com> 08/06/24 1:43 PM >>>

If required, we will send through hard copies and also resend to the below contacts and will update our I&AP database accordingly. Additionally, kindly note that PPP for the Mulilo Wind Energy Farm in Mpumalanga closes the 20th of August 2024.

Thank you,

Lucien Barbeau

ERM

From: Robyn Luyt <rluyt@mpg.gov.za>

Sent: Saturday, August 3, 2024 3:09 PM

To: ERM Arcus Amsterdam <Erm.arcusamsterdam@erm.com>

Cc: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Subject: Consultation | Mlulio Wind Farms Mpumalanga

Importance: High

You don't often get email from rluyt@mpg.gov.za. [Learn why this is important](#)

EXTERNAL MESSAGE

Good day Ms Gopaul,

It has come to our attention, and not via any official notification from ERM, that draft Scoping Reports for the following wind farms proposed in the Gert Sibande District in Mpumalanga Province are out for public comment from 19 July 2024 to 20 August 2024 (as per ERM website), where ERM is the EAP:

1. Shepmoore WEF
2. Emvelo WEF
3. Rochdale WEF

Neither DARDLEA nor MTPA have been consulted to date, nor have we received copies of any of the draft Scoping Reports. Aside from the requirements of the EIA Regulations, DARDLEA and MTPA have through internal arrangements with DFFE requested to be included in all pre-application consultations for Renewable Energy projects in Mpumalanga, particularly wind energy facilities. DARDLEA and MTPA must be included during all pre-application meetings and in all in-process consultations.

For the purpose of commenting on draft reports during the regulatory periods, we request that hard copies of all reports are submitted to Ms Sindi Mbuyane in our Ermelo office (where projects are located in the Gert Sibande District), and sent electronically to me via WeTransfer. Please also ensure that MTPA receives the reports in the manner requested by them. For your records I include the contact details of all relevant officials to be consulted in DARDLEA (when an application is in the Gert Sibande District) and MTPA:

DARDLEA	DESIGNATION	EMAIL	PHONE
Robyn Luyt	Director: Environmental Impact Management (EIM)		
Sindisiwe Mbuyane	Deputy Director: EIM Gert Sibande District		
Gavin Cowden	Deputy Director: Environmental Policy, Planning and Coordination		
MTPA	DESIGNATION	EMAIL	PHONE
Mervyn Lotter	Manager: Biodiversity Planning		
Frans Krige	Land Use Advisor		
Khumbelo Malele	Land Use Advisor		
Celia de Waal	EIA Data Capturer LUA		

Please note that time frames for commenting on draft reports can only commence on the date that hard copies of the reports are received, and we request that our 30 day time frame aligns with DFFE's.

Kind Regards
Robyn

Robyn Luyt B.A., B.Sc., B.Sc (Hons) M.Sc., Pr.Sci.Nat. (400327/11), EAPASA (2019/1293)

Director: Environmental Impact Management

Department of Agriculture, Rural Development, Land & Environmental Affairs

Mpumalanga Provincial Government

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

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Application for authorisation in terms of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998), as amended and the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations, 2014 (as amended)

File Reference Number:

NEAS Reference Number:

Date Received:

Responsible Official:

(For official use only)

PROJECT TITLE

--

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

1. This application form is current as of 1 August 2023. It is the responsibility of the proponent to ascertain whether subsequent versions of the form have been published or produced by the competent authority.
2. Only a person registered as an environmental assessment practitioner may perform tasks in connection with an application for an environmental authorisation contemplated in Chapter 5 of NEMA, read with the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations.
3. It is the responsibility of the proponent to confirm that DARDLEA is the competent authority to which this application must be submitted (refer to NEMA section 24C).
4. The required information must be typed within the spaces provided in the form. The sizes of the spaces provided are not necessarily indicative of the amount of information to be provided. Where applicable **black out** the boxes that are not applicable in the form.
5. The use of the phrase "not applicable" in the form must be done with circumspection.
6. This application form **must** be accompanied by a screening report generated through the national web-based environmental screening tool at <https://screening.environment.gov.za/screeningtool>.
7. No faxed or e-mailed applications will be accepted.
8. **Proof of payment of the applicable fee for consideration and processing of applications must accompany the submission of this form, unless an exclusion applies.** If an exclusion applies, a **written motivation** must be attached to this application form.
9. If the proponent is not the owner or person in control of the land on which the activity is to be undertaken, written consent from the landowner or person in control of the land must be obtained and must be attached to this application form, unless Regulation 39(2) applies.
10. The original signed declarations by the applicant and by the EAP and any specialist, which EAP and specialist meet all the requirements contemplated in Regulation 13, must accompany this application form. Where specialists and review EAPs/specialists are appointed after the submission of this form, the relevant declaration forms in Section 10 must be completed, and the original signed forms must accompany the draft basic assessment or the draft environmental impact assessment reports, as well as final reports to be submitted to this Department.
11. Unless protected by law, all information contained in this application will become public information on receipt by the Department. Upon request, the applicant/EAP must provide any interested and affected party with the information contained in or submitted with this application form.
12. Where exemption is intended to be applied for, such application must be made in terms of the National Exemption Regulations, 2014, and must be finalised before lodging an application for environmental authorisation.
13. If, in addition to this application, you must also apply for a Waste Management Licence in terms of the National Environmental Management: Waste Act, 2008 (Act No. 59 of 2008) and/or an Atmospheric Emission Licence in terms of the National

Environmental: Air Quality Act, 2004 (Act No. 39 of 2004, then separate application forms in terms of the applicable legislation must be completed and submitted to the relevant licensing authorities.

14. An application for environmental authorisation lapses if the applicant fails to meet any of the timeframes prescribed in terms of the 2014 EIA Regulations (as amended).
15. **DARDLEA has not prescribed a format for Basic Assessment, Scoping or Environmental Impact Assessment Reports, or Environmental Management Programmes.** Said reports must however contain all the information set out in Appendices 1, 2, 3 and 4 of the EIA Regulations respectively.
16. This form, and all subsequent reports, **MUST BE SUBMITTED TO THE DEPARTMENT AT THE RELEVANT DISTRICT OFFICE** given below. Should the application form not be submitted at the relevant district office, it will not be considered:

EHLANZENI DISTRICT	NKANGALA DISTRICT	GERT SIBANDE DISTRICT
Environmental Impact Management Riverside Office Park Aqua Street (opposite Audi) Building 4, East Tower Nelspruit 1200 Tel: 013 759 4000	Environmental Impact Management Piet Koornhof Building 1 Justice Street Witbank 1035 Tel: 087 260 6468 / 6481	Environmental Impact Management 13 De Jager Street Ermelo 2351 Tel: 017 811 4830
Please note that the addresses provide above are subject to change. It is the responsibility of the applicant / EAP to verify the abovementioned details with the relevant District Offices prior to submission of all application forms and reports.		

PROOF OF PAYMENT

Tick the appropriate box below to indicate that either proof of payment is attached or that, in the applicant's view, an exclusion applies. Proof and motivations for exclusions must be attached to this application form.

Proof of payment attached:

☐

Exclusion applies:

☐

An applicant is excluded from paying fees if:

- The activity is a community based project funded by a government grant; or
- The applicant is an organ of state

TYPE OF EXCLUSION	Tick which is applicable and attach proof / motivation
The activity is a community based project funded by a government grant	
The applicant is an organ of state	

FEE AMOUNT		
APPLICATION TYPE	FEE	Tick which is applicable
Application for an environmental authorisation for which basic assessment is required	R2000	
Application for an environmental authorisation for which S&EIR is required	R10 000	

Details for the payment of application fees

<p>Banking Details: Account name: Department of Agriculture, Rural Development, Land and Environmental Affairs Bank: ABSA Bank Account Type: Current Account Account number: 4103095253 Branch Name: Business Bank Branch Code: 632005</p> <p>Beneficiary reference number: EIM + ABBREVIATED PROJECT DESCRIPTION</p> <p>Proof of payment must be attached to this application form.</p>



"Proof of payment" includes a receipt, a stamped deposit slip, electronic fund transfer copy or a payment advice.

NB: PAYMENT MUST BE MADE IN THE SAME MONTH THAT AN APPLICATION FORM IS TO BE SUBMITTED.

1. PROJECT TITLE

--

Provide a clear, accurate and detailed description of the development project and its associated infrastructure.

--

2. GENERAL INFORMATION

Applicant:			
Contact person:			
Physical address:			
Postal address:			
Postal code:		Cell:	
Telephone:		Fax:	
E-mail:			

In instances where there is more than one applicant, this section must be duplicated

Company name of EAP:			
EAP name and surname:			
Postal address:			
Postal code:		Cell:	
Telephone:		Fax:	
E-mail:			
Are you a Registered EAP in terms of 24H(3)(a) of NEMA (provide EAP Registration number):			

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

In instances where there is more than one landowner, this section must be duplicated.

District Municipality in whose jurisdiction the proposed activity will fall (Delete which is not applicable):	Ehlanzeni	Nkangala	Gert Sibande
---	------------------	-----------------	---------------------

Local authority in whose jurisdiction the proposed activity will fall:	
Nearest town:	

In instances where there is more than one local authority involved, this section must be duplicated.



3. SITE DESCRIPTION

Property description:																																																																																					
(Farm name, portion, number and registration division or Erf number etc.) Where a large number of properties are involved (e.g. linear activities), please attach a full list to this application.																																																																																					
Current land-use zoning:																																																																																					
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.																																																																																					
Property size (m²) of all proposed sites:																																																																																					
Development footprint size (m²):																																																																																					
Project map:	<p>A project map must be attached to this document. The map must accurately provide an indication of the project site position as well as the positions of the alternative sites, if any, and</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> road names or numbers of all major roads as well as the roads that provide access to the site(s); a north arrow; any sensitive geographic features (eg. watercourses) 																																																																																				
Site co-ordinates:	<p>Indicate the position of the activity using the latitude and longitude of the centre point of the preferred site alternative. The co-ordinates must be in degrees, minutes and seconds using the Hartebeesthoek94 WGS84 co-ordinate system.</p> <div style="margin-top: 10px;"> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;"> <div> Latitude (S): <table border="1" style="width: 100%; text-align: center;"> <tr> <td style="width: 15%;">0</td> <td style="width: 15%;">°</td> <td style="width: 15%;">"</td> <td style="width: 15%;">0</td> <td style="width: 15%;">°</td> <td style="width: 15%;">"</td> </tr> </table> </div> <div> Longitude (E): <table border="1" style="width: 100%; text-align: center;"> <tr> <td style="width: 15%;">0</td> <td style="width: 15%;">°</td> <td style="width: 15%;">"</td> <td style="width: 15%;">0</td> <td style="width: 15%;">°</td> <td style="width: 15%;">"</td> </tr> </table> </div> </div> </div> <p style="margin-top: 10px;">In the case of linear activities:</p> <div style="display: flex; align-items: flex-start; margin-top: 10px;"> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Starting point of the activity Middle point of the activity End point of the activity <div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; margin-bottom: 5px;"> <div> Latitude (S): <table border="1" style="width: 100%; text-align: center;"> <tr> <td style="width: 15%;">0</td> <td style="width: 15%;">°</td> <td style="width: 15%;">"</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="width: 15%;">0</td> <td style="width: 15%;">°</td> <td style="width: 15%;">"</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="width: 15%;">0</td> <td style="width: 15%;">°</td> <td style="width: 15%;">"</td> </tr> </table> </div> <div> Longitude (E): <table border="1" style="width: 100%; text-align: center;"> <tr> <td style="width: 15%;">0</td> <td style="width: 15%;">°</td> <td style="width: 15%;">"</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="width: 15%;">0</td> <td style="width: 15%;">°</td> <td style="width: 15%;">"</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="width: 15%;">0</td> <td style="width: 15%;">°</td> <td style="width: 15%;">"</td> </tr> </table> </div> </div> </div> </div>	0	°	"	0	°	"	0	°	"	0	°	"	0	°	"	0	°	"	0	°	"	0	°	"	0	°	"	0	°	"																																																						
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SG 21 Digit Code(s):	<p>Indicate all the Surveyor-General 21 digit codes for all sites (including portions of sites) that are part of the application. If there are more than 4, attach a list with the rest of the codes.</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; height: 60px; text-align: center;"> <tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table>																																																																																				

4. TYPE OF APPLICATION

4.1 Application for Basic Assessment

Is this an application for conducting a basic assessment (as defined in the Regulations)?

YES

NO

Please indicate when the final basic assessment report will be submitted:

--

4.2 Application for Scoping and Environmental Impact Assessment (S&EIR)

Is this an application for Scoping and EIR (as defined in the Regulations)?

YES

NO

Please indicate when the final Scoping Report (including the Plan of Study for EIA) will be submitted:

--

5. ACTIVITIES APPLIED FOR TO BE AUTHORISED

For an application for authorisation that involves more than one listed or specified activity that, together, make up one development proposal, all the listed activities pertaining to this application must be indicated.

Government Notice R983 (as amended) Activity No.	Describe the relevant Basic Assessment Activity in writing as per Listing Notice 1 (GN No. R983, as amended)	Describe the extent to which the activity applied for requires authorisation (<u>specify the threshold where applicable</u>)
Government Notice R985 (as amended) Activity No:	Describe the relevant Basic Assessment Activity in writing as per Listing Notice 3 (GN No. R985, as amended)	Describe the extent to which the activity applied for requires authorisation (<u>specify the threshold where applicable</u>)
Government Notice R984 Activity No:	Describe the relevant Scoping and EIA Activity in writing as per Listing Notice 2 (GN No. R984)	Describe the extent to which the activity applied for requires authorisation (<u>specify the threshold where applicable</u>)
Please note: Only those activities listed above shall be considered for authorisation. The onus is on the applicant to ensure that all applicable listed activities are included in the application. Environmental Authorisation must be obtained prior to commencement with each applicable listed activity. If a specific listed activity is not included in an Environmental Authorisation, a new/separate application for Environmental Authorisation for such activity will have to be submitted.		

6. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

6.1 Public Participation undertaken to date

Where public participation in terms of Regulations 40, 41 and 42 was undertaken prior to submission of this application, please provide a summary of the steps followed to date. Please remember that in terms of Regulation 40(3), all potential or registered I&AP's **must** be provided with an opportunity to comment on draft reports once an application has been submitted to the CA.

--



6.2 State Departments identified in terms of S240

Provide a list of all State Departments / Organs of State that will be / have been consulted, and to whom draft reports will be submitted for comment. **Proof of submission / delivery of the draft report to all State Departments / Organs of State must be attached to the final BAR / S&EIR.**

Name of Department	Contact person	Address	Email Address	Phone number

Please note: In terms of Regulation (7)2, the EAP is responsible for consulting with all relevant State Departments / Organs of State in respect of the application (unless agreement to the contrary has been reached with the Department), and such State Departments must be provided with a 30 day comment period.

7. OTHER AUTHORISATIONS

7.1 Do you need any authorisations in terms of the following legislation ?

National Environmental Management: Waste Act (NEMWA)

National Environmental Management: Air Quality Act (NEMAQA)

YES	NO
YES	NO
YES	NO

Have such applications been lodged already ?

If Yes, please attach proof of submission and provide a status update below. If no, then indicate when such applications will be submitted.

8. NATIONAL SECTOR CLASSIFICATION

Please indicate, by marking the appropriate box below, the **ONE** sector most applicable to the main development which forms the subject of this application

Infrastructure /Transport Services/Roads - Public		Services/Waste Management Services/Disposal facilities - Hazardous	
Infrastructure /Transport Services/Roads - Private		Services/Waste Management Services/Disposal facilities - Nuclear	
Infrastructure /Transport Services/Rail - Public		Services/Waste Management Services/Disposal facilities - General	
Infrastructure /Transport Services/Rail - Private		Services/Waste Management Services/Treatment facilities - Hazardous	
Infrastructure /Transport Services/Airport/Runways/Landing Strip/Helipad - Commercial		Services/Waste Management Services/Treatment facilities - General	
Infrastructure /Transport Services/Airport/Runways/Landing Strip/Helipad - Private		Services/Waste Management Services/Storage Facilities - General	
Infrastructure /Transport Services/Airport/Runways/Landing Strip/Helipad - Public Services		Services/Waste Management Services/Storage Facilities - Hazardous	
Infrastructure /Transport Services - Ports		Services/Waste Management Services/Storage Facilities - Nuclear	
Infrastructure /Transport Services - Inland Waterways		Services/Burial and cemeteries - Cemeteries	
Infrastructure /Transport Services - Marina		Services/Burial and cemeteries - Cremators	
Infrastructure /Transport Services - Canal		Services/Water services/Storage - Dams	
Infrastructure /Localised infrastructure - Infrastructure in the Sea/Estuary/Littoral Active Zone/Development Setback/100M Inland/or coastal public property.		Services/Water services/Storage - Reservoirs	
Infrastructure /Localised infrastructure - Zip Lines & Foefie Slides		Services/Water services - Desalination	
Infrastructure /Localised infrastructure - Cableway or Funiculars		Services/Water services - Treatment & Waste Water	
Infrastructure /Localised infrastructure - Billboards		Services - Hospitality	



Infrastructure /Localised infrastructure - Depot for dangerous goods		Mining - Prospecting rights	
Infrastructure /Localised infrastructure - Filling station or Tanks for dangerous goods		Mining - Mining Permit	
Utilities Infrastructure/Pipelines - Fresh/Storm Water Urban		Mining - Mining Right	
Utilities Infrastructure/Pipelines - Fresh/ Storm Water Rural		Mining/Exploration Right - Gas or Oil Marine	
Utilities Infrastructure/Pipelines - Waste Water		Mining/Exploration Right - Gas or Oil Terrestrial	
Utilities Infrastructure/Pipelines - Dangerous Goods Urban		Mining/Production Right - Gas or Oil Marine	
Utilities Infrastructure/Pipelines - Dangerous Goods Rural		Mining/Production Right - Gas or Oil Terrestrial	
Utilities Infrastructure/Telecommunications/ Radio Broadcasting - Tower		Mining/Underground gasification of coal - Oil	
Utilities Infrastructure/Telecommunications/ Radio Broadcasting - Mast		Mining/Beneficiation - Hydrocarbon	
Utilities Infrastructure/Telecommunications/ Radio Broadcasting - Receivers		Mining/Beneficiation - Mineral	
Utilities Infrastructure - Marine Cables		Agriculture/Forestry/ Fisheries - Crop Production	
Utilities Infrastructure/Electricity /Generation/Non Renewable/Hydrocarbon - Petroleum		Agriculture/Forestry/ Fisheries - Animal Production	
Utilities Infrastructure/Electricity /Generation/Non Renewable/Hydrocarbon - Coal		Agriculture/Forestry/ Fisheries - Afforestation	
Utilities Infrastructure/Electricity /Generation/Non Renewable - Nuclear		Agriculture/Forestry/ Fisheries - Aquaculture	
Utilities Infrastructure/Electricity /Generation/Renewable - Hydro		Agriculture/Forestry/ Fisheries - Agro-Processing	
Utilities Infrastructure/Electricity /Generation/Renewable/Solar - PV		Transformation of land - Indigenous vegetation	
Utilities Infrastructure/Electricity /Generation/Renewable/Solar - CSP		Transformation of land - From open space or Conservation	
Utilities Infrastructure/Electricity /Generation/Renewable - Wind		Transformation of land - From agriculture or afforestation	
Utilities Infrastructure/Electricity /Generation/Renewable - Biomass/ biofuels		Transformation of land - From mining or heavy industrial areas	
Utilities Infrastructure/Electricity /Generation/Renewable - Wave		Any activities within or close to a watercourse	
Utilities Infrastructure/Electricity /Distribution and Transmission - Power line		Any activity in an estuary, on the seashore, in the littoral active zone, or in the sea.	
Utilities Infrastructure/Electricity /Distribution and Transmission/Substation -		Activity requiring permit or licence in terms of National or Provincial legislation governing the release or generation of emissions - Emissions	
Release of Genetically Modified Organisms		Activity requiring permit or licence - Marine Effluent	
		Activity requiring permit or licence - Fresh Water Effluent	

8. CAPITAL VALUE AND JOB CREATION ESTIMATES (if applicable)

Capital value	Job estimates

9. LIST OF APPENDICES

		Submitted	
Appendix 1	Proof of payment, or	YES	N/A
	Written motivation where exclusion of payment applies	YES	N/A
Appendix 2	Land owner consent	YES	N/A
Appendix 3	Project map / plan	YES	N/A
Appendix 4	Screening Report	YES	NO

10. DECLARATIONS

10.1 The Applicant

Note: Duplicate this section where there is more than one applicant.

I....., in my personal capacity or duly authorised thereto hereby declare/affirm all the information submitted or to be submitted as part of the application is true and correct, and that I:

- am fully aware of my responsibilities in terms of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998) ("NEMA"), the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations ("EIA Regulations") in terms of NEMA (Government Notice No. R. 982 refers) and any relevant specific environmental management act and that failure to comply with these requirements may constitute an offence in terms of relevant environmental legislation;
- appointed the environmental assessment practitioner and/or specialists, where applicable, which EAP and/or specialists meet all the requirements in terms of regulation 13 of GN No. R 982 to act as independent environmental assessment practitioner for this application;
- will provide the EAP, specialists and the competent authority with access to all information at my disposal that is relevant to the application;
- will be responsible for the costs incurred in complying with the NEMA EIA Regulations, 2014 and other environmental legislation including but not limited to –
 - costs incurred in connection with the appointment of the environmental assessment practitioner or any person contracted by the environmental assessment practitioner;
 - costs incurred in respect of independent reviews in terms of regulation 13(2) of GN No. R982;
 - costs incurred in respect of the undertaking of any process required in terms of the regulations;
 - costs in respect of any fee prescribed by the Minister or MEC in respect of the regulations;
 - costs in respect of specialist reviews, if the competent authority decides to recover costs; and
 - the provision of security to ensure compliance with applicable management and mitigation measures;
- am responsible for complying with conditions that may be attached to any decision(s) issued by the competent authority;
- will ensure that the environmental assessment practitioner is competent to comply with the requirements of the EIA Regulations, 2014;
- hereby indemnify the government of the Republic, the competent authority and all its officers, agents and employees, from any liability arising out of the content of any report, any procedure or any action for which the applicant or environmental assessment practitioner is responsible in terms of the NEMA EIA Regulations, 2014 and any specific environmental management act; and
- will not hold the competent authority responsible for any costs that may be incurred by the applicant in proceeding with an activity prior to an appeal being decided in terms of the NEMA Regulations, 2014.

Note: If acting in a representative capacity, a certified copy of the resolution or power of attorney must be attached.

Signature of the applicant

Name of company

Date



10.2 The Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP)

I, as the appointed environmental assessment practitioner ("EAP") hereby declare/affirm the correctness of the information provided or to be provided as part of the application, and that I:

- in terms of the general requirement to be independent (tick which is applicable):

<input type="checkbox"/>	other than fair remuneration for work performed/to be performed in terms of this application, have no business, financial, personal or other interest in the activity or application and that there are no circumstances that may compromise my objectivity; or
--------------------------	---

<input type="checkbox"/>	am not independent, but another EAP that is independent and meets the general requirements set out in Regulation 13 has been appointed to review my work (Note: a declaration by the review EAP must be submitted);
--------------------------	---

- have expertise in conducting environmental impact assessments, including knowledge of the Act, regulations and any guidelines that have relevance to the proposed activity;
- will ensure compliance with the EIA Regulations 2014;
- will perform the work relating to the application in an objective manner, even if this results in views and findings that are not favourable to the application;
- will take into account, to the extent possible, the matters listed in regulation 18 of the regulations when preparing the application and any report, plan or document relating to the application;
- will disclose to the proponent or applicant, registered interested and affected parties and the competent authority all material information in my possession that reasonably has or may have the potential of influencing any decision to be taken with respect to the application by the competent authority or the objectivity of any report, plan or document to be prepared by myself for submission to the competent authority (unless access to that information is protected by law, in which case I will indicate that such protected information exists and is only provided to the competent authority);
- 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;
- declare that all the particulars furnished by me in this form are true and correct;
- am aware that it is an offence in terms of Regulation 48 to provide incorrect or misleading information and that a person convicted of such an offence is liable to the penalties as contemplated in section 49B(2) of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act 107 of 1998).

Signature of the environmental assessment practitioner

Name of company

Date



10.3 The Review Environmental Assessment Practitioner (REAP)

I, as the appointed review environmental assessment practitioner ("REAP") hereby declare/affirm the correctness of the information provided as part of the application, and that I:

- am independent, and other than fair remuneration for work performed in terms of this application, have no business, financial, personal or other interest in the activity or application and that there are no circumstances that may compromise my objectivity;
- am fully aware of and meet all of the requirements of Regulation 13, and that failure to comply with any the requirements may result in disqualification;
- have reviewed/will review all the work undertaken by the EAP;
- have disclosed/will disclose, to the applicant, the EAP, the specialist (if any), the Department and interested and affected parties, all material information that have or may have the potential to influence the decision of the Department or the objectivity of any report, plan or document prepared or to be prepared as part of the application; and
- am aware that a false declaration is an offence in terms of regulation 48 of the 2014 NEMA EIA Regulations.

Signature of the review environmental assessment practitioner

Name of company

Date



10.4 The Specialist

Note: Duplicate this section where there is more than one specialist.

I, as the appointed specialist hereby declare/affirm the correctness of the information provided as part of the application, and that I:

- in terms of the general requirement to be independent (tick which is applicable):

<input type="checkbox"/>	other than fair remuneration for work performed/to be performed in terms of this application, have no business, financial, personal or other interest in the activity or application and that there are no circumstances that may compromise my objectivity; or
--------------------------	---

<input type="checkbox"/>	am not independent, but another EAP that is independent and meets the general requirements set out in Regulation 13 has been appointed to review my work (Note: a declaration by the review specialist must be submitted);
--------------------------	--

- have expertise in conducting specialist work as required, including knowledge of the Act, regulations and any guidelines that have relevance to the proposed activity;
- will ensure compliance with the EIA Regulations 2014;
- will perform the work relating to the application in an objective manner, even if this results in views and findings that are not favourable to the application;
- will take into account, to the extent possible, the matters listed in regulation 18 of the regulations when preparing the application and any report, plan or document relating to the application;
- will disclose to the proponent or applicant, registered interested and affected parties and the competent authority all material information in my possession that reasonably has or may have the potential of influencing any decision to be taken with respect to the application by the competent authority or the objectivity of any report, plan or document to be prepared by myself for submission to the competent authority (unless access to that information is protected by law, in which case I will indicate that such protected information exists and is only provided to the competent authority);
- declare that all the particulars furnished by me in this form are true and correct;
- am aware that it is an offence in terms of Regulation 48 to provide incorrect or misleading information and that a person convicted of such an offence is liable to the penalties as contemplated in section 49B(2) of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act 107 of 1998).

Signature of the specialist

Name of company

Date



10.5 The Review Specialist

I, as the appointed review specialist hereby declare/affirm the correctness of the information provided or to be provided as part of the application, and that I:

- am independent, and other than fair remuneration for work performed in terms of this application, have no business, financial, personal or other interest in the activity or application and that there are no circumstances that may compromise my objectivity;
- am fully aware of and meet all of the requirements of Regulation 13, and that failure to comply with any the requirements may result in disqualification;
- have reviewed/will review all the work undertaken by the specialist;
- have disclosed/will disclose, to the applicant, the EAP, other specialist (if any), the Department and interested and affected parties, all material information that have or may have the potential to influence the decision of the Department or the objectivity of any report, plan or document prepared or to be prepared as part of the application; and
- am aware that a false declaration is an offence in terms of regulation 48 of the 2014 NEMA EIA Regulations.

Signature of the review specialist

Name of company

Date

From: [ERM Arcus Amsterdam](#)
To: [Robyn Luyt](#); [ERM Arcus Amsterdam](#)
Cc: [bncube@dfpe.gov.za](#); [OLetlalo@dfpe.gov.za](#); [Gavin Cowden](#); [Sindy Mbuyane](#)
Subject: RE: RE: RE: Consultation | Mlulo Wind Farms Mpumalanga
Date: Monday, 12 August 2024 16:09:24
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[Amsterdam \(2023-07-12\).kmz](#)
[IAP Notification Letter Afrikaans.pdf](#)
[IAP Notification Letter English.pdf](#)

Hi Robyn,

Thank you for your call earlier. I wanted to inform you that we sent out the notification to all IAPs on July 19th, 2024. We are currently in the process of couriering the Draft Scoping Reports to Sindiswe Mbuyane in Ermelo.

We would greatly appreciate it if you could review the reports within the current PPP period. Additionally, we have added you to the IAP database for the Full Scoping and EIA Phase to afford you an opportunity to comment. We are keen to have you onboard and to ensure that you are up to speed with the proposed project, we would be happy to set up a call at your convenience.

We understand that you may not have received the reports yet, but if you could review them at your earliest convenience, it would be greatly appreciated. Below is a link to the electronic copies of the reports and attached the shapefiles of the development for your review.

<https://www.erm.com/public-information-sites/proposed-amsterdam-wind-energy-facility-and-auxiliary-infrastructure-cluster-mpumalanga/>

Please let me know if you would like to discuss this further or if you have any questions.



ERM

Sustainability is our business

Lucien Barbeau
Consultant

Cape Town
+27105963488

[erm.com](https://www.erm.com)

From: Robyn Luyt <rluyt@mpg.gov.za>
Sent: Monday, August 12, 2024 2:09 PM
To: ERM Arcus Amsterdam <ERM.ArcusAmsterdam@erm.com>
Cc: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Subject: Re: RE: RE: Consultation | Mlulio Wind Farms Mpumalanga

Importance: High

EXTERNAL MESSAGE

Dear Lucien,

Our telephone discussion this morning refers.

I just wanted to confirm what we discussed in writing, ie. that MTPA and DARDLEA are different entities, and that MTPA and DARDLEA must each get reports for commenting. You confirmed that you dispatched documents to Ms Celia de Waal in Lydenburg last week (to arrive this week). Note that as per the table below, Ms de Waal will receive the documents for MTPA. DARDLEA must therefore still be provided with the documents. Hard copies to Ms Mbuyane at our Ermelo office, and a link to be sent to me. Please also send me the shapefiles. I have understood that you will be discussing this with your client and with Ms Gopaul, and that ERM would revert to me.

Please see page 2 of our application form attached where you will find the physical address of our Ermelo office (Gert Sibande District).

Kind Regards
Robyn

*Robyn Luyt B.A., B.Sc., B.Sc (Hons) M.Sc., Pr.Sci.Nat. (400327/11), EAPASA (2019/1293)
Director: Environmental Impact Management
Department of Agriculture, Rural Development, Land & Environmental Affairs
Mpumalanga Provincial Government*



>>> Robyn Luyt 08/11/24 4:55 PM >>>

Good day,

Please see my email response to you on 7 August as per below email thread. I have not had a response and we still await the draft reports for commenting. Please urgently advise how this is being addressed. I have just had an email from MTPA stating that you are busy sending them the draft reports. Please confirm when I will receive a link to the reports, and when our Ms Mbuyane will receive the hard copies. Please also confirm that we (both DARDLEA and MTPA) will be provided with the mandatory 30 days to comment.

Should you wish to discuss this further please call me on 0826727868.

Regards
Robyn

*Robyn Luyt B.A., B.Sc., B.Sc (Hons) M.Sc., Pr.Sci.Nat. (400327/11), EAPASA (2019/1293)
Director: Environmental Impact Management
Department of Agriculture, Rural Development, Land & Environmental Affairs
Mpumalanga Provincial Government
Riverside Office Park, Aqua Street (Cycad Building - Block 4)*



>>> "ERM Arcus Amsterdam" <ERM.ArcusAmsterdam@erm.com> 08/11/24 4:23 PM >>>
Good day Robyn,

Emails have been received and responded to. Please see attached response.

Kind Regards

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, August 11, 2024 4:19 PM
To: ERM Arcus Amsterdam <ERM.ArcusAmsterdam@erm.com>
Cc: Gavin Cowden <GCowden@mpg.gov.za>; Sindy Mbuyane <MbuyaneSB@mpg.gov.za>
Subject: Re: RE: Consultation | Mlulio Wind Farms Mpumalanga

You don't often get email from rluyt@mpg.gov.za. [Learn why this is important](#)

EXTERNAL MESSAGE

Good afternoon,
Please confirm whether you received the below email - I have deleted all graphics from the email thread to ensure this reaches you.
Regards
Robyn

>>> Robyn Luyt 08/11/24 9:51 AM >>>
Good day Stephanie,

As of 8 August 2024, neither DARDLEA nor MTPA have received draft Scoping Reports to review and comment on, nor have we received a response to the email below.

Kind Regards
Robyn

*Robyn Luyt B.A., B.Sc., B.Sc (Hons) M.Sc., Pr.Sci.Nat. (400327/11), EAPASA (2019/1293)
Director: Environmental Impact Management
Department of Agriculture, Rural Development, Land & Environmental Affairs
Mpumalanga Provincial Government*

>>> Robyn Luyt 08/07/24 9:41 AM >>>
Good day Stephanie,

Be advised that the names of the officials at MTPA that you have highlighted in your below notification **arenot the relevant officials** that are required to be notified or the relevant officials that must review and comment on draft Scoping or EIA reports, or any reports related to an EIA process. There are also no officials in the list of officials in your screenshots that are in the Environmental Affairs Chief Directorate in MDARDLEA - as far as I am aware they are in the section that deals with Agriculture, which is an entirely different mandate.

It would **not**be acceptable to not provide the commenting authority the mandatory 30 days to review and comment on draft reports, especially in light of the fact that there has been no prior notification. The Directorate Environmental Impact Management within DARDLEA represents the MEC as Competent Authority in Mpumalanga, and the commenting authority in respect projects administered

by DFFE. MTPA has the mandate for biodiversity matters on behalf of DARDLEA. As per my email to you below (3 August), hard copies of all reports must be submitted to Ms Mbuyane (Environmental Impact Management) at our Ermelo office, and the documents must be made available to me (and in this instance to Mr Cowden and Mr Lotter) electronically at the same time. You will need to contact Ms De Waal and Mr Krige at MTPA to confirm how documents must be submitted to MTPA. Please provide shape files of the 3 proposed WEFs as well.

Regards
Robyn

*Robyn Luyt B.A., B.Sc., B.Sc (Hons) M.Sc., Pr.Sci.Nat. (400327/11), EAPASA (2019/1293)
Director: Environmental Impact Management
Department of Agriculture, Rural Development, Land & Environmental Affairs
Mpumalanga Provincial Government*

>>> "ERM Arcus Amsterdam" <ERM.ArcusAmsterdam@erm.com> 08/06/24 1:43 PM >>>

If required, we will send through hard copies and also resend to the below contacts and will update our I&AP database accordingly. Additionally, kindly note that PPP for the Mulilo Wind Energy Farm in Mpumalanga closes the 20th of August 2024.

Thank you,

Lucien Barbeau

ERM

From: Robyn Luyt <rluyt@mpg.gov.za>
Sent: Saturday, August 3, 2024 3:09 PM
To: ERM Arcus Amsterdam <Erm.arcusamsterdam@erm.com>
Cc: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] Mulilo Wind Farms Mpumalanga

Importance: High

You don't often get email from rluyt@mpg.gov.za. [Learn why this is important](#)

EXTERNAL MESSAGE

Good day Ms Gopaul,

It has come to our attention, and not via any official notification from ERM, that draft Scoping Reports for the following wind farms proposed in the Gert Sibande District in Mpumalanga Province are out for public comment from 19 July 2024 to 20 August 2024 (as per ERM website), where ERM is the EAP:

1. Shepmoore WEF
2. Envelo WEF
3. Rochdale WEF

Neither DARDLEA nor MTPA have been consulted to date, nor have we received copies of any of the

draft Scoping Reports. Aside from the requirements of the EIA Regulations, DARDLEA and MTPA have through internal arrangements with DFFE requested to be included in all pre-application consultations for Renewable Energy projects in Mpumalanga, particularly wind energy facilities. DARDLEA and MTPA must be included during all pre-application meetings and in all in-process consultations.

For the purpose of commenting on draft reports during the regulatory periods, we request that hard copies of all reports are submitted to Ms Sindi Mbuyane in our Ermelo office (where projects are located in the Gert Sibande District), and sent electronically to me via WeTransfer. Please also ensure that MTPA receives the reports in the manner requested by them. For your records I include the contact details of all relevant officials to be consulted in DARDLEA (when an application is in the Gert Sibande District) and MTPA:

DARDLEA	DESIGNATION	EMAIL	PHONE
Robyn Luyt	Director: Environmental Impact Management (EIM)	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
Sindisiwe Mbuyane	Deputy Director: EIM Gert Sibande District	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
Gavin Cowden	Deputy Director: Environmental Policy, Planning and Coordination	[REDACTED]	
MTPA	DESIGNATION	EMAIL	PHONE
Mervyn Lotter	Manager: Biodiversity Planning	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
Frans Krige	Land Use Advisor	[REDACTED]	
Khumbelo Malele	Land Use Advisor	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
Celia de Waal	EIA Data Capturer LUA	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]

Please note that time frames for commenting on draft reports can only commence on the date that hard copies of the reports are received, and we request that our 30 day time frame aligns with DFFE's.

Kind Regards
Robyn

Robyn Luyt B.A., B.Sc., B.Sc (Hons) M.Sc., Pr.Sci.Nat. (400327/11), EAPASA (2019/1293)
Director: Environmental Impact Management
Department of Agriculture, Rural Development, Land & Environmental Affairs
Mpumalanga Provincial Government

[REDACTED]

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a19 Julie 2024

ERM Verwysing: 0684401

Geagte Belanghebbende en Geaffekteerde Party, Belanghebbende, Staats orgaan

KENNISGEWING VAN BESKIKBAARHEID VAN DIE KONSEP-OMVANGS VERSLAE VIR
OPENBARE HERSIENING EN KOMMENTAAR VAN DIE VOORGESTELDE AMSTERDAM WIND
ENERGIE FASILITEIT (EMVELO, ROCHDALE EN SHEEPMOOR) CLUSTER, NABY ERMELO,
MPUMALANGA



Kennis word hiermee gegee van 'n openbare deelname proses (ODP) wat in gevolge die Wet
op Nasionale Omgewingsbestuur, 1998 (Wet No. 107 van 1998) (NEMA, 1998), soos
gewysig, onderneem moet word.

DFFE-verwysing(s): Om bevestig te word

Aard van aktiwiteit: Emvelo Windenergie fasiliteit Bpk, Rochdale Windenergie fasiliteit Bpk en Sheepmoor Windenergie fasiliteit Bpk ('die Projek aansoekers') stel voor dat drie (3) Wind energie fasiliteite (WEF) opgerig en bedryf word. Die potensiële opwekkingsvermoë van Emvelo WEF is tot 200 MW, Rochdale WEF is tot 220 MW en Sheepmoor tot 360 MW. Elke WEF sal bestaan uit verskeie geboue, toegangspaaie, 'n battery-energieberging stelsel (BESS) en 'n substasie naaf met gepaardgaande elektriese netwerk infrastruktuur soos, maar nie beperk tot 'n 132kV oorhoofse transmissie kraglyn wat die WEF met die nasionale elektriese netwerk verbind.

Ontwikkelings ligging: Die voorgestelde Amsterdam WEF se cluster is 30 km oos van Ermelo binne die Msukaligwa Plaaslike Munisipaliteit en Gert Sibande Distriksmunisipaliteit geleë.

Aansoek proses: Ingevolge Hoofstuk 5 van die Wet op Nasionale Omgewingsbestuur, 1998 (Wet 107 van 1998 – NEMA), Omgewings Impak studie (EIA) Regulasies, 2014 (soos gewysig), het die Projek aansoekers, Environmental Resources Management (Edms) Bpk (ERM) aangestel om as projek bestuurder op te tree en die Omvang- en Omgewings Impak bepalings prosesse (S&EIA) as die onafhanklike omgewings impak bepalings praktisyn (EAP) te onderneem.

ERM het drie afsonderlike omgewings aansoeke ingedien, waaronder afsonderlike konsep-omvang verslae aan die departement van bosbou, visserye en die omgewing (DFFE).

Uitnodiging om kommentaar te lewer: Lede van die publiek, plaaslike gemeenskappe en belanghebbendes word uitgenooi om kommentaar te lewer op die konsep-omvang verslae, wat beskikbaar is vir openbare hersiening en kommentaar, vanaf **Vrydag, 19 Julie 2024 tot die 20 Augustus 2024 (albei dae ingesluit)**, soos per Tabel 1 hieronder.

Tabel 1: Liggings vir openbare oorsig en kommentaar

Ligging	Fisiese adres
Elektroniese kopie lokasies (beskikbaar vir aflaai hieronder)	
Via One Drive	I &AP's kan versoek dat kopieë via een gedeelde gids van One Drive gestuur word.

Harde kopie ligging**Ermelo Openbare Biblioteek**

Ermelo, 2350

CD-kopieë sal op versoek aan die EAP gemaak word.

Indien u as 'n I&AP geregistreer wil wees en / of kommentaar wil lewer, dien asseblief u naam, belangstelling in die projek of kommentaar, e-pos adres en pos adres en telefoon nommer skriftelik by die onderstaande adres in:

Environmental Resources Management Southern Africa (Edms) Bpk**Projek verwysing:** 0684401 Mulilo WEF-cluster**Kontak persoon:** Lucien Barbeau**E-pos:** ERM.ArcusAmsterdam@erm.com**Telefoon:** +27117985400**Pos:** Postnet Suite 90, Privaatsak X12, Tokai, 7966**Aanlyn:** <https://mulilowef.aidaform.com/public-participation-form>

Na afloop van die openbare deelname van 30 dae, sal die kommentaar aangespreek en opgeneem word in die Finale Omvang verslae, wat aan die DFFE voorgelê sal word vir goedkeuring om na die EIA-fase te vorder.

Let wel, met betrekking tot die Wet op die Beskerming van Persoonlike Inligting (PoPI Wet 4 van 2013, soos gewysig): Indien u versoek om as 'n I&AP te registreer, sal u persoonlike inligting aan 'n appel kandidaat beskikbaar gestel word in die geval van 'n appèl, en 'n aansoeker/EAP/onafhanklike persoon vir doeleindes daarvan om ingelig te word en toegang tot 'n ouditverslag te kry.

Korrespondensie gedurende die aansoek proses sal slegs aan geregistreerde I &AP's versprei word. Registrasie is moontlik gedurende die aansoek proses.

Dankie vir die belangstelling in die projek.



Sadiya Salie
Omgewings konsultant

Environmental Resources Management Southern Africa (Edms) Bpk

19 July 2024

ERM Reference: 0684401

Dear Interested and Affected Party, Stakeholder, Organ of State

NOTIFICATION OF AVAILABILITY OF THE DRAFT SCOPING REPORTS FOR PUBLIC REVIEW AND COMMENT OF THE PROPOSED AMSTERDAM WIND ENERGY FACILITY (EMVELO, ROCHDALE AND SHEEPMOOR) CLUSTER, NEAR ERMELO, MPUMALANGA



Notice is hereby given of a Public Participation Process (PPP) to be undertaken in terms of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998) (NEMA, 1998), as amended.

DFFE Reference(s): To Be Confirmed

Nature of Activity: Emvelo Wind Energy Facility (Pty) Ltd, Rochdale Wind Energy Facility (Pty) Ltd and Sheepmoor Wind Energy Facility (Pty) Ltd ('the Project Applicants') are proposing the construction and operation of three (3) Wind Energy Facilities (WEF). The potential generation capacity of Emvelo WEF is up to 200 MW, Rochdale WEF is up to 220 MW and Sheepmoor up to 360 MW. Each WEF will comprise various buildings, access roads, a battery energy storage system (BESS), and a substation hub with associated electrical grid infrastructure such as but not limited to a 132kV overhead transmission powerline connecting the WEF to the national electrical grid network.

Development Location: The proposed Amsterdam WEF's Cluster are located 30 km east of Ermelo within the Msukaligwa Local Municipality, and Gert Sibande District Municipality.

Application Process: In terms of Chapter 5 of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act 107 of 1998 – NEMA), Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations, 2014 (as amended), the Project Applicants appointed Environmental Resources Management (Pty) Ltd (ERM), to act as the project manager and to undertake the Scoping and Environmental Impact Assessment (S&EIA) processes as the independent environmental impact assessment practitioner (EAP).

ERM has submitted three separate Environmental Applications, including separate Draft Scoping Reports to the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE).

Invitation to Comment: Members of the public, local communities, and stakeholders are invited to comment on the Draft Scoping Reports, which is available for public review and comment, from **Friday, 19 July 2024 to the 20 August 2024 (both days inclusive)**, as per Table 1 below.

Table 1: Public Review and Comment Locations

Location	Physical Address
Electronic Copy Locations (Available for download below)	
Via One Drive	I&APs can request for copies to be sent via one drive shared folder.
Hard Copy Location	

Page 1 of 2

Ermelo Public Library	Ermelo, 2350
CD Copies will be made upon request to the EAP.	

Should you wish to be registered as an I&AP and / or would like comment please submit your name, interest in the project or comment, email and postal address and telephone number in writing to the below address:

Environmental Resources Management Southern Africa (Pty) Ltd

Project Reference: 0684401 Mulilo WEF Cluster	Contact Person: Lucien Barbeau
Email: ERM.ArcusAmsterdam@erm.com	Telephone: +27117985400
Post: Postnet Suite 90, Private Bag X12, Tokai, 7966	Online: https://mulilowef.aidaform.com/public-participation-form

Following the 30-day public participation, the comments will be addressed and incorporated into the Final Scoping Reports, which will be submitted to the DFFE for approval to progress to the EIA Phase.

Please note, regarding the Protection of Personal Information Act (PoPI Act 4 of 2013, as amended): If you request to register as an I&AP, your personal information will be made available to an appellant in the case of an appeal, and an applicant/EAP/independent person for purposes of being informed and given access to an audit report.

Correspondence throughout the Application Process will only be distributed to Registered I&APs. Registration is possible throughout the Application Process.

Thank you for the interest in the project.



Sadiya Salie
Environmental Consultant
Environmental Resources Management (Pty) Ltd

From: [Bathandwa Ncube](#)
To: [Stephanie Gopaul](#); [ERM Arcus Amsterdam](#)
Cc: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Date: 14/12/16/3/3/2/2591; 2592; 2593: Proposed Emvelo, Rochdale and Sheepmoor WEFs, MP
Monday, 12 August 2024 16:14:10

EXTERNAL MESSAGE

Goodday Lucien

14/12/16/3/3/2/2591: THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF THE EMVELO WIND ENERGY FACILITY AND AUXILIARY INFRASTRUCTURE, NEAR ERMELO, WITHIN THE MSUKALIGWA LOCAL MUNICIPALITY, MPUMALANGA PROVINCE

14/12/16/3/3/2/2592: THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF THE ROCHDALE WIND ENERGY FACILITY AND AUXILIARY INFRASTRUCTURE, INCLUDING A GRID CONNECTION, NEAR ERMELO, WITHIN THE MSUKALIGWA LOCAL MUNICIPALITY, MPUMALANGA PROVINCE

14/12/16/3/3/2/2593: THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF THE SHEEPMOOR WIND ENERGY FACILITY AND AUXILIARY INFRASTRUCTURE, NEAR ERMELO, WITHIN THE MSUKALIGWA LOCAL MUNICIPALITY, MPUMALANGA PROVINCE

The application and draft Scoping Report (SR) for Environmental Authorisation received by the Department on 22 July 2024 refers.

Following our telephone conversation earlier today regarding the public participation process, please be informed that comments on the draft Scoping Report (SR) are due to you on 22 August 2024. It is noted that there are organs of state who have jurisdiction in respect of the proposed activity, which requires that they be added to the I&AP Database and given an opportunity to comment on the draft SR.

The applicant is requested to submit the final SR to the Department on or before the due date (05 September 2024) and may submit comments from MTPA and DARDLEA as addendums, subsequent to the submission of the final SR to the Department.

MTPA and Mpumalanga DARDLEA are requested to cc this Department when submitting comments to the EAP.

Kind regards

Ms Bathandwa Ncube (EAPASA)
Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE)
Integrated Environmental Authorisations
(T) 012 399 9368 | (C) 072 780 7777
(E) BNcube@dffe.gov.za

From: [ERM Arcus Amsterdam](#)
To: [ERM Arcus Amsterdam](#)
Cc: [REDACTED]
Date: Monday, 12 August 2024 16:59:46
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[IAP Notification Letter English.pdf](#)
[IAP Notification Letter Afrikaans.pdf](#)

Hi Bheki,

Our telephonic discussion earlier refers. Understandably, you mentioned IT related issues in terms of receiving e-mails and forwarding them, hence I have copied your gmail address as requested.

Please see below notification that was sent on the 19th of July 2024.

**SUBMISSION OF DRAFT SCOPING REPORT FOR THE WIND ENERGY FACILITY
(SHEEPMOOR, ROCHDALE AND EMVELO) CLUSTER**

Dear Interested and Affected Party,

This email serves to inform you about the submission of the Draft Scoping Reports for the proposed Mulilo Amsterdam WEFs, near Ermelo, Mpumalanga.

Public Participation Process (PPP), which is being undertaken in accordance with the requirements of Section 24 (5) and Chapter 6 (41, 42, 43, and 44) of GN R. 326 of the NEMA, 1998 EIA Regulations, 2014 (as amended) and the Western Cape Department of Environmental Affairs & Development Planning (DEA&DP) Guideline on Public Participation (2011). The reports will be available for a 30 day comment period from 19 July 2024 to 20 August 2024.

Please ensure that you have submitted your comment before the close of the comment period should you wish to have your input considered in the submission of the Final Scoping Report.

More information on how you are able to participate in this process is attached in the above documentation.

Please indicate which application your comment in respect of.

Should you be a Land Owner directly affected by the proposed project (within the project boundary or adjacent thereto) please could you notify all occupants on your properties with regards to the proposed project.

Thank you and regards,

Stephanie Gopaul

Environmental Assessment Practitioner



ERM

Sustainability is our business

Lucien Barbeau
Consultant

Cape Town
+27105963488

erm.com



a19 Julie 2024

ERM Verwysing: 0684401

Geagte Belanghebbende en Geaffekteerde Party, Belanghebbende, Staats orgaan

KENNISGEWING VAN BESKIKBAARHEID VAN DIE KONSEP-OMVANGS VERSLAE VIR
OPENBARE HERSIENING EN KOMMENTAAR VAN DIE VOORGESTELDE AMSTERDAM WIND
ENERGIE FASILITEIT (EMVELO, ROCHDALE EN SHEEPMOOR) CLUSTER, NABY ERMELO,
MPUMALANGA



Kennis word hiermee gegee van 'n openbare deelname proses (ODP) wat in gevolge die Wet
op Nasionale Omgewingsbestuur, 1998 (Wet No. 107 van 1998) (NEMA, 1998), soos
gewysig, onderneem moet word.

DFFE-verwysing(s): Om bevestig te word

Aard van aktiwiteit: Emvelo Windenergie fasiliteit Bpk, Rochdale Windenergie fasiliteit Bpk en Sheepmoor Windenergie fasiliteit Bpk ('die Projek aansoekers') stel voor dat drie (3) Wind energie fasiliteite (WEF) opgerig en bedryf word. Die potensiele opwekkingsvermoë van Emvelo WEF is tot 200 MW, Rochdale WEF is tot 220 MW en Sheepmoor tot 360 MW. Elke WEF sal bestaan uit verskeie geboue, toegangspaaie, 'n battery-energieberging stelsel (BESS) en 'n substasie naaf met gepaardgaande elektriese netwerk infrastruktuur soos, maar nie beperk tot 'n 132kV oorhoofse transmissie kraglyn wat die WEF met die nasionale elektriese netwerk verbind.

Ontwikkelings ligging: Die voorgestelde Amsterdam WEF se cluster is 30 km oos van Ermelo binne die Msukaligwa Plaaslike Munisipaliteit en Gert Sibande Distriksmunisipaliteit geleë.

Aansoek proses: Ingevolge Hoofstuk 5 van die Wet op Nasionale Omgewingsbestuur, 1998 (Wet 107 van 1998 – NEMA), Omgewings Impak studie (EIA) Regulasies, 2014 (soos gewysig), het die Projek aansoekers, Environmental Resources Management (Edms) Bpk (ERM) aangestel om as projek bestuurder op te tree en die Omvang- en Omgewings Impak bepalings prosesse (S&EIA) as die onafhanklike omgewings impak bepalings praktisyn (EAP) te onderneem.

ERM het drie afsonderlike omgewings aansoeke ingedien, waaronder afsonderlike konsep-omvang verslae aan die departement van bosbou, visserye en die omgewing (DFFE).

Uitnodiging om kommentaar te lewer: Lede van die publiek, plaaslike gemeenskappe en belanghebbendes word uitgenooi om kommentaar te lewer op die konsep-omvang verslae, wat beskikbaar is vir openbare hersiening en kommentaar, vanaf **Vrydag, 19 Julie 2024 tot die 20 Augustus 2024 (albei dae ingesluit)**, soos per Tabel 1 hieronder.

Tabel 1: Liggings vir openbare oorsig en kommentaar

Ligging	Fisiese adres
Elektroniese kopie lokasies (beskikbaar vir aflaai hieronder)	
Via One Drive	I &AP's kan versoek dat kopieë via een gedeelde gids van One Drive gestuur word.

Page 1 of 2

Harde kopie ligging**Ermelo Openbare Biblioteek**

Ermelo, 2350

CD-kopieë sal op versoek aan die EAP gemaak word.

Indien u as 'n I&AP geregistreer wil wees en / of kommentaar wil lewer, dien asseblief u naam, belangstelling in die projek of kommentaar, e-pos adres en pos adres en telefoon nommer skriftelik by die onderstaande adres in:

Environmental Resources Management Southern Africa (Edms) Bpk**Projek verwysing:** 0684401 Mulilo WEF-cluster**Kontak persoon:** Lucien Barbeau**E-pos:** ERM.ArcusAmsterdam@erm.com**Telefoon:** +27117985400**Pos:** Postnet Suite 90, Privaatsak X12, Tokai, 7966**Aanlyn:** <https://mulilowef.aidaform.com/public-participation-form>

Na afloop van die openbare deelname van 30 dae, sal die kommentaar aangespreek en opgeneem word in die Finale Omvang verslae, wat aan die DFFE voorgelê sal word vir goedkeuring om na die EIA-fase te vorder.

Let wel, met betrekking tot die Wet op die Beskerming van Persoonlike Inligting (PoPI Wet 4 van 2013, soos gewysig): Indien u versoek om as 'n I&AP te registreer, sal u persoonlike inligting aan 'n appel kandidaat beskikbaar gestel word in die geval van 'n appèl, en 'n aansoeker/EAP/onafhanklike persoon vir doeleindes daarvan om ingelig te word en toegang tot 'n ouditverslag te kry.

Korrespondensie gedurende die aansoek proses sal slegs aan geregistreerde I &AP's versprei word. Registrasie is moontlik gedurende die aansoek proses.

Dankie vir die belangstelling in die projek.



Sadiya Salie
Omgewings konsultant

Environmental Resources Management Southern Africa (Edms) Bpk

19 July 2024

ERM Reference: 0684401

Dear Interested and Affected Party, Stakeholder, Organ of State

NOTIFICATION OF AVAILABILITY OF THE DRAFT SCOPING REPORTS FOR PUBLIC REVIEW AND COMMENT OF THE PROPOSED AMSTERDAM WIND ENERGY FACILITY (EMVELO, ROCHDALE AND SHEEPMOOR) CLUSTER, NEAR ERMELO, MPUMALANGA



Notice is hereby given of a Public Participation Process (PPP) to be undertaken in terms of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998) (NEMA, 1998), as amended.

DFFE Reference(s): To Be Confirmed

Nature of Activity: Emvelo Wind Energy Facility (Pty) Ltd, Rochdale Wind Energy Facility (Pty) Ltd and Sheepmoor Wind Energy Facility (Pty) Ltd ('the Project Applicants') are proposing the construction and operation of three (3) Wind Energy Facilities (WEF). The potential generation capacity of Emvelo WEF is up to 200 MW, Rochdale WEF is up to 220 MW and Sheepmoor up to 360 MW. Each WEF will comprise various buildings, access roads, a battery energy storage system (BESS), and a substation hub with associated electrical grid infrastructure such as but not limited to a 132kV overhead transmission powerline connecting the WEF to the national electrical grid network.

Development Location: The proposed Amsterdam WEF's Cluster are located 30 km east of Ermelo within the Msukaligwa Local Municipality, and Gert Sibande District Municipality.

Application Process: In terms of Chapter 5 of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act 107 of 1998 – NEMA), Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations, 2014 (as amended), the Project Applicants appointed Environmental Resources Management (Pty) Ltd (ERM), to act as the project manager and to undertake the Scoping and Environmental Impact Assessment (S&EIA) processes as the independent environmental impact assessment practitioner (EAP).

ERM has submitted three separate Environmental Applications, including separate Draft Scoping Reports to the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE).

Invitation to Comment: Members of the public, local communities, and stakeholders are invited to comment on the Draft Scoping Reports, which is available for public review and comment, from **Friday, 19 July 2024 to the 20 August 2024 (both days inclusive)**, as per Table 1 below.

Table 1: Public Review and Comment Locations

Location	Physical Address
Electronic Copy Locations (Available for download below)	
Via One Drive	I&APs can request for copies to be sent via one drive shared folder.
Hard Copy Location	

Page 1 of 2

Ermelo Public Library	Ermelo, 2350
CD Copies will be made upon request to the EAP.	

Should you wish to be registered as an I&AP and / or would like comment please submit your name, interest in the project or comment, email and postal address and telephone number in writing to the below address:

Environmental Resources Management Southern Africa (Pty) Ltd

Project Reference: 0684401 Mulilo WEF Cluster	Contact Person: Lucien Barbeau
Email: ERM.ArcusAmsterdam@erm.com	Telephone: +27117985400
Post: Postnet Suite 90, Private Bag X12, Tokai, 7966	Online: https://mulilowef.aidaform.com/public-participation-form

Following the 30-day public participation, the comments will be addressed and incorporated into the Final Scoping Reports, which will be submitted to the DFFE for approval to progress to the EIA Phase.

Please note, regarding the Protection of Personal Information Act (PoPI Act 4 of 2013, as amended): If you request to register as an I&AP, your personal information will be made available to an appellant in the case of an appeal, and an applicant/EAP/independent person for purposes of being informed and given access to an audit report.

Correspondence throughout the Application Process will only be distributed to Registered I&APs. Registration is possible throughout the Application Process.

Thank you for the interest in the project.



Sadiya Salie
Environmental Consultant
Environmental Resources Management (Pty) Ltd

From: [Celia de Waal](#)
To: [Stephanie Gopaul](#); [ERM Arcus Amsterdam](#)
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: MTPA Acknowledgement of receipt RE: 14/12/16/3/3/2/2591; 2592; 2593: Proposed Emvelo, Rochdale and Sheepmoor WEFs, MP
Date: Tuesday, 13 August 2024 08:16:19

Some people who received this message don't often get email from celia@mtpa.co.za. [Learn why this is important](#)

WARNING: The sender of this email could not be validated and may not match the person in the "From" field.

EXTERNAL MESSAGE

Good day Stephanie

The MTPA acknowledge the receipt of the following 3 documents. It was delivered yesterday 12 August 2024.

- 14/12/16/3/3/2/2591: THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF THE EMVELO WIND ENERGY FACILITY AND AUXILIARY INFRASTRUCTURE, NEAR ERMELO, WITHIN THE MSUKALIGWA LOCAL MUNICIPALITY, MPUMALANGA PROVINCE
- 14/12/16/3/3/2/2592: THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF THE ROCHDALE WIND ENERGY FACILITY AND AUXILIARY INFRASTRUCTURE, INCLUDING A GRID CONNECTION, NEAR ERMELO, WITHIN THE MSUKALIGWA LOCAL MUNICIPALITY, MPUMALANGA PROVINCE
- 14/12/16/3/3/2/2593: THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF THE SHEEPMOOR WIND ENERGY FACILITY AND AUXILIARY INFRASTRUCTURE, NEAR ERMELO, WITHIN THE MSUKALIGWA LOCAL MUNICIPALITY, MPUMALANGA PROVINCE

The commenting scientist is Mr. Frans Krige who is copied in this e-mail.

Kind regards

Celia de Waal



Cecilia de Waal
Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Data Capturer

Land Use Advisory (LUA)

[REDACTED]

From: Bathandwa Ncube <BNcube@dffe.gov.za>

Sent: Monday, August 12, 2024 4:14 PM

To: stephanie.gopaul@erm.com; ERM Arcus Amsterdam <ERM.ArcusAmsterdam@erm.com>

Cc: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Subject: 14/12/16/3/3/2/2591; 2592; 2593: Proposed Emvelo, Rochdale and Sheepmoor WEFs, MP

Goodday Lucien

14/12/16/3/3/2/2591: THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF THE EMVELO WIND ENERGY FACILITY AND AUXILIARY INFRASTRUCTURE, NEAR ERMELO, WITHIN THE MSUKALIGWA LOCAL MUNICIPALITY, MPUMALANGA PROVINCE

14/12/16/3/3/2/2592: THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF THE ROCHDALE WIND ENERGY FACILITY AND AUXILIARY INFRASTRUCTURE, INCLUDING A GRID CONNECTION, NEAR ERMELO, WITHIN THE MSUKALIGWA LOCAL MUNICIPALITY, MPUMALANGA PROVINCE

14/12/16/3/3/2/2593: THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF THE SHEEPMOOR WIND ENERGY FACILITY AND AUXILIARY INFRASTRUCTURE, NEAR ERMELO, WITHIN THE MSUKALIGWA LOCAL MUNICIPALITY, MPUMALANGA PROVINCE

The application and draft Scoping Report (SR) for Environmental Authorisation received by the Department on 22 July 2024 refers.

Following our telephone conversation earlier today regarding the public participation process, please be informed that comments on the draft Scoping Report (SR) are due to you on 22 August 2024. It is noted that there are organs of state who have jurisdiction in respect of the proposed activity, which requires that they be added to the I&AP Database and given an opportunity to comment on the draft SR.

The applicant is requested to submit the final SR to the Department on or before the due date (05 September 2024) and may submit comments from MTPA and DARDLEA as addendums, subsequent to the submission of the final SR to the Department.

MTPA and Mpumalanga DARDLEA are requested to cc this Department when submitting comments to the EAP.

Kind regards

Ms Bathandwa Ncube (EAPASA)

Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE)

Integrated Environmental Authorisations



From:



Subject:

Re: 14/12/16/3/3/2/2591; 2592; 2593: Proposed Emvelo, Rochdale and Sheepmoor WEFs, MP

Date:

Tuesday, 13 August 2024 08:49:57

Importance:

High

EXTERNAL MESSAGE

Good Morning all,

I am extremely concerned with the agreement reached between ERM and DFFE. DARDLEA, as the Provincial Department responsible for environmental affairs in Mpumalanga Province, **has to date not yet received any of the draft documents for review and comment.** In accordance with the requirements of Regulation 40(1)(b), the scoping report is required to be subjected to all I&APs for a period of at least 30 days for comment. Further to this, Regulation 40(2)(b) states that the public participation process must provide access to all information ...and must include consultation with every State department that administers a law relating to a matter affecting the environment relevant to an application for an environmental authorisation.

Regulation 21(1) is very clear in the requirement that a final Scoping Report must, within 44 days of submitting an application to the CA, be submitted to the CA (ie. DFFE), which report has been subjected to a public participation process of at least 30 days and which reflects the incorporation of comments received. The arrangement below is not in line with this requirement, which amounts to an administrative flaw, and I fail to see how DFFE would be in a position to consider a final Scoping report that does not include the input from DARDLEA. The arrangement would also preclude the requirement for the applicant to incorporate the comments received from DARDLEA into the final Scoping report.

As stated above, DARDLEA still awaits the documents for comment.

Kind Regards
Robyn

*Robyn Luyt B.A., B.Sc., B.Sc (Hons) M.Sc., Pr.Sci.Nat. (400327/11), EAPASA (2019/1293)
Director: Environmental Impact Management
Department of Agriculture, Rural Development, Land & Environmental Affairs
Mpumalanga Provincial Government*

>>> Bathandwa Ncube <BNcube@dffe.gov.za> 08/12/24 4:14 PM >>>
Goodday Lucien

14/12/16/3/3/2/2591: THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF THE EMVELO WIND ENERGY FACILITY AND AUXILIARY INFRASTRUCTURE, NEAR ERMELO, WITHIN THE MSUKALIGWA LOCAL MUNICIPALITY, MPUMALANGA PROVINCE

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14/12/16/3/3/2/2593: THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF THE SHEEPMOOR WIND ENERGY FACILITY AND AUXILIARY INFRASTRUCTURE, NEAR ERMELO, WITHIN THE MSUKALIGWA LOCAL MUNICIPALITY, MPUMALANGA PROVINCE

The application and draft Scoping Report (SR) for Environmental Authorisation received by the Department on 22 July 2024 refers.

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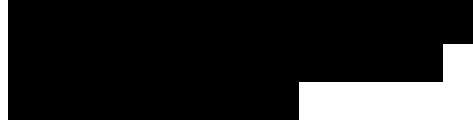
The applicant is requested to submit the final SR to the Department on or before the due date (05 September 2024) and may submit comments from MTPA and DARDLEA as addendums, subsequent to the submission of the final SR to the Department.

MTPA and Mpumalanga DARDLEA are requested to cc this Department when submitting comments to the EAP.

Kind regards

Ms Bathandwa Ncube (EAPASA)

Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE)



■ message and any attachments relating to official business of the Mpumalanga Provincial Government (MPG) is proprietary to the MPG and intended for the original addressee only. The message may contain information that is confidential and subject to legal privilege. Any views expressed in this message are those of the individual sender. If you receive this message in error, please notify the original sender immediately and destroy the original message. If you are not the intended recipient of this message, you are hereby notified that you must not disseminate, copy, use, distribute, or take any action in connection therewith. The MPG cannot insure that the integrity of this communication has been maintained, nor that it is free of errors, viruses, interception and / or interference. The MPG is not liable whatsoever for loss or damage resulting from the opening of this message and / or attachments and / or the use of the information contained in this message and / or attachments.

From: [ERM Arcus Amsterdam](#)
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: [Stephanie Gopaul](#); [Stephen Burton](#)
Date: FW: Notification of Submission: Draft scoping Report Mulilo Amsterdam WEFs, near Ermelo, Mpumalanga
Tuesday, 13 August 2024 10:30:00
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[IAP Notification Letter English.pdf](#)
[IAP Notification Letter Afrikaans.pdf](#)

Hi Masina,

Thank you for your call earlier.

As discussed, ERM sent out the notification to the Mpumalanga Tourism and Parks Agency, as well as the Mpumalanga Province Department of Agriculture, Rural Development, Land, and Environmental Affairs on July 19th.

Unfortunately, Mr. Bheki Nyathikazi has been experiencing IT-related issues with his mailbox, which have impacted his ability to receive and forward emails. To address this, I have resent the notification to his Gmail account to ensure it can be forwarded for relevant circulation.

Please let me know if there are any additional actions needed or if you require further information.

Best regards,



ERM

Sustainability is our business

Lucien Barbeau
Consultant

Cape Town
+27105963488

erm.com

From: ERM Arcus Amsterdam <ERM.ArcusAmsterdam@erm.com>

Sent: Monday, August 12, 2024 4:58 PM

To: ERM Arcus Amsterdam <ERM.ArcusAmsterdam@erm.com>

Cc: [REDACTED]

Subject: Notification of Submission: Draft scoping Report Mulilo Amsterdam WEFs, near Ermelo, Mpumalanga

Hi Bheki,

Our telephonic discussion earlier refers. Understandably, you mentioned IT related issues in terms of receiving e-mails and forwarding them, hence I have copied your gmail address as requested.

Please see below notification that was sent on the 19th of July 2024.

**SUBMISSION OF DRAFT SCOPING REPORT FOR THE WIND ENERGY FACILITY
(SHEEPMOOR, ROCHDALE AND EMVELO) CLUSTER**

Dear Interested and Affected Party,

This email serves to inform you about the submission of the Draft Scoping Reports for the proposed Mulilo Amsterdam WEFs, near Ermelo, Mpumalanga.

Public Participation Process (PPP), which is being undertaken in accordance with the requirements of Section 24 (5) and Chapter 6 (41, 42, 43, and 44) of GN R. 326 of the NEMA, 1998 EIA Regulations, 2014 (as amended) and the Western Cape Department of Environmental Affairs & Development Planning (DEA&DP) Guideline on Public Participation (2011). The reports will be available for a 30 day comment period from 19 July 2024 to 20 August 2024.

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Please indicate which application your comment in respect of.

Should you be a Land Owner directly affected by the proposed project (within the project boundary or adjacent thereto) please could you notify all occupants on your properties with regards to the proposed project.

Thank you and regards,

Stephanie Gopaul

Environmental Assessment Practitioner



ERM

Sustainability is our business

Lucien Barbeau
Consultant

Cape Town
+27105963488

erm.com

a19 Julie 2024

ERM Verwysing: 0684401

Geagte Belanghebbende en Geaffekteerde Party, Belanghebbende, Staats orgaan

KENNISGEWING VAN BESKIKBAARHEID VAN DIE KONSEP-OMVANGS VERSLAE VIR
OPENBARE HERSIENING EN KOMMENTAAR VAN DIE VOORGESTELDE AMSTERDAM WIND
ENERGIE FASILITEIT (EMVELO, ROCHDALE EN SHEEPMOOR) CLUSTER, NABY ERMELO,
MPUMALANGA



Kennis word hiermee gegee van 'n openbare deelname proses (ODP) wat in gevolge die Wet
op Nasionale Omgewingsbestuur, 1998 (Wet No. 107 van 1998) (NEMA, 1998), soos
gewysig, onderneem moet word.

DFFE-verwysing(s): Om bevestig te word

Aard van aktiwiteit: Emvelo Windenergie fasiliteit Bpk, Rochdale Windenergie fasiliteit Bpk en Sheepmoor Windenergie fasiliteit Bpk ('die Projek aansoekers') stel voor dat drie (3) Wind energie fasiliteite (WEF) opgerig en bedryf word. Die potensiele opwekkingsvermoë van Emvelo WEF is tot 200 MW, Rochdale WEF is tot 220 MW en Sheepmoor tot 360 MW. Elke WEF sal bestaan uit verskeie geboue, toegangspaaie, 'n battery-energieberging stelsel (BESS) en 'n substasie naaf met gepaardgaande elektriese netwerk infrastruktuur soos, maar nie beperk tot 'n 132kV oorhoofse transmissie kraglyn wat die WEF met die nasionale elektriese netwerk verbind.

Ontwikkelings ligging: Die voorgestelde Amsterdam WEF se cluster is 30 km oos van Ermelo binne die Msukaligwa Plaaslike Munisipaliteit en Gert Sibande Distriksmunisipaliteit geleë.

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Tabel 1: Liggings vir openbare oorsig en kommentaar

Ligging	Fisiese adres
Elektroniese kopie lokasies (beskikbaar vir aflaai hieronder)	
Via One Drive	I &AP's kan versoek dat kopieë via een gedeelde gids van One Drive gestuur word.

Harde kopie ligging**Ermelo Openbare Biblioteek**

Ermelo, 2350

CD-kopieë sal op versoek aan die EAP gemaak word.

Indien u as 'n I&AP geregistreer wil wees en / of kommentaar wil lewer, dien asseblief u naam, belangstelling in die projek of kommentaar, e-pos adres en pos adres en telefoon nommer skriftelik by die onderstaande adres in:

Environmental Resources Management Southern Africa (Edms) Bpk**Projek verwysing:** 0684401 Mulilo WEF-cluster**Kontak persoon:** Lucien Barbeau**E-pos:** ERM.ArcusAmsterdam@erm.com**Telefoon:** +27117985400**Pos:** Postnet Suite 90, Privaatsak X12, Tokai, 7966**Aanlyn:** <https://mulilowef.aidaform.com/public-participation-form>

Na afloop van die openbare deelname van 30 dae, sal die kommentaar aangespreek en opgeneem word in die Finale Omvang verslae, wat aan die DFFE voorgelê sal word vir goedkeuring om na die EIA-fase te vorder.

Let wel, met betrekking tot die Wet op die Beskerming van Persoonlike Inligting (PoPI Wet 4 van 2013, soos gewysig): Indien u versoek om as 'n I&AP te registreer, sal u persoonlike inligting aan 'n appel kandidaat beskikbaar gestel word in die geval van 'n appèl, en 'n aansoeker/EAP/onafhanklike persoon vir doeleindes daarvan om ingelig te word en toegang tot 'n ouditverslag te kry.

Korrespondensie gedurende die aansoek proses sal slegs aan geregistreerde I &AP's versprei word. Registrasie is moontlik gedurende die aansoek proses.

Dankie vir die belangstelling in die projek.



Sadiya Salie
Omgewings konsultant

Environmental Resources Management Southern Africa (Edms) Bpk

19 July 2024

ERM Reference: 0684401

Dear Interested and Affected Party, Stakeholder, Organ of State

NOTIFICATION OF AVAILABILITY OF THE DRAFT SCOPING REPORTS FOR PUBLIC REVIEW AND COMMENT OF THE PROPOSED AMSTERDAM WIND ENERGY FACILITY (EMVELO, ROCHDALE AND SHEEPMOOR) CLUSTER, NEAR ERMELO, MPUMALANGA



Notice is hereby given of a Public Participation Process (PPP) to be undertaken in terms of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998) (NEMA, 1998), as amended.

DFFE Reference(s): To Be Confirmed

Nature of Activity: Emvelo Wind Energy Facility (Pty) Ltd, Rochdale Wind Energy Facility (Pty) Ltd and Sheepmoor Wind Energy Facility (Pty) Ltd ('the Project Applicants') are proposing the construction and operation of three (3) Wind Energy Facilities (WEF). The potential generation capacity of Emvelo WEF is up to 200 MW, Rochdale WEF is up to 220 MW and Sheepmoor up to 360 MW. Each WEF will comprise various buildings, access roads, a battery energy storage system (BESS), and a substation hub with associated electrical grid infrastructure such as but not limited to a 132kV overhead transmission powerline connecting the WEF to the national electrical grid network.

Development Location: The proposed Amsterdam WEF's Cluster are located 30 km east of Ermelo within the Msukaligwa Local Municipality, and Gert Sibande District Municipality.

Application Process: In terms of Chapter 5 of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act 107 of 1998 – NEMA), Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations, 2014 (as amended), the Project Applicants appointed Environmental Resources Management (Pty) Ltd (ERM), to act as the project manager and to undertake the Scoping and Environmental Impact Assessment (S&EIA) processes as the independent environmental impact assessment practitioner (EAP).

ERM has submitted three separate Environmental Applications, including separate Draft Scoping Reports to the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE).

Invitation to Comment: Members of the public, local communities, and stakeholders are invited to comment on the Draft Scoping Reports, which is available for public review and comment, from **Friday, 19 July 2024 to the 20 August 2024 (both days inclusive)**, as per Table 1 below.

Table 1: Public Review and Comment Locations

Location	Physical Address
Electronic Copy Locations (Available for download below)	
Via One Drive	I&APs can request for copies to be sent via one drive shared folder.
Hard Copy Location	

Page 1 of 2

Ermelo Public Library	Ermelo, 2350
CD Copies will be made upon request to the EAP.	

Should you wish to be registered as an I&AP and / or would like comment please submit your name, interest in the project or comment, email and postal address and telephone number in writing to the below address:

Environmental Resources Management Southern Africa (Pty) Ltd

Project Reference: 0684401 Mulilo WEF Cluster	Contact Person: Lucien Barbeau
Email: ERM.ArcusAmsterdam@erm.com	Telephone: +27117985400
Post: Postnet Suite 90, Private Bag X12, Tokai, 7966	Online: https://mulilowef.aidaform.com/public-participation-form

Following the 30-day public participation, the comments will be addressed and incorporated into the Final Scoping Reports, which will be submitted to the DFFE for approval to progress to the EIA Phase.

Please note, regarding the Protection of Personal Information Act (PoPI Act 4 of 2013, as amended): If you request to register as an I&AP, your personal information will be made available to an appellant in the case of an appeal, and an applicant/EAP/independent person for purposes of being informed and given access to an audit report.

Correspondence throughout the Application Process will only be distributed to Registered I&APs. Registration is possible throughout the Application Process.

Thank you for the interest in the project.



Sadiya Salie
Environmental Consultant
Environmental Resources Management (Pty) Ltd

From: [Tebego Kgaphola](#)
To: [ERM Arcus Amsterdam](#)
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: COMMENTS ON THE DRAFT SCOPING REPORT FOR THE PROPOSED MULILO AMSTERDAM WEFS CLUSTER, NEAR ERMELO, MPUMALANGA PROVINCE
Date: Tuesday, 13 August 2024 12:48:31
Attachments: [image008.png](#)
[image009.png](#)
[Mulilo Amsterdam WEFS DSR Comments.pdf](#)

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EXTERNAL MESSAGE

Good day

Kindly find the attached comments for the aforementioned project.



Tebego Kgaphola

Directorate: Biodiversity Mainstreaming and EIA

Branch: Biodiversity and Conservation

[REDACTED]

Website: www.environment.gov.za



From: Lloyd Barnes <Lloyd@mulilo.com>

Sent: Monday, August 12, 2024 2:22 PM

To: Lucien Barbeau <Lucien.Barbeau@erm.com>; Stephen Burton <Stephen.Burton@erm.com>;
Stephanie Gopaul <Stephanie.Gopaul@erm.com>

Cc: [REDACTED]

Subject: RE: Amsterdam WEF Final Scoping prep

EXTERNAL MESSAGE

Good day Stephen and Lucien,

I trust you had a good long weekend.

Following up on my mail below. By when should we expect to receive the Final Scoping reports for review?

Could I please request that the Final Scoping Reports be provided for review by COB on Wednesday?

Please note the tight timelines related to this project.

Kind Regards,

Lloyd Barnes

Project Manager: Environmental

[REDACTED]



From: Lloyd Barnes

Sent: Thursday, August 8, 2024 5:00 PM

To: Lucien Barbeau <Lucien.Barbeau@erm.com>; Stephen Burton <Stephen.Burton@erm.com>;
Stephanie Gopaul <Stephanie.Gopaul@erm.com>

Cc: [REDACTED]

Subject: Amsterdam WEF Final Scoping prep

Good day ERM team,

Please see the attached updated layout to be considered for Final Scoping.

Please may you review the layout and raise any questions or queries if necessary.

Please note that as a result of the Enviro sensitivities, we have to drop Rochdale, and merge the properties with the Emvelo application.

Please may you confirm by when you will be able to provide first drafts of the Final Scoping reports for our review.

From: [Bathandwa Ncube](#)
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: 14/12/16/3/3/2/2591; 2592; 2593: Proposed Emvelo, Rochdale and Sheepmoor WEFs, MP
Date: Monday, 12 August 2024 16:14:10

EXTERNAL MESSAGE

Goodday Lucien

14/12/16/3/3/2/2591: THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF THE EMVELO WIND ENERGY FACILITY AND AUXILIARY INFRASTRUCTURE, NEAR ERMELO, WITHIN THE MSUKALIGWA LOCAL MUNICIPALITY, MPUMALANGA PROVINCE

14/12/16/3/3/2/2592: THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF THE ROCHDALE WIND ENERGY FACILITY AND AUXILIARY INFRASTRUCTURE, INCLUDING A GRID CONNECTION, NEAR ERMELO, WITHIN THE MSUKALIGWA LOCAL MUNICIPALITY, MPUMALANGA PROVINCE

14/12/16/3/3/2/2593: THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF THE SHEEPMOOR WIND ENERGY FACILITY AND AUXILIARY INFRASTRUCTURE, NEAR ERMELO, WITHIN THE MSUKALIGWA LOCAL MUNICIPALITY, MPUMALANGA PROVINCE

The application and draft Scoping Report (SR) for Environmental Authorisation received by the Department on 22 July 2024 refers.

Following our telephone conversation earlier today regarding the public participation process, please be informed that comments on the draft Scoping Report (SR) are due to you on 22 August 2024. It is noted that there are organs of state who have jurisdiction in respect of the proposed activity, which requires that they be added to the I&AP Database and given an opportunity to comment on the draft SR.

The applicant is requested to submit the final SR to the Department on or before the due date (05 September 2024) and may submit comments from MTPA and DARDLEA as addendums, subsequent to the submission of the final SR to the Department.

MTPA and Mpumalanga DARDLEA are requested to cc this Department when submitting comments to the EAP.

Kind regards

Ms Bathandwa Ncube (EAPASA)

Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE)

Integrated Environmental Authorisations
[REDACTED]

From: [ERM Arcus Amsterdam](#)
To: [Stephanie Gopaul](#)
Subject: FW: Pre-Application Meeting Minutes for MPG Approval: Associated Grid Connection for the WEF Cluster and Auxiliary Infrastructure, near Ermelo, MP Province
Date: Tuesday, 13 August 2024 15:36:00
Attachments: [IMAGE.png](#)
[IMAGE.png](#)
[Pre-app.pdf](#)

Lucien Barbeau

Consultant

Cape Town
+27105963488

erm.com

From: Sindy Mbuyane <mbuyanesb@mpg.gov.za>
Sent: Friday, August 11, 2023 12:24 PM
To: ERM Arcus Amsterdam <ERM.ArcusAmsterdam@erm.com>
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: Pre-Application Meeting Minutes for MPG Approval: Associated Grid Connection for the WEF Cluster and Auxiliary Infrastructure, near Ermelo, MP Province

EXTERNAL MESSAGE

Good day Alwie,

Attached is signed minutes.

Kind Regards,

Sindisiwe Mbuyane, EAPASA Reg: 2021/3509
Environmental Officer Control Grade B

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

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>>> "ERM Arcus Amsterdam" <ERM.ArcusAmsterdam@erm.com> 2023/08/03 14:20 >>>

Dear Sindy,

PROVINCIAL PRE-APPLICATION MEETING REFERENCE: TBC

**PROJECT TITLE: PROPOSED GRID CONNECTION FOR THE PROPOSED MULILO WEF CLUSTER,
MPUMALANGA PROVINCE, NEAR ERMELO, MPUMALANGA PROVINCE**

Following the meeting with the MPG held on 31 May 2023, please find attached the draft of the meeting minutes, including a copy of the presentation, for MPG to review and approve. As discussed during the meeting, and included in the attached meeting minutes, when providing approval of the minutes, please could MPG confirm that the applications will be accepted.

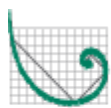
Please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned should you have any questions or require any further documentation to assist with the review and approval of the pre-application meeting minutes.

Thank you for your consideration.

Thank You
Kind Regards
Aneesah Samodien (*nee Alwie*)
Consultant II

ERM

1st Floor | Great Westerford | 240 Main Road | Rondebosch | 7700 | South Africa
T +27 10 596 3495



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ERM Southern Africa Pty Ltd is a Level 1 B-BBEE contributor. View our [B-BBEE Certificate](#) here.

From: Sindy Mbuyane <mbuyanesb@mpg.gov.za>

Sent: Monday, May 29, 2023 10:55 AM

To: Aneesah Alwie <Aneesah.Alwie@erm.com>

Cc: Gavin Cowden <GCowden@mpg.gov.za>; Pamella Ntuli <PNNtuli@mpg.gov.za>;
SHlatswayo@mpg.gov.za

Subject: RE: Response on request sent to Surgeon

EXTERNAL MESSAGE

Good morning Alwie,

Thank you for the email.

Yes, my Directorate is responsible for the application and as communicated with you on 19 May 2023. 31 May 2023 at 11H00 via ms teams.

Kind Regards
Sindisiwe Mbuyane

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>>> Aneesah Alwie <Aneesah.Alwie@erm.com> 2023/05/26 15:29 >>>

Dear Sindy,

I hope this e-mail finds you well. While we await confirmation of process to follow for the meeting. Our proposed dates are the 30th May 2023, 31 May 2023 and / or 01 June 2023. Alternatively, we will accommodate a date and time that will suit the Department.

Your response is appreciated.

Thank You

Kind Regards

Aneesah Alwie
Environmental Consultant, South Africa



Email: Aneesah.Alwie@erm.com

Arcus Consultancy Services South Africa (Pty) Ltd

From: Aneesah Alwie
Sent: Friday, May 19, 2023 12:43 PM
To: Sindy Mbuyane <mbuyanesb@mpg.gov.za>
Cc: pnntuli@mpg.gov.za; gcowden@mpg.gov.za; SHlatswayo@mpg.gov.za
Subject: RE: Response on request sent to Surgeon

Dear Sindy,

Thank you getting in contact. Arcus (an ERM group company) have been appointed by a

Developer to undertake the EIA process for 3 proposed WEFs near Ermelo in the Mpumalanga Province. During the pre-application meeting with the National Department (DFFE), we have been advised that the Provincial Authority, in this case, Mpumalanga Department: Agriculture, Rural Development, Land and Environmental Affairs, will be the Competent Authority for the 3 proposed Applications for EA of the Associated Grid Infrastructure for the 3 Proposed WEFs.

In terms of regional locality, the proposed WEFs are located between the town of Ermelo and Amsterdam, and falls within the Msukaligwa Local Municipality and the Gert Sibande District Municipality, in the Mpumalanga Province

Please could you confirm that your directorate is responsible for this proposed application, and if the meeting can take place via MS Teams or Zoom. Once confirmed we will provide 3 proposed dates and times for the meeting.

Looking forward to your response and assistance.

Please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned should you have any questions.

Thank You

Kind Regards

Aneesah Alwie
Environmental Consultant, South Africa



Email: Aneesah.Alwie@erm.com

Arcus Consultancy Services South Africa (Pty) Ltd

From: Sindy Mbuyane <mbuyanesb@mpg.gov.za>
Sent: Friday, May 19, 2023 12:14 PM
To: Aneesah Alwie <Aneesah.Alwie@erm.com>
Subject: Response on request sent to Surgeon

You don't often get email from mbuyanesb@mpg.gov.za. [Learn why this is important](#)

EXTERNAL MESSAGE

Good day Aneesah,

Thank you for contacting Mr. Surgeon Marebane for a meeting proposal on wind farm facilities near Ermelo.

May you please provide us with 3 possible dates that you wish to have the meeting on, and we will let you know of the date that will be suitable for the Department.

Thank you,

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Subject	Pre-Application Meeting
Project Title	Associated Infrastructure for the proposed Mulilo WEF Cluster, near Ermelo, Mpumalanga Province
Project Developer	Mulilo Renewable Project Developments (Pty) Ltd
Provincial Authority Pre-Application Meeting Reference	TBC
Date	31 May 2023

Minutes and Actions

Virtual Meeting: MS Teams 14h00 – 14h45

Meeting Attendees

Organisation		Name of Attendee		Designation
Mpumalanga Provincial Government	(MPG)	Sindisiwe Mbuyane	(SM)	Case Officer
Environmental Resource Management Southern Africa (Pty) Ltd ¹	(ERM)	Ashlin Bodasing	(AB)	Project Director and EAP
Environmental Resource Management Southern Africa (Pty) Ltd	(ERM)	Aneesah Alwie	(AAL)	Project Consultant
Environmental Resource Management Southern Africa (Pty) Ltd ²	(ERM)	Tebogo Mapinga	(TM)	Project Consultant
Mulilo Renewable Project Developments (Pty) Ltd	(Mulilo)	Lloyd Barnes	(LB)	Project Manager
Mulilo Renewable Project Developments (Pty) Ltd	(Mulilo)	Gail Wheeler	(GW)	Development Engineer

Approval of Meeting Minutes

Provincial Department sign off by

Signature

Date

: GB Mbuyane
:
: 08/08/2023

¹ Ashlin Bodasing has subsequently left the company. The project will be led by a new EAP when submitted.

² Tebogo Mapinga has subsequently left the company

ORGANISATION	COMMENT RAISED	NOTES / RESPONSES / ACTIONS	PERSON	DUE DATE
WELCOME AND MEETING PURPOSE				
ERM	AAL welcomed attendees, and all present introduced themselves and their roles in the proposed development application process.	Please refer to Appendix A for a copy of the attendance register as downloaded from MS Teams after the meeting.	-	-
ERM	For minute purposes, the meeting was recorded using the MS Teams record option.	Please refer to Appendix B for a copy of the presentation.	-	-
ERM	AAL listed the meeting agenda.	No objections were raised to the meeting agenda.	-	-
ERM	AAL explained the meeting must be considered a formal consultation. AAL confirmed the purpose of the meeting.	The meeting was considered a formal consultation in terms of the requirements as stipulated in the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations, 2014 (as amended), as promulgated in terms of the National Environmental Management ACT, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998) (NEMA). The purpose of this meeting is to discuss the Application(s) for Environmental Authorisation of the Associated Infrastructures for the proposed WEF Cluster in the Mpumalanga Province in terms of Regulation 31 and 32 of the NEMA EIA Regulations, 2014 (as amended).	-	-
PROJECT LOCALITY, SPECIFICATIONS AND MOTIVATION FOR THE MULILO WEF APPLICATIONS				
ERM	The project locality was explained and presented in a map to all attendees.	The project locality was explained (The proposed WEFs is located between 15-30 km east of the town of Ermelo in the Mpumalanga Province, South Africa. It falls within the Msukaligwa local municipality and Gert Sibande district municipality) and a map was presented to the attendees. The proposed grid infrastructure was presented. Each WEF has 1 preferred and 3 alternative OHPL routes (4 in total to be assessed in a 300 m corridor). Four slides of maps were shown to the attendees. Slide 1 presented the Mulilo WEF cluster location. Slide 2 to 4 presented each WEF and associated infrastructure individually.	-	-
ERM	The technical specifications of the proposed developments were presented.	Technical specifications were presented in table format. Three WEFs (proposed facilities) were outlined according to project name, applicant, total MW, number of turbines, proximity to Eskom Camden Substation (SS). Each Mulilo WEF will be	-	-

ORGANISATION	COMMENT RAISED	NOTES / RESPONSES / ACTIONS	PERSON	DUE DATE
		applied for in separate Application forms, including accompanying assessment reports – 3 Applications for Scoping and EIA Process equals 3 EAs. The grid connection for each WEF will be applied for in a separate application – 3 applications following a Basic Assessment (BA) process equals 3 EAs.		
ERM	The motivation for the proposed development was explained to the DFFE.	Developer intends to bid the facilities in the seventh bidding window of the REIPPPP (Renewable Energy Independent Power Producer Procurement Programme) with the aim of evacuating the generated power from the WEFs into the National Eskom Grid. Aid in the diversification and stabilisation of the country's electrical supply in line with the objective of the IRP.		
LEGISLATIVE FRAMEWORK AND PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCESS				
ERM	Legislative Framework and Public Participation Process was outlined to DFFE, including consideration of the Directions of 5 June 2020 regarding the COVID-19 Pandemic, i.e., to submit the Applications electronically to the DFFE.	Application for the BA will be in accordance with the EIA Regulations of December 2014 as amended, published in terms of regulation 31 and 32 NEMA, 1998. The project process will be: initiation and review, public participation, reporting and decision-making phase.		
ERM	Public participation process.	Initial phase public consultation includes site notices, poster notices at local stores in the town of Ermelo and Amsterdam and email notification to the pre-identified I&APs. The EAP will conduct a PP process during the draft phase in accordance with Chapter 6 of the EIA regulations, 2017 as amended, and the PP guidelines.		
SPECIALIST REPORTING AND TEAM				
ERM	Site visits will be / has been conducted by specialists, as required, following the requirement of GN 43110 of NEMA: Environmental Themes Reporting Criteria and the Relevant Protocols Gazetted.	DFFE screening reports were sent to all specialists. Specialists will produce separate BA reports which will consider the results of the screening reports. The 12-month bird monitoring is currently in process and will conclude following the winter season 2023. All specialist visits will be conducted following the requirements of the protocols and any other relevant guidelines applicable.		

S.B

ORGANISATION	COMMENT RAISED	NOTES / RESPONSES / ACTIONS	PERSON	DUE DATE
DISCUSSIONS / QUESTIONS/ GENERAL TOPICS				
MPG	SM queried with the project team if the national department was consulted to establish if they are not the competent authority ('CA'). If not, the provincial authority would process the applications	LB responded that the development will be handed over to Eskom once approved. The initial strategy was for the national department to act as the CA as they are the CA for the WEF applications and it would have made sense for one CA to authorise for one project. The national department did acknowledge the preference however stated that a pre application meeting would still be required with the provincial department as the provincial department would decide if they want to be the CA or allow for the national department to be the CA.	-	-
MPG	SM informed the project team that the Mpumalanga Department is in the process of writing a request to the Minister to deal with these applications. Therefore, all the applications might go to the national department. If the national department says the provincial department must decide, the provincial department cannot decline the challenge of exposure to other environmental aspect that come with the project. The application can be submitted to the provincial department but note that the applications might be delegated to the national department especially those transferred to Eskom.	LB confirmed that the applications will be transferred to Eskom. He queried that now knowing about the delegation letter, in the interest of time would it not be better submit the applications to the national authority to ensure that the project developers can meet the different deadlines to get all project components authorised at the same time. On a case-by-case basis, the provincial department can request the national department to be the component authority. He expressed concern that the decision making of who the CA is, might cause delays on the Applications.	-	-
MPG	SM commented that she does not think there will be any delays if the application is submitted to the provincial authority. They will be advised to process the application and not undertake more applications. Alternatively, if the national department is the CA, then the provincial department can be a commenting authority.	LB responded that his concern was if there were changes after submitting the application however he is happy to submit the applications and have them continue with one CA. SM stated that they hope there will not be a need to send the applications to the national department if they are done by the provincial government.	-	-
Mulilo	LB queried that in terms of the application, the developers would like to have the proposed route, the layout and EMP approved with the environmental authorisation to avoid doing future processes. Having the layout approved at the planning stage is sometimes tricky so is there anything that can be done to out the project developers in a good position to have the layout approved?	SM responded that what would assist is contacting Mpumalanga Tourism and Parks agency since they are the main custodians of biodiversity in Mpumalanga and their guidelines will provide guidance on avoiding biodiversity sensitive areas. As well as BirdLife SA for any birds that might be present in the area.	-	-

ORGANISATION	COMMENT RAISED	NOTES / RESPONSES / ACTIONS	PERSON	DUE DATE
Mulilo	LB stated that one year monitoring is already being conducted for birds and bats. All the specialists have been to site recently to identify any sensitivities and those two I&APs will be identified and notified. By obtaining comments from them, it puts the project in a good position to obtain approval for final layout	SM confirmed that they will be able to assist with avoiding biodiversity sensitive areas. SM also advised including national department of rural development and land reform for agricultural fields, and the Gert Sibande District Municipality.		
ERM	AAL asked that if SM has more people who can be included on the I&AP database to please let the project team know and they will add them. AAL asked SM to confirm if she is happy to review and approve the minutes and when the application is ready if it should be sent to the provincial authority.	SM confirmed she will review the minutes. SM asked that before the application is sent, she would like to check with her supervisor if they can accept the application and would inform the project team of the response. AAL proposed that when SM responds to the minutes she can then confirm if the department has the capacity to take on the applications. SM confirmed that she will do so.		
GENERAL				
ERM	Confirmation of the Pre-Application Meeting reference. Minutes of the meeting will be distributed to all attendees and included in the Application Form(s) to the CA.	SM to confirm pre-application meeting reference		

The meeting was concluded at 14h45 by AAL with no further discussion or questions.

From: [Stephanie Gopaul](#)
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: [ERM Arcus Amsterdam; Lucien Barbeau](#)
Date: RE: 14/12/16/3/3/2/2591; 2592; 2593: Proposed Emvelo, Rochdale and Sheepmoor WEFs, MP
Tuesday, 13 August 2024 15:56:40
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[FW Consultation Mlulio Wind Farms Mpumalanga.msg](#)
[MTPA Acknowledgement of receipt RE 1412163322591; 2592; 2593 Proposed Emvelo Rochdale and Sheepmoor WEFs MP.msg](#)
[Pre-app.pdf](#)

Dear Robyn

Thank you for your email in response to that of Bathandwa's in the email trail. Apologies that the draft documents did not reach your desk, however these were submitted and made accessible to DARDLEA on 19th July (see email attached). Following your email on 3rd August 2024, we responded to you on 6th August (as per the email attached) and advised you that DARDLEA were in fact notified of the availability.

Your email on 8th August refers:

Good day Stephanie,

"Be advised that the names of the officials at MTPA that you have highlighted in your below notification are not the relevant officials that are required to be notified or the relevant officials that must review and comment on draft Scoping or EIA reports, or any reports related to an EIA process. There are also no officials in the list of officials in your screenshots that are in the Environmental Affairs Chief Directorate in MDARDLEA - as far as I am aware they are in the section that deals with Agriculture, which is an entirely different mandate.

It would not be acceptable to not provide the commenting authority the mandatory 30 days to review and comment on draft reports, especially in light of the fact that there has been no prior notification. The Directorate Environmental Impact Management within DARDLEA represents the MEC as Competent Authority in Mpumalanga, and the commenting authority in respect of projects administered by DFFE. MTPA has the mandate for biodiversity matters on behalf of DARDLEA. As per my email to you below (3 August), hard copies of all reports must be submitted to Ms Mbuyane (Environmental Impact Management) at our Ermelo office, and the documents must be made available to me (and in this instance to Mr Cowden and Mr Lotter) electronically at the same time. You will need to contact Ms De Waal and Mr Krige at MTPA to confirm how documents must be submitted to MTPA. Please provide shape files of the 3 proposed WEFs as well."

We then responded to you with the links to access the documents electronically and couriered hard copies to Ms Sindi Mbuyane as per your request on 3rd August - we will follow up with the courier if these haven't been received by her as yet. MTPA received their hard copies yesterday (refer to email attached from Celia de Waa for proof of receipt).

Importantly, in your email of 3rd August, you state that "DARDLEA and MTPA have through internal arrangements with DFFE requested to be included in all pre-application consultations for Renewable Energy projects in Mpumalanga, particularly wind energy facilities." You also state in your email of 8th August (referenced in the para above) that "especially in light of the fact that there has been no prior notification".

I would like to point out that Ms Sindi Mbuyane was in fact involved in the pre-app meeting – please see attached the pre-app meeting minutes that Ms Sindi signed.

Prior consultation therefore did happen and we kindly request that in light of this, you consider

completing your review of the DSR to meet the public participation deadline of 22 August 2024.

Should you be unable to provide your comments by this date, we would agree to the way forward stipulated in the email by Ms Bathandwa Ncube on 12 August 2024- ie. this would mean that the FSR would progress and get submitted without DARDLEA and MTPA comments if these are not available at the time, and for comments from these departments to be submitted as an addendum to the FSR.

We thank you for your engagement to date and look forward to your response.



ERM

Sustainability is our business

Stephanie Gopaul

Partner

She/Her/Hers

Durban
0656660066

erm.com

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, August 13, 2024 8:50 AM
To: [REDACTED] ERM Arcus Amsterdam <ERM.ArcusAmsterdam@erm.com>; Stephanie Gopaul <stephanie.gopaul@erm.com>
Cc: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Subject: Re: 14/12/16/3/3/2/2591; 2592; 2593: Proposed Emvelo, Rochdale and Sheepmoor WEFs, MP
Importance: High

You don't often get email from rluyt@mpg.gov.za. [Learn why this is important](#)

EXTERNAL MESSAGE

Good Morning all,

I am extremely concerned with the agreement reached between ERM and DFFE. DARDLEA, as the Provincial Department responsible for environmental affairs in Mpumalanga Province, **has to date not yet received any of the draft documents for review and comment**. In accordance with the requirements of Regulation 40(1)(b), the scoping report is required to be subjected to all I&APs for a period of at least 30 days for comment. Further to this, Regulation 40(2)(b) states that the public participation process must provide access to all information ...and must include consultation with every State department that administers a law relating to a matter affecting the environment relevant to an application for an environmental authorisation.

Regulation 21(1) is very clear in the requirement that a final Scoping Report must, within 44 days of submitting an application to the CA, be submitted to the CA (ie. DFFE), which report has been subjected to a public participation process of at least 30 days and which reflects the incorporation of comments received. The arrangement below is not in line with this requirement, which amounts to an administrative flaw, and I fail to see how DFFE would be in a position to consider a final Scoping report that does not include the input from DARDLEA. The arrangement would also preclude the requirement for the applicant to incorporate the comments received from DARDLEA into the final Scoping report.

As stated above, DARDLEA still awaits the documents for comment.

Kind Regards
Robyn

*Robyn Luyt B.A., B.Sc., B.Sc (Hons) M.Sc., Pr.Sci.Nat. (400327/11), EAPASA (2019/1293)
Director: Environmental Impact Management
Department of Agriculture, Rural Development, Land & Environmental Affairs
Mpumalanga Provincial Government
Riverside Office Park, Aqua Street (Cycad Building - Block 4)*

>>> Bathandwa Ncube <BNcube@dffe.gov.za> 08/12/24 4:14 PM >>>
Goodday Lucien

14/12/16/3/3/2/2591: THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF THE EMVELO WIND ENERGY FACILITY AND AUXILIARY INFRASTRUCTURE, NEAR ERMELO, WITHIN THE MSUKALIGWA LOCAL MUNICIPALITY, MPUMALANGA PROVINCE

14/12/16/3/3/2/2592: THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF THE ROCHDALE WIND ENERGY FACILITY AND AUXILIARY INFRASTRUCTURE, INCLUDING A GRID CONNECTION, NEAR ERMELO, WITHIN THE MSUKALIGWA LOCAL MUNICIPALITY, MPUMALANGA PROVINCE

14/12/16/3/3/2/2593: THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF THE SHEEPMOOR WIND ENERGY FACILITY AND AUXILIARY INFRASTRUCTURE, NEAR ERMELO, WITHIN THE MSUKALIGWA LOCAL MUNICIPALITY, MPUMALANGA PROVINCE

The application and draft Scoping Report (SR) for Environmental Authorisation received by the Department on 22 July 2024 refers.

Following our telephone conversation earlier today regarding the public participation process, please be informed that comments on the draft Scoping Report (SR) are due to you on 22 August 2024. It is noted that there are organs of state who have jurisdiction in respect of the proposed activity, which requires that they be added to the I&AP Database and given an opportunity to comment on the draft SR.

The applicant is requested to submit the final SR to the Department on or before the due date (05 September 2024) and may submit comments from MTPA and DARDLEA as addendums, subsequent to the submission of the final SR to the Department.

MTPA and Mpumalanga DARDLEA are requested to cc this Department when submitting comments to the EAP.

Kind regards

Ms Bathandwa Ncube (EAPASA)
Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE)
Integrated Environmental Authorisations

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From: [ERM Arcus Amsterdam](#)
To: [Stephanie Gopaul](#)
Subject: FW: Consultation | Mlulio Wind Farms Mpumalanga
Date: Tuesday, 13 August 2024 15:12:36
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)

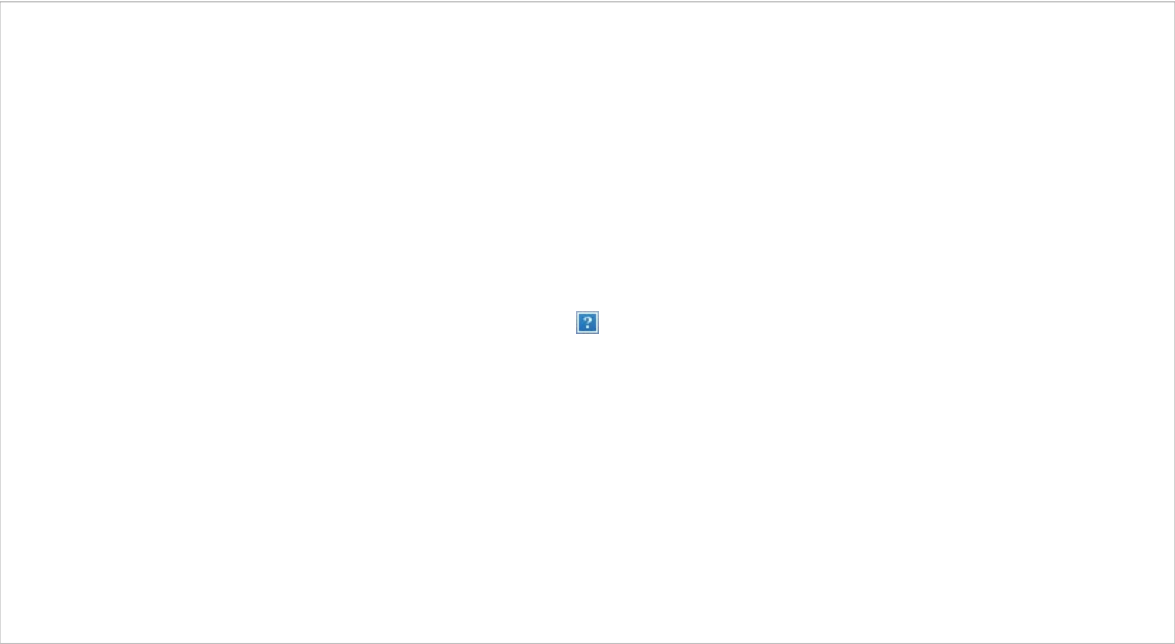
Lucien Barbeau
Consultant

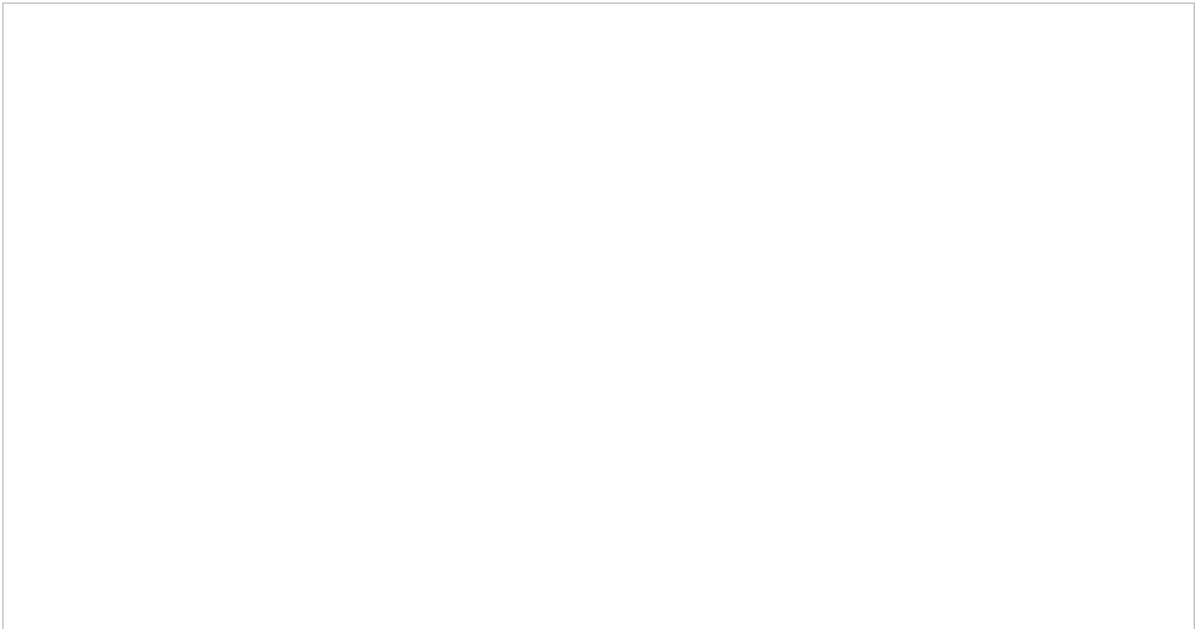
Cape Town erm.com
+27105963488

From: ERM Arcus Amsterdam <ERM.ArcusAmsterdam@erm.com>
Sent: Tuesday, August 6, 2024 1:43 PM
To: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Consultation | Mlulio Wind Farms Mpumalanga

Good day Robyn,

Please note that DARDLEA and MTPA were notified regarding the PP for the Draft scoping Phase on the 19th July 2024. Kindly see proof of notification below:





If required, we will send through hard copies and also resend to the below contacts and will update our I&AP database accordingly. Additionally, kindly note that PPP for the Mulilo Wind Energy Farm in Mpumalanga closes the 20th of August 2024.

Thank you,



Lucien Barbeau
Consultant

Cape Town **erm.com**
+27105963488

From: Robyn Luyt <rluyt@mpg.gov.za>
Sent: Saturday, August 3, 2024 3:09 PM
To: ERM Arcus Amsterdam <Erm.arcusamsterdam@erm.com>
Cc: [Redacted]
Subject: Consultation | Mlulio Wind Farms Mpumalanga
Importance: High

You don't often get email from rluyt@mpg.gov.za. [Learn why this is important](#)

EXTERNAL MESSAGE

Good day Ms Gopaul,

It has come to our attention, and not via any official notification from ERM, that draft Scoping Reports for the following wind farms proposed in the Gert Sibande District in Mpumalanga Province are out for public comment from 19 July 2024 to 20 August 2024 (as per ERM website), where ERM is the EAP:

- 1. Shepmoore WEF
- 2. Emvelo WEF
- 3. Rochdale WEF

Neither DARDLEA nor MTPA have been consulted to date, nor have we received copies of any of the draft Scoping Reports. Aside from the requirements of the EIA Regulations, DARDLEA and MTPA have through internal arrangements with DFFE requested to be included in all pre-application consultations for Renewable Energy projects in Mpumalanga, particularly wind energy facilities. DARDLEA and MTPA must be included during all pre-application meetings and in all in-process consultations.

For the purpose of commenting on draft reports during the regulatory periods, we request that hard copies of all reports are submitted to Ms Sindi Mbuyane in our Ermelo office (where projects are located in the Gert Sibande District), and sent electronically to me via WeTransfer. Please also ensure that MTPA receives the reports in the manner requested by them. For your records I include the contact details of all relevant officials to be consulted in DARDLEA (when an application is in the Gert Sibande District) and MTPA:

DARDLEA	DESIGNATION	EMAIL	PHONE
Robyn Luyt	Director: Environmental Impact Management (EIM)	[Redacted]	[Redacted]
Sindisiwe	Deputy Director:	[Redacted]	[Redacted]

Mbuyane	EIM Gert Sibande District		
Gavin Cowden	Deputy Director: Environmental Policy, Planning and Coordination		
MTPA	DESIGNATION	EMAIL	PHONE
Mervyn Lotter	Manager: Biodiversity Planning		
Frans Krige	Land Use Advisor		
Khumbelo Malele	Land Use Advisor		
Celia de Waal	EIA Data Capturer LUA		

Please note that time frames for commenting on draft reports can only commence on the date that hard copies of the reports are received, and we request that our 30 day time frame aligns with DFFE's.

Kind Regards
Robyn

Robyn Luyt B.A., B.Sc., B.Sc (Hons) M.Sc., Pr.Sci.Nat. (400327/11), EAPASA (2019/1293)
Director: Environmental Impact Management
Department of Agriculture, Rural Development, Land & Environmental Affairs
Mpumalanga Provincial Government

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From: [Celia de Waal](#)
To: [Stephanie Gopaul](#); [ERM Arcus Amsterdam](#)
Cc: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] of receipt RE: 14/12/16/3/3/2/2591; 2592; 2593: Proposed Emvelo, Rochdale and Sheepmoor WEFs, MP
Date: Tuesday, 13 August 2024 08:16:19

Some people who received this message don't often get email from celia@mtpa.co.za. [Learn why this is important](#)

WARNING: The sender of this email could not be validated and may not match the person in the "From" field.

EXTERNAL MESSAGE

Good day Stephanie

The MTPA acknowledge the receipt of the following 3 documents. It was delivered yesterday 12 August 2024.

- 14/12/16/3/3/2/2591: THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF THE EMVELO WIND ENERGY FACILITY AND AUXILIARY INFRASTRUCTURE, NEAR ERMELO, WITHIN THE MSUKALIGWA LOCAL MUNICIPALITY, MPUMALANGA PROVINCE
- 14/12/16/3/3/2/2592: THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF THE ROCHDALE WIND ENERGY FACILITY AND AUXILIARY INFRASTRUCTURE, INCLUDING A GRID CONNECTION, NEAR ERMELO, WITHIN THE MSUKALIGWA LOCAL MUNICIPALITY, MPUMALANGA PROVINCE
- 14/12/16/3/3/2/2593: THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF THE SHEEPMOOR WIND ENERGY FACILITY AND AUXILIARY INFRASTRUCTURE, NEAR ERMELO, WITHIN THE MSUKALIGWA LOCAL MUNICIPALITY, MPUMALANGA PROVINCE

The commenting scientist is Mr. Frans Krige who is copied in this e-mail.

Kind regards

Celia de Waal



Cecilia de Waal

Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Data Capturer

[REDACTED]

From: Bathandwa Ncube <BNcube@dffe.gov.za>

Sent: Monday, August 12, 2024 4:14 PM

[REDACTED]

Subject: 14/12/16/3/3/2/2591; 2592; 2593: Proposed Emvelo, Rochdale and Sheepmoor WEFs, MP

Goodday Lucien

14/12/16/3/3/2/2591: THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF THE EMVELO WIND ENERGY FACILITY AND AUXILIARY INFRASTRUCTURE, NEAR ERMELO, WITHIN THE MSUKALIGWA LOCAL MUNICIPALITY, MPUMALANGA PROVINCE

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The application and draft Scoping Report (SR) for Environmental Authorisation received by the Department on 22 July 2024 refers.

Following our telephone conversation earlier today regarding the public participation process, please be informed that comments on the draft Scoping Report (SR) are due to you on 22 August 2024. It is noted that there are organs of state who have jurisdiction in respect of the proposed activity, which requires that they be added to the I&AP Database and given an opportunity to comment on the draft SR.

The applicant is requested to submit the final SR to the Department on or before the due date (05 September 2024) and may submit comments from MTPA and DARDLEA as addendums, subsequent to the submission of the final SR to the Department.

MTPA and Mpumalanga DARDLEA are requested to cc this Department when submitting comments to the EAP.

Kind regards

Ms Bathandwa Ncube (EAPASA)

Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE)





Subject	Pre-Application Meeting
Project Title	Associated Infrastructure for the proposed Mulilo WEF Cluster, near Ermelo, Mpumalanga Province
Project Developer	Mulilo Renewable Project Developments (Pty) Ltd
Provincial Authority Pre-Application Meeting Reference	TBC
Date	31 May 2023

Minutes and Actions

Virtual Meeting: MS Teams 14h00 – 14h45

Meeting Attendees

Organisation		Name of Attendee		Designation
Mpumalanga Provincial Government	(MPG)	Sindisiwe Mbuyane	(SM)	Case Officer
Environmental Resource Management Southern Africa (Pty) Ltd ¹	(ERM)	Ashlin Bodasing	(AB)	Project Director and EAP
Environmental Resource Management Southern Africa (Pty) Ltd	(ERM)	Aneesah Alwie	(AAL)	Project Consultant
Environmental Resource Management Southern Africa (Pty) Ltd ²	(ERM)	Tebogo Mapinga	(TM)	Project Consultant
Mulilo Renewable Project Developments (Pty) Ltd	(Mulilo)	Lloyd Barnes	(LB)	Project Manager
Mulilo Renewable Project Developments (Pty) Ltd	(Mulilo)	Gail Wheeler	(GW)	Development Engineer

Approval of Meeting Minutes

Provincial Department sign off by

Signature

Date

: GB Mbuyane
:
: 08/08/2023

¹ Ashlin Bodasing has subsequently left the company. The project will be led by a new EAP when submitted.

² Tebogo Mapinga has subsequently left the company.

ORGANISATION	COMMENT RAISED	NOTES / RESPONSES / ACTIONS	PERSON	DUE DATE
WELCOME AND MEETING PURPOSE				
ERM	AAL welcomed attendees, and all present introduced themselves and their roles in the proposed development application process.	Please refer to Appendix A for a copy of the attendance register as downloaded from MS Teams after the meeting.	-	-
ERM	For minute purposes, the meeting was recorded using the MS Teams record option.	Please refer to Appendix B for a copy of the presentation.	-	-
ERM	AAL listed the meeting agenda.	No objections were raised to the meeting agenda.	-	-
ERM	AAL explained the meeting must be considered a formal consultation. AAL confirmed the purpose of the meeting.	The meeting was considered a formal consultation in terms of the requirements as stipulated in the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations, 2014 (as amended), as promulgated in terms of the National Environmental Management ACT, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998) (NEMA). The purpose of this meeting is to discuss the Application(s) for Environmental Authorisation of the Associated Infrastructures for the proposed WEF Cluster in the Mpumalanga Province in terms of Regulation 31 and 32 of the NEMA EIA Regulations, 2014 (as amended).	-	-
PROJECT LOCALITY, SPECIFICATIONS AND MOTIVATION FOR THE MULILO WEF APPLICATIONS				
ERM	The project locality was explained and presented in a map to all attendees.	The project locality was explained (The proposed WEFs is located between 15-30 km east of the town of Ermelo in the Mpumalanga Province, South Africa. It falls within the Msukaligwa local municipality and Gert Sibande district municipality) and a map was presented to the attendees. The proposed grid infrastructure was presented. Each WEF has 1 preferred and 3 alternative OHPL routes (4 in total to be assessed in a 300 m corridor). Four slides of maps were shown to the attendees. Slide 1 presented the Mulilo WEF cluster location. Slide 2 to 4 presented each WEF and associated infrastructure individually.	-	-
ERM	The technical specifications of the proposed developments were presented.	Technical specifications were presented in table format. Three WEFs (proposed facilities) were outlined according to project name, applicant, total MW, number of turbines, proximity to Eskom Camden Substation (SS). Each Mulilo WEF will be	-	-

ORGANISATION	COMMENT RAISED	NOTES / RESPONSES / ACTIONS	PERSON	DUE DATE
		applied for in separate Application forms, including accompanying assessment reports – 3 Applications for Scoping and EIA Process equals 3 EAs. The grid connection for each WEF will be applied for in a separate application – 3 applications following a Basic Assessment (BA) process equals 3 EAs.		
ERM	The motivation for the proposed development was explained to the DFFE.	Developer intends to bid the facilities in the seventh bidding window of the REIPPPP (Renewable Energy Independent Power Producer Procurement Programme) with the aim of evacuating the generated power from the WEFs into the National Eskom Grid. Aid in the diversification and stabilisation of the country's electrical supply in line with the objective of the IRP.		
LEGISLATIVE FRAMEWORK AND PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCESS				
ERM	Legislative Framework and Public Participation Process was outlined to DFFE, including consideration of the Directions of 5 June 2020 regarding the COVID-19 Pandemic, i.e., to submit the Applications electronically to the DFFE.	Application for the BA will be in accordance with the EIA Regulations of December 2014 as amended, published in terms of regulation 31 and 32 NEMA, 1998. The project process will be: initiation and review, public participation, reporting and decision-making phase.		
ERM	Public participation process.	Initial phase public consultation includes site notices, poster notices at local stores in the town of Ermelo and Amsterdam and email notification to the pre-identified I&APs. The EAP will conduct a PP process during the draft phase in accordance with Chapter 6 of the EIA regulations, 2017 as amended, and the PP guidelines.		
SPECIALIST REPORTING AND TEAM				
ERM	Site visits will be / has been conducted by specialists, as required, following the requirement of GN 43110 of NEMA: Environmental Themes Reporting Criteria and the Relevant Protocols Gazetted.	DFFE screening reports were sent to all specialists. Specialists will produce separate BA reports which will consider the results of the screening reports. The 12-month bird monitoring is currently in process and will conclude following the winter season 2023. All specialist visits will be conducted following the requirements of the protocols and any other relevant guidelines applicable.		

S.B

ORGANISATION	COMMENT RAISED	NOTES / RESPONSES / ACTIONS	PERSON	DUE DATE
DISCUSSIONS / QUESTIONS/ GENERAL TOPICS				
MPG	SM queried with the project team if the national department was consulted to establish if they are not the competent authority ('CA'). If not, the provincial authority would process the applications	LB responded that the development will be handed over to Eskom once approved. The initial strategy was for the national department to act as the CA as they are the CA for the WEF applications and it would have made sense for one CA to authorise for one project. The national department did acknowledge the preference however stated that a pre application meeting would still be required with the provincial department as the provincial department would decide if they want to be the CA or allow for the national department to be the CA.	-	-
MPG	SM informed the project team that the Mpumalanga Department is in the process of writing a request to the Minister to deal with these applications. Therefore, all the applications might go to the national department. If the national department says the provincial department must decide, the provincial department cannot decline the challenge of exposure to other environmental aspect that come with the project. The application can be submitted to the provincial department but note that the applications might be delegated to the national department especially those transferred to Eskom.	LB confirmed that the applications will be transferred to Eskom. He queried that now knowing about the delegation letter, in the interest of time would it not be better submit the applications to the national authority to ensure that the project developers can meet the different deadlines to get all project components authorised at the same time. On a case-by-case basis, the provincial department can request the national department to be the component authority. He expressed concern that the decision making of who the CA is, might cause delays on the Applications.	-	-
MPG	SM commented that she does not think there will be any delays if the application is submitted to the provincial authority. They will be advised to process the application and not undertake more applications. Alternatively, if the national department is the CA, then the provincial department can be a commenting authority.	LB responded that his concern was if there were changes after submitting the application however he is happy to submit the applications and have them continue with one CA. SM stated that they hope there will not be a need to send the applications to the national department if they are done by the provincial government.	-	-
Mulilo	LB queried that in terms of the application, the developers would like to have the proposed route, the layout and EMP approved with the environmental authorisation to avoid doing future processes. Having the layout approved at the planning stage is sometimes tricky so is there anything that can be done to out the project developers in a good position to have the layout approved?	SM responded that what would assist is contacting Mpumalanga Tourism and Parks agency since they are the main custodians of biodiversity in Mpumalanga and their guidelines will provide guidance on avoiding biodiversity sensitive areas. As well as BirdLife SA for any birds that might be present in the area.	-	-

ORGANISATION	COMMENT RAISED	NOTES / RESPONSES / ACTIONS	PERSON	DUE DATE
Mulilo	LB stated that one year monitoring is already being conducted for birds and bats. All the specialists have been to site recently to identify any sensitivities and those two I&APs will be identified and notified. By obtaining comments from them, it puts the project in a good position to obtain approval for final layout	SM confirmed that they will be able to assist with avoiding biodiversity sensitive areas. SM also advised including national department of rural development and land reform for agricultural fields, and the Gert Sibande District Municipality.		
ERM	AAL asked that if SM has more people who can be included on the I&AP database to please let the project team know and they will add them. AAL asked SM to confirm if she is happy to review and approve the minutes and when the application is ready if it should be sent to the provincial authority.	SM confirmed she will review the minutes. SM asked that before the application is sent, she would like to check with her supervisor if they can accept the application and would inform the project team of the response. AAL proposed that when SM responds to the minutes she can then confirm if the department has the capacity to take on the applications. SM confirmed that she will do so.		
GENERAL				
ERM	Confirmation of the Pre-Application Meeting reference. Minutes of the meeting will be distributed to all attendees and included in the Application Form(s) to the CA.	SM to confirm pre-application meeting reference		

The meeting was concluded at 14h45 by AAL with no further discussion or questions.

From: [Mervyn Lotter](#)
To: [Stephanie Gopaul](#)
Cc: [REDACTED]

Date: Tuesday, 13 August 2024 20:34:41
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

[REDACTED] Emvelo, Rochdale and Sheepmoor WEFs, MP

EXTERNAL MESSAGE

Dear Stephanie,

I am writing to clarify several points regarding the recent applications:

The appropriate MTPA staff members responsible for reviewing these three applications only received the links on August 6th and hard copies on August 12th.

The two MTPA staff members you contacted in July are involved in permitting processes (such as issuing permits for collecting protected species) and are not responsible for reviewing development applications. As they were blind copied, they would have been unaware if the correct staff had been included in the correspondence.

According to the minutes you provided, Ms. Mbuyane informed you on May 31, 2024, that *"the MTPA is the main custodian of biodiversity in Mpumalanga and their guidelines would provide guidance on avoiding biodiversity sensitive areas."* However, it appears this guidance was not sought.

Upon reviewing my email records, I found communications from Andrew Pearson, Annitta Attieh, and Verushka Snyders (all from Mulilo) regarding CBAs for other projects, indicating that Mulilo is aware that I am the appropriate contact for biodiversity planning related matters. I also have several emails to both Frans Krige and myself from ERM staff, such as Kate Hamilton from around 2016 and more recently. ERM should know who the correct staff would be to send the EIA documents to for comment.

We are currently managing several other development applications with similar deadlines. Given the short notice, it would be challenging to thoroughly review and apply our minds to the three applications before August 22nd.

It is regrettable that we were not consulted earlier, despite the prior recommendation to do so. This has now placed undue pressure on our team to meet your deadline.

Comments from authorities need to be considered and incorporated into the final EIA document. Including them as an appendix defeats the purpose of the legislated timeframes and the need to consider these inputs in the first place. This is a risk to your project.

We can only try and do our best.

Regards,
Mervyn

On Tue, 13 Aug 2024 at 15:56, Stephanie Gopaul <stephanie.gopaul@erm.com> wrote:

Dear Robyn

Thank you for your email in response to that of Bathandwa's in the email trail.

Apologies that the draft documents did not reach your desk, however these were submitted and made accessible to DARDLEA on 19th July (see email attached). Following your email on 3rd August 2024, we responded to you on 6th August (as per the email attached) and advised you that DARDLEA were in fact notified of the availability.

Your email on 8th August refers:

Good day Stephanie,

"Be advised that the names of the officials at MTPA that you have highlighted in your below notification are not the relevant officials that are required to be notified or the relevant officials that must review and comment on draft Scoping or EIA reports, or any reports related to an EIA process. There are also no officials in the list of officials in your screenshots that are in the Environmental Affairs Chief Directorate in MDARDLEA - as far as I am aware they are in the section that deals with Agriculture, which is an entirely different mandate.

It would not be acceptable to not provide the commenting authority the mandatory 30 days to review and comment on draft reports, especially in light of the fact that there has been no prior notification. The Directorate Environmental Impact Management within DARDLEA represents the MEC as Competent Authority in Mpumalanga, and the commenting authority in respect of projects administered by DFFE. MTPA has the mandate for biodiversity matters on behalf of DARDLEA. As per my email to you below (3 August), hard copies of all reports must be submitted to Ms Mbuyane (Environmental Impact Management) at our Ermelo office, and the documents must be made available to me (and in this instance to Mr Cowden and Mr Lotter) electronically at the same time. You will need to contact Ms De Waal and Mr Krige at MTPA to confirm how documents must be submitted to MTPA. Please provide shape files of the 3 proposed WEFs as well."

We then responded to you with the links to access the documents electronically and couriered hard copies to Ms Sindi Mbuyane as per your request on 3rd August - we will follow up with the courier if these haven't been received by her as yet. MTPA received their hard copies yesterday (refer to email attached from Celia de Waa for proof of receipt).

Importantly, in your email of 3rd August, you state that "DARDLEA and MTPA have through internal arrangements with DFFE requested to be included in all pre-application consultations for Renewable Energy projects in Mpumalanga, particularly wind energy facilities." You also state in your email of 8th August (referenced in the para above) that "especially in light of the fact that there has been no prior notification".

I would like to point out that Ms Sindi Mbuyane was in fact involved in the pre-app meeting – please see attached the pre-app meeting minutes that Ms Sindi signed.

Prior consultation therefore did happen and we kindly request that in light of this, you consider completing your review of the DSR to meet the public participation deadline of 22 August 2024.

Should you be unable to provide your comments by this date, we would agree to the way forward stipulated in the email by Ms Bathandwa Ncube on 12 august 2024- ie. this would mean that the FSR would progress and get submitted without DARDLEA and MTPA comments if these are not available at the time, and for comments from these departments to be submitted as an addendum to the FSR.

We thank you for your engagement to date and look forward to your response.



Sustainability is our business

Stephanie Gopaul
Partner
She/Her/Hers

Durban
0656660066

erm.com

From: Robyn Luyt <rluyt@mpg.gov.za>

Sent: Tuesday, August 13, 2024 8:50 AM

To:

[Redacted email addresses]

Subject: Re: 14/12/16/3/3/2/2591; 2592; 2593: Proposed Emvelo, Rochdale and Sheepmoor WEFs, MP

Importance: High

You don't often get email from rluyt@mpg.gov.za. [Learn why this is important](#)

EXTERNAL MESSAGE

Good Morning all,

I am extremely concerned with the agreement reached between ERM and DFFE. DARDLEA, as the

Provincial Department responsible for environmental affairs in Mpumalanga Province, **has to date not yet received any of the draft documents for review and comment.** In accordance with the requirements of Regulation 40(1)(b), the scoping report is required to be subjected to all I&APs for a period of at least 30 days for comment. Further to this, Regulation 40(2)(b) states that the public participation process must provide access to all information ...and must include consultation with every State department that administers a law relating to a matter affecting the environment relevant to an application for an environmental authorisation.

Regulation 21(1) is very clear in the requirement that a final Scoping Report must, within 44 days of submitting an application to the CA, be submitted to the CA (ie. DFFE), which report has been subjected to a public participation process of at least 30 days and which reflects the incorporation of comments received. The arrangement below is not in line with this requirement, which amounts to an administrative flaw, and I fail to see how DFFE would be in a position to consider a final Scoping report that does not include the input from DARDLEA. The arrangement would also preclude the requirement for the applicant to incorporate the comments received from DARDLEA into the final Scoping report.

As stated above, DARDLEA still awaits the documents for comment.

Kind Regards

Robyn

Robyn Luyt B.A., B.Sc., B.Sc (Hons) M.Sc., Pr.Sci.Nat. (400327/11), EAPASA (2019/1293)

Director: Environmental Impact Management

Department of Agriculture, Rural Development, Land & Environmental Affairs

Mpumalanga Provincial Government

Riverside Office Park, Aqua Street (Cycad Building - Block 4)

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

>>> Bathandwa Ncube <[REDACTED]> 08/12/24 4:14 PM >>>

Goodday Lucien

14/12/16/3/3/2/2591: THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF THE EMVELO WIND ENERGY FACILITY AND AUXILIARY INFRASTRUCTURE, NEAR ERMELO, WITHIN THE MSUKALIGWA LOCAL MUNICIPALITY, MPUMALANGA PROVINCE

14/12/16/3/3/2/2592: THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF THE ROCHDALE WIND ENERGY FACILITY AND AUXILIARY INFRASTRUCTURE, INCLUDING A GRID CONNECTION, NEAR ERMELO, WITHIN THE MSUKALIGWA LOCAL MUNICIPALITY, MPUMALANGA PROVINCE

14/12/16/3/3/2/2593: THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF THE SHEEPMOOR WIND ENERGY FACILITY AND AUXILIARY INFRASTRUCTURE, NEAR ERMELO, WITHIN THE MSUKALIGWA LOCAL MUNICIPALITY, MPUMALANGA PROVINCE

The application and draft Scoping Report (SR) for Environmental Authorisation received by the Department on 22 July 2024 refers.

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The applicant is requested to submit the final SR to the Department on or before the due date (05 September 2024) and may submit comments from MTPA and DARDLEA as addendums, subsequent to the submission of the final SR to the Department.

MTPA and Mpumalanga DARDLEA are requested to cc this Department when submitting comments to the EAP.

Kind regards

Ms Bathandwa Ncube (EAPASA)

Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE)

Integrated Environmental Authorisations

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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--

Dr Mervyn Lötter
Control Scientist: Biodiversity Planning
Mpumalanga Tourism and Parks Agency
South Africa



Website: www.mpumalanga.com

Useful links

<http://mtpa.maps.arcgis.com/>
[MBSP Storymap](#)
[MBSP Web Map](#)
[Climate change corridors](#)
[MTPA Nature Reserves](#)

From: [Masina Morudu](#)
To: [Stephanie Gopaul](#)
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: 14/12/16/3/3/2/2591; 2592; 2593: Proposed Emvelo, Rochdale and Sheepmoor WEFs, MP
Date: Wednesday, 14 August 2024 17:30:49
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[Re RE Consultation Mlulio Wind Farms Mpumalanga.msg](#)

EXTERNAL MESSAGE

Dear Stephanie,

Following the discussion between the Provincial Department (DARDLEA) and the EAP earlier this morning, it was confirmed that the EAP did notify the province about the proposed wind energy developments but unfortunately the notification was sent to the Agriculture section within the department and the environmental section did not get the notification/draft reports. The Provincial Department was made aware of the public review of the draft scoping reports of the proposed developments by other interested and affected parties and Ms Luyt contacted ERM and requested the draft reports for comment on 03 August 2024 (see attached email). The EAP/Applicant failed to submit the requested reports until this week. The Provincial Department and MTPA must be afforded 30 days to comment as per EIA Regulations 2014 as amended otherwise the process will be viewed as being procedural flawed.

Considering the above, it is noted that the EAP will not be able to meet the regulated time frames for the submission of the final Scoping Reports (05 September 2024), and thus, the applications are going to regrettably lapse. Therefore the Department advises that the EAP withdraws the current applications and reapply. Please note that , reapplying constitutes the EIA process from the beginning.

Regards,

MASINA MORUDU

Integrated Environmental Authorisations
EAPASA Registration: 2019/1805

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

"We all have few failures in life, it's what makes us ready for the success".



forestry, fisheries
& the environment

Department:
Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

From: Robyn Luyt <rluyt@mpg.gov.za>

Sent: Tuesday, August 13, 2024 8:50 AM

To: Bathandwa Ncube <BNcube@dfpe.gov.za>; ERM.ArcusAmsterdam@erm.com;
stephanie.gopaul@erm.com

Cc: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Subject: Re: 14/12/16/3/3/2/2591; 2592; 2593: Proposed Emvelo, Rochdale and Sheepmoor WEFs, MP

Importance: High

Good Morning all,

I am extremely concerned with the agreement reached between ERM and DFFE. DARDLEA, as the Provincial Department responsible for environmental affairs in Mpumalanga Province, **has to date not yet received any of the draft documents for review and comment.** In accordance with the requirements of Regulation 40(1)(b), the scoping report is required to be subjected to all I&APs for a period of at least 30 days for comment. Further to this, Regulation 40(2)(b) states that the public participation process must provide access to all information ...and must include consultation with every State department that administers a law relating to a matter affecting the environment relevant to an application for an environmental authorisation.

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As stated above, DARDLEA still awaits the documents for comment.

Kind Regards
Robyn

*Robyn Luyt B.A., [B.Sc.](#), [B.Sc](#) (Hons) [M.Sc.](#), Pr.Sci.Nat. (400327/11), EAPASA (2019/1293)
Director: Environmental Impact Management
Department of Agriculture, Rural Development, Land & Environmental Affairs
Mpumalanga Provincial Government
Riverside Office Park, Aqua Street (Cycad Building - Block 4)*

>>> Bathandwa Ncube [REDACTED] > 08/12/24 4:14 PM >>>
Goodday Lucien

14/12/16/3/3/2/2591: THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF THE EMVELO WIND ENERGY FACILITY AND AUXILIARY INFRASTRUCTURE, NEAR ERMELO, WITHIN THE MSUKALIGWA LOCAL MUNICIPALITY, MPUMALANGA PROVINCE

14/12/16/3/3/2/2592: THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF THE ROCHDALE WIND ENERGY FACILITY AND AUXILIARY INFRASTRUCTURE, INCLUDING A GRID CONNECTION, NEAR ERMELO, WITHIN THE MSUKALIGWA LOCAL MUNICIPALITY, MPUMALANGA PROVINCE

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Kind regards

Ms Bathandwa Ncube (EAPASA)

Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE)

Integrated Environmental Authorisations



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From: R Luyt
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: RE: Consultation | Mlulo Wind Farms Mpumalanga
Date: Sunday, 11 August 2024 09:51:38
Importance: High

Good day Stephanie,

As of 8 August 2024, neither DARDLEA nor MTPA have received draft Scoping Reports to review and comment on, nor have we received a response to the email below.

Kind Regards
Robyn

Robyn Luyt B.A., [B.Sc.](#), [B.Sc.](#) (Hons) [M.Sc.](#), Pr.Sci.Nat. (400327/11), EAPASA (2019/1293)
Director: Environmental Impact Management
Department of Agriculture, Rural Development, Land & Environmental Affairs
Mpumalanga Provincial Government
Riverside Office Park, Aqua Street (Cycad Building - Block 4)

>>> Robyn Luyt 08/07/24 9:41 AM >>>
Good day Stephanie,

Be advised that the names of the officials at MTPA that you have highlighted in your below notification are **not the relevant officials** that are required to be notified or the relevant officials that must review and comment on draft Scoping or EIA reports, or any reports related to an EIA process. There are also no officials in the list of officials in your screenshots that are in the Environmental Affairs Chief Directorate in MDARDLEA - as far as I am aware they are in the section that deals with Agriculture, which is an entirely different mandate.

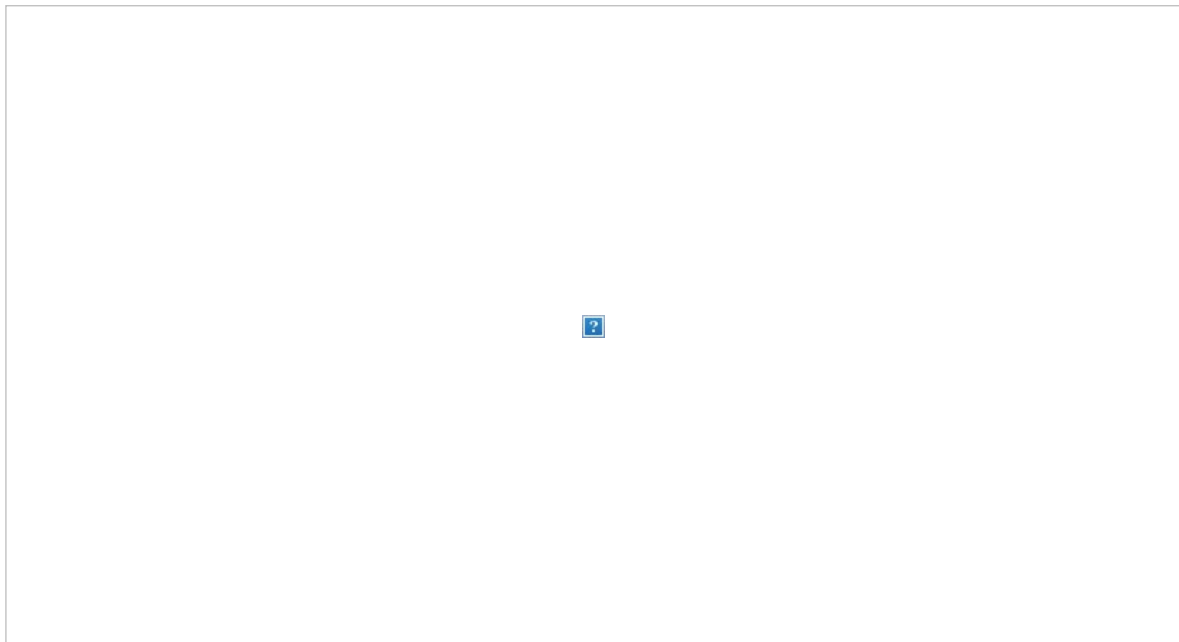
It would **not** be acceptable to not provide the commenting authority the mandatory 30 days to review and comment on draft reports, especially in light of the fact that there has been no prior notification. The Directorate Environmental Impact Management within DARDLEA represents the MEC as Competent Authority in Mpumalanga, and the commenting authority in respect projects administered by DFFE. MTPA has the mandate for biodiversity matters on behalf of DARDLEA. As per my email to you below (3 August), hard copies of all reports must be submitted to Ms Mbuyane (Environmental Impact Management) at our Ermelo office, and the documents must be made available to me (and in this instance to Mr Cowden and Mr Lotter) electronically at the same time. You will need to contact Ms De Waal and Mr Krige at MTPA to confirm how documents must be submitted to MTPA. Please provide shape files of the 3 proposed WEFs as well.

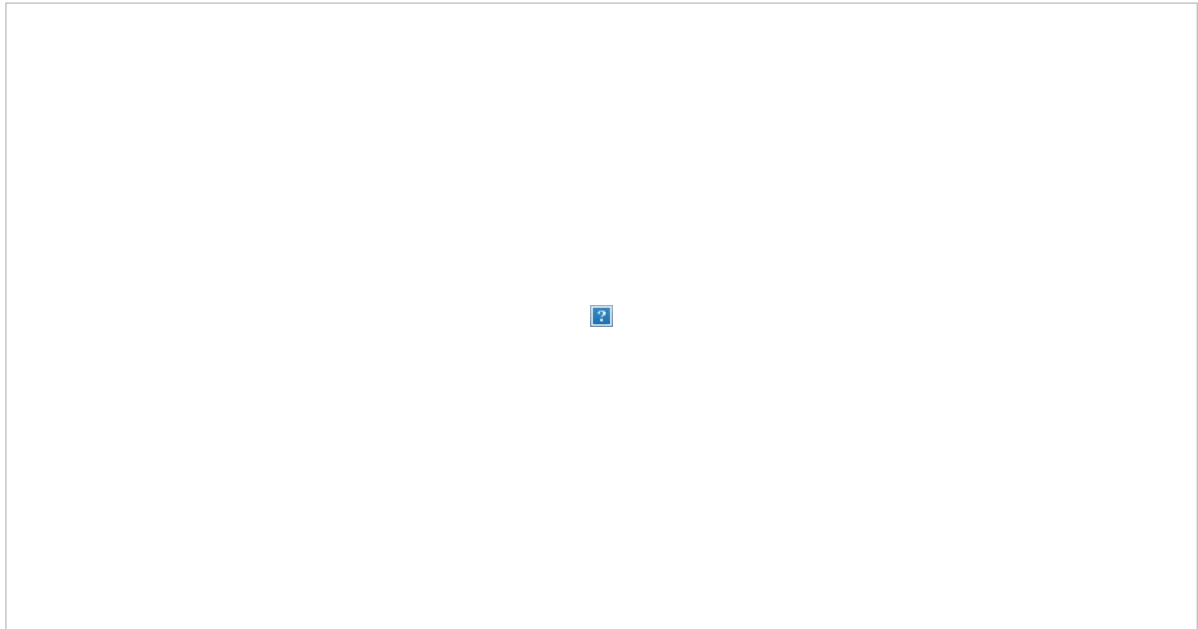
Regards
Robyn

Robyn Luyt B.A., [B.Sc.](#), [B.Sc.](#) (Hons) [M.Sc.](#), Pr.Sci.Nat. (400327/11), EAPASA (2019/1293)
Director: Environmental Impact Management
Department of Agriculture, Rural Development, Land & Environmental Affairs
Mpumalanga Provincial Government

>>> "ERM Arcus Amsterdam" <ERM.ArcusAmsterdam@erm.com> 08/06/24 1:43 PM >>>
Good day Robyn,

Please note that DARDLEA and MTPA were notified regarding the PP for the Draft scoping Phase on the 19th July 2024. Kindly see proof of notification below:





If required, we will send through hard copies and also resend to the below contacts and will update our I&AP database accordingly. Additionally, kindly note that PPP for the Mulilo Wind Energy Farm in Mpumalanga closes the 20th of August 2024.

Thank you,

Lucien Barbeau

ERM

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, August 3, 2024 3:09 PM
To: ERM Arcus Amsterdam <Erm.arcusamsterdam@erm.com>
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Subject: Consultation | Mlulio Wind Farms Mpumalanga
Importance: High

You don't often get email from rluyt@mpg.gov.za. [Learn why this is important](#)

EXTERNAL MESSAGE

Good day Ms Gopaul,

It has come to our attention, and not via any official notification from ERM, that draft Scoping Reports for the following wind farms proposed in the Gert Sibande District in Mpumalanga Province are out for public comment from 19 July 2024 to 20 August 2024 (as per ERM website), where ERM is the EAP:

1. Shepmoore WEF
2. Emvelo WEF
3. Rochdale WEF

Neither DARDLEA nor MTPA have been consulted to date, nor have we received copies of any of the draft Scoping Reports. Aside from the requirements of the EIA Regulations, DARDLEA and MTPA have through internal arrangements with DFFE requested to be included in all pre-application consultations for Renewable Energy projects in Mpumalanga, particularly wind energy facilities. DARDLEA and MTPA must be included during all pre-application meetings and in all in-process consultations.

For the purpose of commenting on draft reports during the regulatory periods, we request that hard copies of all reports are submitted to Ms Sindi Mbuyane in our Ermelo office (where projects are located in the Gert Sibande District), and sent electronically to me via WeTransfer. Please also ensure that MTPA receives the reports in the manner requested by them. For your records I include the contact details of all relevant officials to be consulted in DARDLEA (when an application is in the Gert Sibande District) and MTPA:

DARDLEA	DESIGNATION	EMAIL	PHONE
Robyn Luyt	Director: Environmental Impact Management (EIM)	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
Sindisiwe Mbuyane	Deputy Director: EIM Gert Sibande District	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
Gavin Cowden	Deputy Director: Environmental Policy, Planning and Coordination	[REDACTED]	

MTPA	DESIGNATION	EMAIL	PHONE
Mervyn Lotter	Manager: Biodiversity Planning	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED] 9
Frans Krige	Land Use Advisor	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
Khumbelo Malele	Land Use Advisor	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
Celia de Waal	EIA Data Capturer LUA	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]

Please note that time frames for commenting on draft reports can only commence on the date that hard copies of the reports are received, and we request that our 30 day time frame aligns with DFFE's.

Kind Regards
Robyn

Robyn Luyt B.A., [B.Sc.](#), [B.Sc](#) (Hons) [M.Sc.](#), Pr.Sci.Nat. (400327/11), EAPASA (2019/1293)

Director: Environmental Impact Management

Department of Agriculture, Rural Development, Land & Environmental Affairs

Mpumalanga Provincial Government

Riverside Office Park, Aqua Street (Cycad Building - Block 4)

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

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From: [Stephanie Gopaul](#)
To: [Masina Morudu](#)
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: [Lucien Barbeau](#); [REDACTED]
Date: RE: 14/12/16/3/3/2/2591; 2592; 2593: Proposed Emvelo, Rochdale and Sheepmoor WEFs, MP
Wednesday, 14 August 2024 20:06:30
Attachments: [image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)

Dear Masina

Thank you for your emails. We will discuss with the proponent and get back to you.

Regards,



ERM

Sustainability is our business

Stephanie Gopaul
Partner
She/Her/Hers

Durban
0656660066

erm.com

From: Masina Morudu <memorudu@dffe.gov.za>
Sent: Tuesday, August 13, 2024 12:00 PM
To: Stephanie Gopaul <stephanie.gopaul@erm.com>

Cc: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Subject: RE: 14/12/16/3/3/2/2591; 2592; 2593: Proposed Emvelo, Rochdale and Sheepmoor WEFs, MP

EXTERNAL MESSAGE

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Regards,

MASINA MORUDU

Integrated Environmental Authorisations
EAPASA Registration: 2019/1805

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

"We all have few failures in life, it's what makes us ready for the success".



From: Robyn Luyt <rluyt@mpg.gov.za>

Sent: Tuesday, August 13, 2024 8:50 AM

To: Bathandwa Ncube <BNcube@dfpe.gov.za>; ERM.ArcusAmsterdam@erm.com;
stephanie.gopaul@erm.com

Cc: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Subject: Re: 14/12/16/3/3/2/2591; 2592; 2593: Proposed Emvelo, Rochdale and Sheepmoor WEFs, MP

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Director: Environmental Impact Management
Department of Agriculture, Rural Development, Land & Environmental Affairs
Mpumalanga Provincial Government
Riverside Office Park, Aqua Street (Cycad Building - Block 4)*

>>> Bathandwa Ncube <BNcube@dffe.gov.za> 08/12/24 4:14 PM >>>
Goodday Lucien

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Kind regards

Ms Bathandwa Ncube (EAPASA)
Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE)
Integrated Environmental Authorisations

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From: [ERM Arcus Amsterdam](#)
To: [REDACTED] [ERM Arcus Amsterdam](#)
Cc: [REDACTED]
Date: Thursday, 15 August 2024 09:57:15
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)

Good day,

Your comments are well received.

Kind Regards



ERM

Sustainability is our business

Lucien Barbeau
Consultant

Cape Town
+27105963488

erm.com

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, August 13, 2024 12:47 PM
To: ERM Arcus Amsterdam <ERM.ArcusAmsterdam@erm.com>
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: COMMENTS ON THE DRAFT SCOPING REPORT FOR THE PROPOSED MULILO AMSTERDAM WEFS CLUSTER, NEAR ERMELO, MPUMALANGA PROVINCE

You don't often get email from tkgaphola1@dfec.gov.za. [Learn why this is important](#)

EXTERNAL MESSAGE

Good day

Kindly find the attached comments for the aforementioned project.



Tebego Kgaphola

Directorate: Biodiversity Mainstreaming and EIA
Branch: Biodiversity and Conservation
473 Steve Biko Road | Private Bag X477 | Pretoria | 001
[REDACTED]

Website: www.environment.gov.za

From: [ERM Arcus Amsterdam](#)
To: [REDACTED] [ERM Arcus Amsterdam](#)
Cc: [REDACTED]
Date: Thursday, 15 August 2024 09:57:00
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)

Good day,

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Kind Regards



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Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: COMMENTS ON THE DRAFT SCOPING REPORT FOR THE PROPOSED MULILO AMSTERDAM WEFS CLUSTER, NEAR ERMELO, MPUMALANGA PROVINCE

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Directorate: Biodiversity Mainstreaming and EIA
Branch: Biodiversity and Conservation
473 Steve Biko Road | Private Bag X477 | Pretoria | 001
[REDACTED]
Website: www.environment.gov.za

From: [ERM Arcus Amsterdam](#)
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: FW: Register for the Zephyr WEF Meeting and site visit
Date: Thursday, 15 August 2024 10:28:00
Attachments: [image002.png](#)

Hi Lloyd and Andrew,

I have come across information (please see email trail below) indicating that Mervyn from MTPA had accessed our reports from EDF renewables on August 2, 2024.

Could you please advise on how you would like to proceed with this information? Specifically, should we inform Masina about this development? Additionally, it would be helpful to receive feedback from DARDLEA and MTPA by tomorrow so we can plan our next steps accordingly.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Kind regards



ERM

Sustainability is our business

Lucien Barbeau
Consultant

Cape Town
+27105963488

erm.com

From: Celia de Waal <celia@mtpa.co.za>
Sent: Tuesday, August 6, 2024 9:35 AM
To: ERM Arcus Amsterdam <erm.arcusamsterdam@erm.com>
Cc: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Subject: FW: Register for the Zephyr WEF Meeting and site visit

You don't often get email from celia@mtpa.co.za. [Learn why this is important](#)

WARNING: The sender of this email could not be validated and may not match the person in the "From" field.

EXTERNAL MESSAGE

Good morning

Kindly send us, the MTPA, hard copies of the 3 Wind Farm reports, for our Scientists to comment on, to the following physical address:

To: Cecilia de Waal (EIA Data Capturer)
MTPA Office Building (Lydenburg)
End of Morgan street
Lydenburg 1120

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]



[REDACTED] *Waal*

Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Data Capturer
Land Use Advisory (LUA)
Biodiversity Conservation: Scientific Services

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: Mervyn Lotter <mervyn@mtpa.co.za>

Sent: Saturday, August 3, 2024 9:00 AM

To: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Subject: FW: Register for the Zephyr WEF Meeting and site visit

Hi there

Christophe sent me the attached KML file and the below links. I see these are links to scoping reports dated 19 July 2024. They seem to have started with the application process while not yet consulting us.

Celia, could you please write to ERM to request copies of the three wind farm documents for comment.

Robyn/Sindy, you may want to do the same.

I have updated our webmap with these latest boundaries from the KML file.

Best wishes

Mervyn

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, August 2, 2024 12:19 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Register for the Zephyr WEF Meeting and site visit

Hi Mervyn,

Many thanks for reaching out.

Please find attached the kmz of the Mullilo WEF projects in Mpumalanga.

Please also find below the publicly available documents for their respective projects

https://www.sustainability.com/globalassets/documents/proposed-amsterdam/0684401_sheepmoor-wef-dsr.pdf

https://www.sustainability.com/globalassets/documents/proposed-amsterdam/0684401_emvelo-wef-dsr.pdf

https://www.sustainability.com/globalassets/documents/proposed-amsterdam/0684401_rochdale-wef-dsr.pdf

I hope this helps.

Kind regards,

Christophe

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, August 1, 2024 8:25 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Register for the Zephyr WEF Meeting and site visit

EXTERNAL MAIL

Hi Christophe

Thank you for writing. Would you please send me an image or shapefile for the Mulilo WEF

boundaries when you get a chance?

Best wishes

Mervyn

From: Christophe Pajonk <Christophe.Pajonk@edf-re.co.za>

Sent: Thursday, August 1, 2024 4:50 PM

To: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Cc: [REDACTED]

Subject: RE: Register for the Zephyr WEF Meeting and site visit

Good afternoon everyone,

Thank you so much for your time and very valuable feedback and recommendations.

Ryan and I are now back in Cape Town and addressing your comments.

We have liaised back with our EAP and will provide you with further information shortly.

Thanks again for taking the time to meet with us and for the transparency, we highly appreciate it.

I will be sending a couple of emails in the next few days in line with our engagement.

Kind regards,

Christophe

From: Sindy Mbuyane <mbuyanesb@mpg.gov.za>

Sent: Wednesday, July 31, 2024 11:23 AM

To: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Subject: Register for the Zephyr WEF Meeting and site visit

EXTERNAL MAIL

Good day All,

Find attached for your attention.

Kind Regards,

Sindisiwe Mbuyane



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ERM

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Lucien Barbeau
Consultant

Cape Town
+27105963488

erm.com

From: Celia de Waal <celia@mtpa.co.za>

Sent: Tuesday, August 6, 2024 9:35 AM

To: ERM Arcus Amsterdam <erm.arcusamsterdam@erm.com>

Cc: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Subject: FW: Register for the Zephyr WEF Meeting and site visit

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End of Morgan street
Lydenburg 1120

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Waal



Mpumalanga
TOURISM AND PARKS AGENCY
An Entity of the Department of Economic Development and Tourism

Cecilia de Waal

Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Data Capturer
Land Use Advisory (LUA)

[REDACTED]

From: Mervyn Lotter <mervyn@mtpa.co.za>

Sent: Saturday, August 3, 2024 9:00 AM

To: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Subject: FW: Register for the Zephyr WEF Meeting and site visit

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I have updated our webmap with these latest boundaries from the KML file.

Best wishes

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I hope this helps.

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To: [REDACTED]

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To: [REDACTED]
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[REDACTED]

Cc: [REDACTED]

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We have liaised back with our EAP and will provide you with further information shortly.

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Christophe

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To: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Subject: Register for the Zephyr WEF Meeting and site visit

EXTERNAL MAIL

Good day All,

Find attached for your attention.

Kind Regards,

Sindisiwe Mbuyane

EAPASA Reg: 2021/3509, IAIA 2040304

Environmental Officer Control Grade B

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

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From: [EIA Applications](#)
To: [ERM Arcus Amsterdam](#)
Cc: [Stephen Burton](#); [Stephanie Gopaul](#); [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Withdrawal of Draft Scoping applications - 14/12/16/3/3/2/2593; 14/12/16/3/3/2/2592; 14/12/16/3/3/2/2591
Date: Thursday, 22 August 2024 09:24:49
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

EXTERNAL MESSAGE

Dear Lucien.

We acknowledge receipt of the withdrawal email for the above-mentioned applications received on 21 August 2024.

The applications for EAs with the reference numbers 14/12/16/3/3/2/2593; 14/12/16/3/3/2/2592; 14/12/16/3/3/2/2591 are now deemed withdrawn and the applications are closed on the Departments side.

EIA Applications

Integrated Environmental Authorisations
Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment

Please note that this email is for the receipt and processing of online applications only, and is not monitored for responses. All queries must be directed to EIAAdmin@dffe.gov.za.

You are advised that this mailbox has a 48 hour response time.

Please note that this mailbox has a 5mb mail limit. No zip files are to be attached in any email.

From: ERM Arcus Amsterdam <ERM.ArcusAmsterdam@erm.com>
Sent: Wednesday, August 21, 2024 2:24 PM
To: EIA Applications <EIAApplications@dffe.gov.za>
Cc: Stephen Burton <Stephen.Burton@erm.com>; Stephanie Gopaul <Stephanie.Gopaul@erm.com>; [REDACTED]
Subject: Withdrawal of Draft Scoping applications - 14/12/16/3/3/2/2593; 14/12/16/3/3/2/2592; 14/12/16/3/3/2/2591

Dear EIA Applications,

DFFE Reference: 14/12/16/3/3/2/2593; 14/12/16/3/3/2/2592; 14/12/16/3/3/2/2591

Please can we ask that the Draft Scoping Applications for Sheepmoor, Rochdale and Emvelo Wind energy facilities (DFFE Reference - 14/12/16/3/3/2/2593; 14/12/16/3/3/2/2592; 14/12/16/3/3/2/2591) submitted to yourselves on the 19th July 2024 be withdrawn.

We will be restarting the process.

Please let me know if you have any queries.

Kind regards

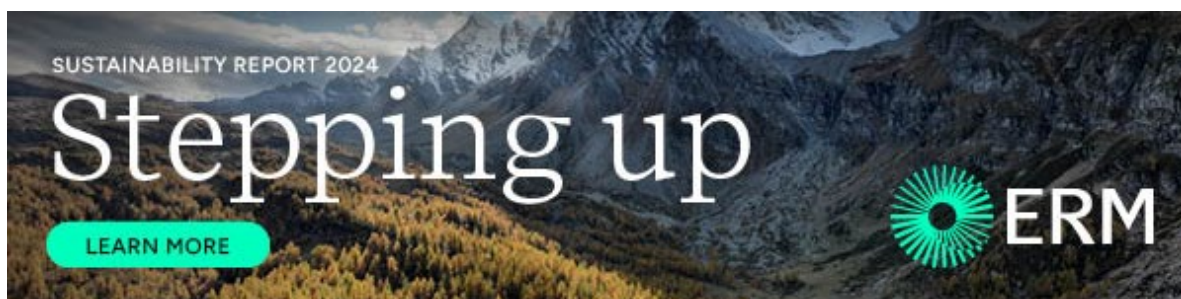


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Lucien Barbeau
Consultant

Cape Town
+27105963488

erm.com



From: [Aviation Environmental Compliance](#)
To: [ERM Arcus Amsterdam](#)
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Notification of Submission: Draft scoping Report Mulilo Amsterdam WEFs, near Ermelo, Mpumalanga
Date: Thursday, 22 August 2024 14:15:48
Attachments: [image009.png](#)
[image012.png](#)
[image013.png](#)
[image019.png](#)
[image004.png](#)

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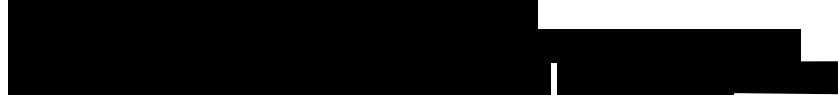
EXTERNAL MESSAGE

Good day,

I hope this email finds you well. Kindly note that the SACAA has transferred all obstacle assessments and applications responsibilities to Air Traffic and Navigation Services (ATNS) as published on the SACAA website: www.caa.co.za/industryinformation/obstacles/. A formal application must be lodged with Air Traffic and Navigation Services (ATNS) for a formal obstacles assessment to be conducted. The list and contact details of the approved obstacles assessment services providers can be obtained from the CAA website: www.caa.co.za.

Kind regards

Nrateng Mashiloane



www.caa.co.za

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From: ERM Arcus Amsterdam <ERM.ArcusAmsterdam@erm.com>

Sent: Friday, July 19, 2024 4:37 PM

To: ERM Arcus Amsterdam <ERM.ArcusAmsterdam@erm.com>

Subject: Notification of Submission: Draft scoping Report Mulilo Amsterdam WEFs, near Ermelo, Mpumalanga

"This message was sent from outside of SACAA. Please use caution when opening links and/ or attachments"

SUBMISSION OF DRAFT SCOPING REPORT FOR THE WIND ENERGY FACILITY (SHEEPMOOR,
ROCHDALE AND EMVELO) CLUSTER

Dear Interested and Affected Party,

This email serves to inform you about the submission of the Draft Scoping Reports for the proposed
Mulilo Amsterdam WEFs, near Ermelo, Mpumalanga.

Public Participation Process (PPP), which is being undertaken in accordance with the requirements of
Section 24 (5) and Chapter 6 (41, 42, 43, and 44) of GN R. 326 of the NEMA, 1998 EIA Regulations, 2014
(as amended) and the Western Cape Department of Environmental Affairs & Development Planning
(DEA&DP) Guideline on Public Participation (2011). The reports will be available for a 30 day comment
period from 19 July 2024 to 20 August 2024.

Please ensure that you have submitted your comment before the close of the comment period should
you wish to have your input considered in the submission of the Final Scoping Report.

More information on how you are able to participate in this process is attached in the above
documentation.

Please indicate which application your comment in respect of.

Should you be a Land Owner directly affected by the proposed project (within the project boundary or
adjacent thereto) please could you notify all occupants on your properties with regards to the
proposed project.

Thank you and regards,

Stephanie Gopaul

Environmental Assessment Practitioner

Consultant
Lucien Barbeau

ERM
240 Main Road, Rondebosch, Cape Town
T +27 21 681 5400
E lucien.barbeau@erm.com | W www.erm.com



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From: [REDACTED]
To: [ERM Arcus Amsterdam](#)
Subject: Automatic reply: Notification of Submission: Draft scoping Report Amsterdam WEFs, near Ermelo, Mpumalanga
Date: Thursday, 22 August 2024 17:31:54

You don't often get email from morgan.griffiths@wessa.co.za. [Learn why this is important](#)

EXTERNAL MESSAGE

Hi there

I am away on long leave until until Monday **2nd September**. I will only attend to your email on my return.

* For critical EIA, pollution, advocacy or environmental governance issues, please redirect to:

shenen.rikhotso@wessa.co.za

* Media enquiries can be directed to: **communications@wessa.co.za**

* WESSA Membership enquiries can be directed to: **membership@wessalife.org.za**

* Blue Flag enquiries can be directed to: **blueflag@wessa.co.za**

"For urgent queries and assistance, please contact Lindo Mkhize on 082 459 6454 or Lindokuhle.mkhize@wessa.co.za"

Kind regards

Morgan Griffiths

Morgan Griffiths



The Wildlife and Environment Society of South Africa

www.wessa.org.za



#PeopleCaringForTheEarth

From: [ERM Arcus Amsterdam](#)
To: [ERM Arcus Amsterdam](#)
Subject: Notification of Submission: Draft scoping Report Amsterdam WEFs, near Ermelo, Mpumalanga
Date: Thursday, 22 August 2024 17:33:28
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[I&AP Notification Letter Afrikaans.pdf](#)
[I&AP Notification Letter English.pdf](#)

RESUBMISSION OF DRAFT SCOPING REPORT FOR THE WIND ENERGY FACILITY
(SHEEPMOOR, ROCHDALE AND EMVELO) CLUSTER

Dear Interested and Affected Party,

This email serves to inform you about the resubmission of the Draft Scoping Reports for the proposed Amsterdam WEFs, near Ermelo, Mpumalanga.

The previous applications for these proposed projects have been withdrawn to allow for an additional comment period for all I&AP's. Please note that all comments received during the previous comment period will still be incorporated in the comments and responses for these new applications. Should you wish to confirm that your comment is being incorporated, please feel free to email us.

Public Participation Process (PPP), which is being undertaken in accordance with the requirements of Section 24 (5) and Chapter 6 (41, 42, 43, and 44) of GN R. 326 of the NEMA, 1998 EIA Regulations, 2014 (as amended) and the Western Cape Department of Environmental Affairs & Development Planning (DEA&DP) Guideline on Public Participation (2011). The reports will be available for a 30 day comment period from 22 August to 21 September 2024.

Please ensure that you have submitted your comment before the close of the comment period should you wish to have your input considered in the submission of the Final Scoping Report.

More information on how you are able to participate in this process is attached in the above documentation.

Please indicate which application your comment in respect of.

Should you be a Land Owner directly affected by the proposed project (within the project boundary or adjacent thereto) please could you notify all occupants on your properties with regards to the proposed project.

Thank you and regards,

Stephanie Gopaul

Environmental Assessment Practitioner



Sustainability is our business



22 Augustus 2024

ERM Verwysing: 0684401

Geagte Belanghebbende en Geaffekteerde Party, Belanghebbende, Staats orgaan



KENNISGEWING VAN BESKIKBAARHEID VAN DIE KONSEP-OMVANGS VERSLAE VIR
OPENBARE HERSIENING EN KOMMENTAAR VAN DIE VOORGESTELDE AMSTERDAM WIND
ENERGIE FASILITEIT (EMVELO, ROCHDALE EN SHEEPMOOR) CLUSTER, NABY ERMELO,
MPUMALANGA

Kennis word hiermee gegee van 'n openbare deelname proses (ODP) wat in gevolge die Wet
op Nasionale Omgewingsbestuur, 1998 (Wet No. 107 van 1998) (NEMA, 1998), soos
gewysig, onderneem moet word.

DFFE-verwysing(s): Om bevestig te word

Aard van aktiwiteit: Emvelo (Edms) Bpk, Rochdale (Edms) Bpk en Sheepmoor (Edms) Bpk ('die Projek aansoekers') stel voor dat drie (3) Wind energie fasiliteite (WEF) opgerig en bedryf word. Die potensiele opwekkingsvermoë van Emvelo WEF is tot 200 MW, Rochdale WEF is tot 220 MW en Sheepmoor tot 360 MW. Elke WEF sal bestaan uit verskeie geboue, toegangspaaie, 'n battery-energieberging stelsel (BESS) en 'n substasie naaf met gepaardgaande elektriese netwerk infrastruktuur soos, maar nie beperk tot 'n 132kV oorhoofse transmissie kraglyn wat die WEF met die nasionale elektriese netwerk verbind.

Ontwikkelings ligging: Die voorgestelde Amsterdam WEF se cluster is 30 km oos van Ermelo binne die Msukaligwa Plaaslike Munisipaliteit en Gert Sibande Distriksmunisipaliteit geleë.

Aansoek proses: Ingevolge Hoofstuk 5 van die Wet op Nasionale Omgewingsbestuur, 1998 (Wet 107 van 1998 – NEMA), Omgewings Impak studie (EIA) Regulasies, 2014 (soos gewysig), het die Projek aansoekers, Environmental Resources Management (Edms) Bpk (ERM) aangestel om as projek bestuurder op te tree en die Omvang- en Omgewings Impak bepalings prosesse (S&EIA) as die onafhanklike omgewings impak bepalings praktisyen (EAP) te onderneem.

ERM het drie afsonderlike omgewings aansoeke ingedien, waaronder afsonderlike konsep-omvang verslae aan die departement van bosbou, visserye en die omgewing (DFFE).

Uitnodiging om kommentaar te lewer: Lede van die publiek, plaaslike gemeenskappe en belanghebbendes word uitgenooi om kommentaar te lewer op die konsep-omvang verslae, wat beskikbaar is vir openbare hersiening en kommentaar, vanaf **Donderdag, 22 Augustus 2024 tot Saterdag die 21 September 2024 (albei dae ingesluit)**, soos per Tabel 1 hieronder.

Tabel 1: Liggings vir openbare oorsig en kommentaar

Ligging	Fisiese adres
Elektroniese kopie lokasies (beskikbaar vir aflaai hieronder)	
Via One Drive	I &AP's kan versoek dat kopieë via een gedeelde gids van One Drive gestuur word.

Harde kopie ligging**Ermelo Openbare Biblioteek**

Ermelo, 2350

CD-kopieë sal op versoek aan die EAP gemaak word.

Indien u as 'n I&AP geregistreer wil wees en / of kommentaar wil lewer, dien asseblief u naam, belangstelling in die projek of kommentaar, e-pos adres en pos adres en telefoon nommer skriftelik by die onderstaande adres in:

Environmental Resources Management Southern Africa (Edms) Bpk**Projek verwysing:** 0684401 Mulilo WEF-cluster**Kontak persoon:** Lucien Barbeau**E-pos:** ERM.ArcusAmsterdam@erm.com**Telefoon:** +27117985400**Pos:** Postnet Suite 90, Privaatsak X12, Tokai, 7966**Aanlyn:** <https://amsterdamclusterwef.aidaform.com/stakeholder-engagement>**ERM webtuiste***(beskikbaar vir aflaai)*[Proposed Amsterdam wind energy facility and auxiliary infrastructure cluster in Mpumalanga \(erm.com\)](https://amsterdamclusterwef.aidaform.com/stakeholder-engagement)

Na afloop van die openbare deelname van 30 dae, sal die kommentaar aangespreek en opgeneem word in die Finale Omvang verslae, wat aan die DFFE voorgelê sal word vir goedkeuring om na die EIA-fase te vorder.

Let wel, met betrekking tot die Wet op die Beskerming van Persoonlike Inligting (PoPI Wet 4 van 2013, soos gewysig): Indien u versoek om as 'n I&AP te registreer, sal u persoonlike inligting aan 'n appel kandidaat beskikbaar gestel word in die geval van 'n appèl, en 'n aansoeker/EAP/onafhanklike persoon vir doeleindes daarvan om ingelig te word en toegang tot 'n ouditverslag te kry.

Korrespondensie gedurende die aansoek proses sal slegs aan geregistreerde I &AP's versprei word. Registrasie is moontlik gedurende die aansoek proses.

Dankie vir die belangstelling in die projek.

Lucien Barbeau

Omgewings consultant

Environmental Resources Management Southern Africa (Edms) Bpk



ERM *The business of sustainability*

22 August 2024

ERM Reference: 0684401

Dear Interested and Affected Party, Stakeholder, Organ of State

NOTIFICATION OF AVAILABILITY OF THE DRAFT SCOPING REPORTS FOR PUBLIC REVIEW AND COMMENT OF THE PROPOSED AMSTERDAM WIND ENERGY FACILITY (EMVELO, ROCHDALE AND SHEEPMOOR) CLUSTER, NEAR ERMELO, MPUMALANGA



Notice is hereby given of a Public Participation Process (PPP) to be undertaken in terms of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998) (NEMA, 1998), as amended.

DFFE Reference(s): To Be Confirmed

Nature of Activity: Emvelo Wind Energy Facility (Pty) Ltd, Rochdale Wind Energy Facility (Pty) Ltd and Sheepmoor Wind Energy Facility (Pty) Ltd ('the Project Applicants') are proposing the construction and operation of three (3) Wind Energy Facilities (WEF). The potential generation capacity of Emvelo WEF is up to 200 MW, Rochdale WEF is up to 220 MW and Sheepmoor up to 360 MW. Each WEF will comprise various buildings, access roads, a battery energy storage system (BESS), and a substation hub with associated electrical grid infrastructure such as but not limited to a 132kV overhead transmission powerline connecting the WEF to the national electrical grid network.

Development Location: The proposed Mulilo WEF's Cluster are located 30 km east of Ermelo within the Msukaligwa Local Municipality, and Gert Sibande District Municipality.

Application Process: In terms of Chapter 5 of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act 107 of 1998 – NEMA), Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations, 2014 (as amended), the Project Applicants appointed Environmental Resources Management (Pty) Ltd (ERM), to act as the project manager and to undertake the Scoping and Environmental Impact Assessment (S&EIA) processes as the independent environmental impact assessment practitioner (EAP).

ERM has submitted three separate Environmental Applications, including separate Draft Scoping Reports to the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE).

Invitation to Comment: Members of the public, local communities, and stakeholders are invited to comment on the Draft Scoping Reports, which is available for public review and comment, from **Thursday, 22 August 2024 until the Saturday, 21 September 2024 (both days inclusive)**, as per Table 1 below.

Table 1: Public Review and Comment Locations

Location	Physical Address
Electronic Copy Locations (Available for download below)	
Via One Drive	I&APs can request for copies to be sent via one drive shared folder.
Hard Copy Location	

Page 1 of 2

Ermelo Public Library	Ermelo, 2350
CD Copies will be made upon request to the EAP.	

Should you wish to be registered as an I&AP and / or would like comment please submit your name, interest in the project or comment, email and postal address and telephone number in writing to the below address:

Environmental Resources Management Southern Africa (Pty) Ltd

Project Reference: 0684401 Mulilo WEF Cluster	Contact Person: Lucien Barbeau
Email: ERM.ArcusAmsterdam@erm.com	Telephone: +27117985400
Post: Postnet Suite 90, Private Bag X12, Tokai, 7966	Online: https://amsterdamclusterwef.aidaform.com/stakeholder-engagement
ERM Website (available for download)	Proposed Amsterdam wind energy facility and auxiliary infrastructure cluster in Mpumalanga (erm.com)

Following the 30-day public participation, the comments will be addressed and incorporated into the Final Scoping Reports, which will be submitted to the DFFE for approval to progress to the EIA Phase.

Please note, regarding the Protection of Personal Information Act (PoPI Act 4 of 2013, as amended): If you request to register as an I&AP, your personal information will be made available to an appellant in the case of an appeal, and an applicant/EAP/independent person for purposes of being informed and given access to an audit report.

Correspondence throughout the Application Process will only be distributed to Registered I&APs. Registration is possible throughout the Application Process.

Thank you for the interest in the project.



Sadiya Salie
Environmental Consultant
Environmental Resources Management (Pty) Ltd

From: [Lucien Barbeau](#)
To: [ERM Arcus Amsterdam](#)
Subject: Automatic reply: Notification of Submission: Draft scoping Report Amsterdam WEFs, near Ermelo, Mpumalanga
Date: Thursday, 22 August 2024 17:33:36

Good day, I am currently out of office and will be returning on 27/08. For urgent queries please contact the Office on 021 681 5400. I will be able to respond upon my return. Many Thanks!

This e-mail and any attachments may contain proprietary, confidential and/or privileged information. No confidentiality or privilege is waived or lost by any transmission errors. This communication is intended solely for the intended recipient, and if you are not the intended recipient, please notify the sender immediately, delete it from your system and do not copy, distribute, disclose, or otherwise act upon any part of this email communication or its attachments. To find out how the ERM Group manages personal data please review our [Privacy Policy](#)

From: [REDACTED]
To: [ERM Arcus Amsterdam](#)
Subject: Automatic reply: Notification of Submission: Draft scoping Report Amsterdam WEFs, near Ermelo, Mpumalanga
Date: Thursday, 22 August 2024 17:33:52

You don't often get email from craig.barnes@vodacom.co.za. [Learn why this is important](#)

EXTERNAL MESSAGE

I am on sick leave. Please expect delays in email reponses.

From: [REDACTED]
To: [ERM Arcus Amsterdam](#)
Cc: [Gavin Cowden](#); [Robyn Luyt](#); "[Mervyn Lotter](#)"
Subject: Re: Notification of Submission: Draft scoping Report Amsterdam WEFs, near Ermelo, Mpumalanga
Date: Friday, 23 August 2024 12:58:08
Attachments: [IMAGE.png](#)

EXTERNAL MESSAGE

Good day Stephanie,

Thank you for the resubmission notification.

Are the reports submitted to our Office the updated versions or we need to await submission of the updates before considering receipt of such reports? I recall an email by Lloyd that there will be updates on the reports.

Kind Regards,
Sindi

This message and any attachments relating to official business of the **Mpumalanga Provincial Government (MPG)** is proprietary to the **MPG** and intended for the original addressee only. The message may contain information that is confidential and subject to legal privilege. Any views expressed in this message are those of the individual sender. If you receive this message in error, please notify the original sender immediately and destroy the original message. If you are not the intended recipient of this message, you are hereby notified that you must not disseminate, copy, use, distribute, or take any action in connection therewith. The **MPG** cannot insure that the integrity of this communication has been maintained, nor that it is free of errors, viruses, interception and / or interference. The **MPG** is not liable whatsoever for loss or damage resulting from the opening of this message and / or attachments and / or the use of the information contained in this message and / or attachments.

>>> "ERM Arcus Amsterdam" <ERM.ArcusAmsterdam@erm.com> 2024/08/22 5:31 PM >>>

**RESUBMISSION OF DRAFT SCOPING REPORT FOR THE WIND ENERGY FACILITY
(SHEEPMOOR, ROCHDALE AND EMVELO) CLUSTER**

Dear Interested and Affected Party,

This email serves to inform you about the resubmission of the Draft Scoping Reports for the proposed Amsterdam WEFs, near Ermelo, Mpumalanga.

The previous applications for these proposed projects have been withdrawn to allow for an additional comment period for all I&AP's. Please note that all comments received during the previous comment period will still be incorporated in the comments and responses for these new applications. Should you wish to confirm that your comment is being incorporated, please feel free to email us.

Public Participation Process (PPP), which is being undertaken in accordance with the requirements of Section 24 (5) and Chapter 6 (41, 42, 43, and 44) of GN R. 326 of the NEMA, 1998 EIA Regulations, 2014 (as amended) and the Western Cape Department of Environmental Affairs & Development Planning (DEA&DP) Guideline on Public Participation (2011). The reports will be available for a 30 day comment period from 22 August to 21 September 2024.

Please ensure that you have submitted your comment before the close of the comment period should you wish to have your input considered in the submission of the Final Scoping Report.

More information on how you are able to participate in this process is attached in the above documentation.

Please indicate which application your comment in respect of.

Should you be a Land Owner directly affected by the proposed project (within the project boundary or adjacent thereto) please could you notify all occupants on your properties with regards to the proposed project.

Thank you and regards,

Stephanie Gopaul

Environmental Assessment Practitioner



From: [ERM Arcus Amsterdam](#)
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Notification of Submission: Draft scoping Report Amsterdam WEFs, near Ermelo, Mpumalanga
Date: Friday, 23 August 2024 13:22:02
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)

Good day Sindy,

Thank you for your query.

The report content of the versions you have has not changed with the resubmission, other than the amendment of the dates of public participation (PP), and thus the versions you have can be used to confirm receipt if you are happy to do so. Additional copies of the reports (including the amended dates for PP) have been couriered to you and should be with you soon.

Please let me know if you have any queries regarding the above.

Kind regards,



Stephen Burton

Principal Consultant: Ecology and Biodiversity Pr. Sci.Nat.
He/Him/His

Ground Floor, Building 27, The
woodlands Office Park, Woodlands [erm.com](#)
Drive, Woodmead, 2148,
Johannesburg, South Africa
T +27 11 798 4300
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] of regular working hours, it is because
it suits my schedule, but I don't expect you to read, respond or action it
outside of your regular hours.

From: Sindy Mbuyane <mbuyanesb@mpg.gov.za>
Sent: Friday, August 23, 2024 12:58 PM
To: ERM Arcus Amsterdam <ERM.ArcusAmsterdam@erm.com>
Cc: Gavin Cowden <GCowden@mpg.gov.za>; Robyn Luyt <RLuyt@mpg.gov.za>; 'Mervyn Lotter' <Mervyn.Lotter@mtpa.co.za>
Subject: Re: Notification of Submission: Draft scoping Report Amsterdam WEFs, near Ermelo, Mpumalanga

EXTERNAL MESSAGE

Good day Stephanie,

Thank you for the resubmission notification.

Are the reports submitted to our Office the updated versions or we need to await submission of the updates before considering receipt of such reports? I recall an email by Lloyd that there will be updates on the reports.

Kind Regards,

Sindi

This message and any attachments relating to official business of the Mpumalanga Provincial Government (MPG) is proprietary to the MPG and intended for the original addressee only. The message may contain information that is confidential and subject to legal privilege. Any views expressed in this message are those of the individual sender. If you receive this message in error, please notify the original sender immediately and destroy the original message. If you are not the intended recipient of this message, you are hereby notified that you must not disseminate, copy, use, distribute, or take any action in connection therewith. The MPG cannot insure that the integrity of this communication has been maintained, nor that it is free of errors, viruses, interception and / or interference. The MPG is not liable whatsoever for loss or damage resulting from the opening of this message and / or attachments and / or the use of the information contained in this message and / or attachments.

>>> "ERM Arcus Amsterdam" <ERM.ArcusAmsterdam@erm.com> 2024/08/22 5:31 PM >>>

**RESUBMISSION OF DRAFT SCOPING REPORT FOR THE WIND ENERGY FACILITY
(SHEEPMOOR, ROCHDALE AND EMVELO) CLUSTER**

Dear Interested and Affected Party,

This email serves to inform you about the resubmission of the Draft Scoping Reports for the proposed Amsterdam WEFs, near Ermelo, Mpumalanga.

The previous applications for these proposed projects have been withdrawn to allow for an additional comment period for all I&AP's. Please note that all comments received during the previous comment period will still be incorporated in the comments and responses for these new applications. Should you wish to confirm that your comment is being incorporated, please feel free to email us.

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Please ensure that you have submitted your comment before the close of the comment period should you wish to have your input considered in the submission of the Final Scoping Report.

More information on how you are able to participate in this process is attached in the above documentation.

Please indicate which application your comment is in respect of.

Should you be a Land Owner directly affected by the proposed project (within the project boundary or adjacent thereto) please could you notify all occupants on your properties with regards to the proposed project.

Thank you and regards,

Stephanie Gopaul

Environmental Assessment Practitioner



Sustainability is our business



From: [Aviation Environmental Compliance](#)
To: [ERM Arcus Amsterdam](#)
Cc: [REDACTED]
Date: Monday, 26 August 2024 09:11:00
Attachments: [image003.png](#)
[image004.png](#)
[image005.png](#)
[image006.png](#)
[image007.png](#)
[image008.png](#)
[image010.png](#)

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EXTERNAL MESSAGE

Good day,

I hope this email finds you well. Kindly note that the SACAA has transferred all obstacle assessments and applications responsibilities to Air Traffic and Navigation Services (ATNS) as published on the SACAA website: www.caa.co.za/industryinformation/obstacles/. A formal application must be lodged with Air Traffic and Navigation Services (ATNS) for a formal obstacles assessment to be conducted. The list and contact details of the approved obstacles assessment services providers can be obtained from the CAA website: www.caa.co.za.

Kind regards,

Pamela Madondo
Environment Compliance Specialist
Aviation Environmental Protection





Advocating for
Aviation Safety Culture
"Fly responsibly. Fly safely. Your Actions Impact Lives."



 www.caa.co.za  [SACAA](#)  [@OfficialSACAA](#)  [OfficialSACAA](#)  [South African Civil Aviation Authority – SACAA](#)

and corruption: 0800 204 911 | sacaa@thehotline.co.za | SMS: 30916

From: ERM Arcus Amsterdam <ERM.ArcusAmsterdam@erm.com>
Sent: Thursday, August 22, 2024 5:32 PM
To: ERM Arcus Amsterdam <ERM.ArcusAmsterdam@erm.com>
Subject: Notification of Submission: Draft scoping Report Amsterdam WEFs, near Ermelo, Mpumalanga

"This message was sent from outside of SACAA. Please use caution when opening links and/ or attachments"

RESUBMISSION OF DRAFT SCOPING REPORT FOR THE WIND ENERGY FACILITY (SHEEPMOOR, ROCHDALE AND EMVELO) CLUSTER

Dear Interested and Affected Party,

This email serves to inform you about the resubmission of the Draft Scoping Reports for the proposed Amsterdam WEFs, near Ermelo, Mpumalanga.

The previous applications for these proposed projects have been withdrawn to allow for an additional comment period for all I&AP's. Please note that all comments received during the previous comment period will still be incorporated in the comments and responses for these new applications. Should you wish to confirm that your comment is being incorporated, please feel free to email us.

Public Participation Process (PPP), which is being undertaken in accordance with the requirements of Section 24 (5) and Chapter 6 (41, 42, 43, and 44) of GN R. 326 of the NEMA, 1998 EIA Regulations, 2014 (as amended) and the Western Cape Department of Environmental Affairs & Development Planning (DEA&DP) Guideline on Public Participation (2011). The reports will be available for a 30 day comment period from 22 August to 21 September 2024.

Please ensure that you have submitted your comment before the close of the comment period should you wish to have your input considered in the submission of the Final Scoping Report.

More information on how you are able to participate in this process is attached in the above documentation.

Please indicate which application your comment in respect of.

Should you be a Land Owner directly affected by the proposed project (within the project boundary or adjacent thereto) please could you notify all occupants on your properties with regards to the proposed project.

Thank you and regards,

Stephanie Gopaul

Environmental Assessment Practitioner



Sustainability is our business



From: [BC Admin](#)
To: [ERM Arcus Amsterdam](#)
Subject: RE: Notification of Submission: Draft scoping Report Amsterdam WEFs, near Ermelo, Mpumalanga
Date: Monday, 26 August 2024 10:18:35
Attachments: [image003.png](#)
[image001.png](#)

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EXTERNAL MESSAGE

Good morning

Kindly note that our comments still stands.



Tebego Kgaphola

Directorate: Biodiversity Mainstreaming and EIA
Branch: Biodiversity and Conservation
473 Steve Biko Road | Private Bag X477 | Pretoria | 001

Website: www.environment.gov.za



From: ERM Arcus Amsterdam <ERM.ArcusAmsterdam@erm.com>
Sent: Thursday, 22 August 2024 17:32
To: ERM Arcus Amsterdam <ERM.ArcusAmsterdam@erm.com>
Subject: Notification of Submission: Draft scoping Report Amsterdam WEFs, near Ermelo, Mpumalanga

**RESUBMISSION OF DRAFT SCOPING REPORT FOR THE WIND ENERGY FACILITY
(SHEEPMOOR, ROCHDALE AND EMVELO) CLUSTER**

Dear Interested and Affected Party,

This email serves to inform you about the resubmission of the Draft Scoping Reports for the proposed Amsterdam WEFs, near Ermelo, Mpumalanga.

The previous applications for these proposed projects have been withdrawn to allow for an additional comment period for all I&AP's. Please note that all comments received during the previous comment period will still be incorporated in the comments and responses for these new applications. Should you wish to confirm that your comment is being

incorporated, please feel free to email us.

Public Participation Process (PPP), which is being undertaken in accordance with the requirements of Section 24 (5) and Chapter 6 (41, 42, 43, and 44) of GN R. 326 of the NEMA, 1998 EIA Regulations, 2014 (as amended) and the Western Cape Department of Environmental Affairs & Development Planning (DEA&DP) Guideline on Public Participation (2011). The reports will be available for a 30 day comment period from 22 August to 21 September 2024.

Please ensure that you have submitted your comment before the close of the comment period should you wish to have your input considered in the submission of the Final Scoping Report.

More information on how you are able to participate in this process is attached in the above documentation.

Please indicate which application your comment in respect of.

Should you be a Land Owner directly affected by the proposed project (within the project boundary or adjacent thereto) please could you notify all occupants on your properties with regards to the proposed project.

Thank you and regards,

Stephanie Gopaul

Environmental Assessment Practitioner



From: [Salome Mambane](#)
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: 14/12/16/3/3/2/2611
Date: Monday, 26 August 2024 11:48:59

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EXTERNAL MESSAGE

Dear Sir/Madam

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF RECEIPT OF THE NEW APPLICATION FORM AND DRAFT SCOPING REPORT FOR THE PROPOSED PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF THE EMVELO WIND ENERGY FACILITY AND AUXILIARY INFRASTRUCTURE, NEAR ERMELO, WITHIN THE MSUKALIGWA LOCAL MUNICIPALITY, AND GERT SIBANDE DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY, MPUMALANGA PROVINCE.

The Department confirms having received the Application Form and Draft Scoping Report for Environmental Authorisation for the abovementioned project on 22 August 2024. You have submitted these documents to comply with the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations, 2014, as amended.

Kindly note that your application for Environmental Authorisation falls within the ambit of an application applied for in terms of Part 3 of Chapter 4 of the EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended. You are therefore referred to Regulation 21 of the EIA Regulations, 2014 as amended.

Please take note of Regulation 40(3) of the EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended, which states that potential Interested & Affected Parties, including the Competent Authority, may be provided with an opportunity to comment on reports and plans contemplated in Regulation 40(1) of the EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended, prior to the submission of an application but must be provided an opportunity to comment on such reports once an application has been submitted to the Competent Authority.

Note that in terms of Regulation 45 of the EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended, this application will lapse if the applicant fails to meet any of the time-frames prescribed in terms of these Regulations, unless an extension has been granted by the Department in terms of Regulation 3(7) of the EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended.

You are hereby reminded of Section 24F of the National Environmental Management Act, Act No. 107 of 1998, as amended, that no activity may commence prior to an Environmental Authorisation being granted by the Department.

Kind Regards,
Salome Mambane
Integrated Environmental Authorisations:
Priority Infrastructure Developments
Tel: 012 399 9385
Cell: 063 684 5431
Email: SMambane@dffe.gov.za

From: [REDACTED]
To: [ERM Arcus Amsterdam](#); [Stephanie Gopaul](#)
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: 14/12/16/3/3/2/2612
Date: Monday, 26 August 2024 12:00:20

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EXTERNAL MESSAGE

Dear Sir/Madam

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF RECEIPT OF THE NEW APPLICATION FORM AND DRAFT SCOPING REPORT FOR THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF THE ROCHDALE WIND ENERGY FACILITY AND AUXILIARY INFRASTRUCTURE, INCLUDING A GRID CONNECTION, NEAR ERMELO, WITHIN THE MSUKALIGWA LOCAL MUNICIPALITY, AND GERT SIBANDE DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY ,MPUMALANGA PROVINCE.

The Department confirms having received the Application Form and Draft Scoping Report for Environmental Authorisation for the abovementioned project on 22 August 2024. You have submitted these documents to comply with the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations, 2014, as amended.

Kindly note that your application for Environmental Authorisation falls within the ambit of an application applied for in terms of Part 3 of Chapter 4 of the EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended. You are therefore referred to Regulation 21 of the EIA Regulations, 2014 as amended.

Please take note of Regulation 40(3) of the EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended, which states that potential Interested & Affected Parties, including the Competent Authority, may be provided with an opportunity to comment on reports and plans contemplated in Regulation 40(1) of the EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended, prior to the submission of an application but must be provided an opportunity to comment on such reports once an application has been submitted to the Competent Authority.

Note that in terms of Regulation 45 of the EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended, this application will lapse if the applicant fails to meet any of the time-frames prescribed in terms of these Regulations, unless an extension has been granted by the Department in terms of Regulation 3(7) of the EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended.

You are hereby reminded of Section 24F of the National Environmental Management Act, Act No. 107 of 1998, as amended, that no activity may commence prior to an Environmental Authorisation being granted by the Department.

Kind Regards,
Salome Mambane
Integrated Environmental Authorisations:
Priority Infrastructure Developments
Tel: 012 399 9385
Cell: 063 684 5431
Email: SMambane@dffe.gov.za

From: [Salome Mambane](#)
To: [Stephanie Gopaul](#); [ERM Arcus Amsterdam](#)
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: 14/12/16/3/3/2/2613
Date: Monday, 26 August 2024 12:13:16

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EXTERNAL MESSAGE

Dear Sir/Madam

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF RECEIPT OF THE NEW APPLICATION FORM AND DRAFT SCOPING REPORT FOR THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF THE SHEEPMOOR WIND ENERGY FACILITY AND AUXILIARY INFRASTRUCTURE, NEAR ERMELO, WITHIN THE MSUKALIGWA LOCAL MUNICIPALITY, AND GERT SIBANDE DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY, MPUMALANGA PROVINCE.

The Department confirms having received the Application Form and Draft Scoping Report for Environmental Authorisation for the abovementioned project on 22 August 2024. You have submitted these documents to comply with the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations, 2014, as amended.

Kindly note that your application for Environmental Authorisation falls within the ambit of an application applied for in terms of Part 3 of Chapter 4 of the EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended. You are therefore referred to Regulation 21 of the EIA Regulations, 2014 as amended.

Please take note of Regulation 40(3) of the EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended, which states that potential Interested & Affected Parties, including the Competent Authority, may be provided with an opportunity to comment on reports and plans contemplated in Regulation 40(1) of the EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended, prior to the submission of an application but must be provided an opportunity to comment on such reports once an application has been submitted to the Competent Authority.

Note that in terms of Regulation 45 of the EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended, this application will lapse if the applicant fails to meet any of the time-frames prescribed in terms of these Regulations, unless an extension has been granted by the Department in terms of Regulation 3(7) of the EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended.

You are hereby reminded of Section 24F of the National Environmental Management Act, Act No. 107 of 1998, as amended, that no activity may commence prior to an Environmental Authorisation being granted by the Department.

Kind Regards,
Salome Mambane
Integrated Environmental Authorisations:
Priority Infrastructure Developments
Tel: 012 399 9385
Cell: 063 684 5431
Email: SMambane@dffe.gov.za

From: [Mpilo Masondo](#)
To: [ERM Arcus Amsterdam](#)
Subject: RE: [CAUTION:EXTERNAL EMAIL] Notification of Submission: Draft scoping Report Amsterdam WEFs, near Ermelo, Mpumalanga
Date: Monday, 02 September 2024 21:58:17

You don't often get email from masondmm@ntcsa.co.za. [Learn why this is important](#)

EXTERNAL MESSAGE

Good day,

Please could you send the kmz files of the proposed projects to see whether any of our current or future projects will be affected.

Regards,
Mpilo

Disclaimer

NB: This Email and its contents are subject to the NTCSA EMAIL LEGAL NOTICE which can be viewed [here](#).

From: ERM Arcus Amsterdam <ERM.ArcusAmsterdam@erm.com>
Sent: Thursday, 22 August 2024 17:33
To: ERM Arcus Amsterdam <ERM.ArcusAmsterdam@erm.com>
Subject: [CAUTION:EXTERNAL EMAIL] Notification of Submission: Draft scoping Report Amsterdam WEFs, near Ermelo, Mpumalanga

**RESUBMISSION OF DRAFT SCOPING REPORT FOR THE WIND ENERGY FACILITY
(SHEEPMOOR, ROCHDALE AND EMVELO) CLUSTER**

Dear Interested and Affected Party,

This email serves to inform you about the resubmission of the Draft Scoping Reports for the proposed Amsterdam WEFs, near Ermelo, Mpumalanga.

The previous applications for these proposed projects have been withdrawn to allow for an additional comment period for all I&AP's. Please note that all comments received during the previous comment period will still be incorporated in the comments and responses for these new applications. Should you wish to confirm that your comment is being incorporated, please feel free to email us.

Public Participation Process (PPP), which is being undertaken in accordance with the requirements of Section 24 (5) and Chapter 6 (41, 42, 43, and 44) of GN R. 326 of the NEMA, 1998 EIA Regulations, 2014 (as amended) and the Western Cape Department of

Environmental Affairs & Development Planning (DEA&DP) Guideline on Public Participation (2011). The reports will be available for a 30 day comment period from 22 August to 21 September 2024.

Please ensure that you have submitted your comment before the close of the comment period should you wish to have your input considered in the submission of the Final Scoping Report.

More information on how you are able to participate in this process is attached in the above documentation.

Please indicate which application your comment in respect of.

Should you be a Land Owner directly affected by the proposed project (within the project boundary or adjacent thereto) please could you notify all occupants on your properties with regards to the proposed project.

Thank you and regards,

Stephanie Gopaul

Environmental Assessment Practitioner



From: [ERM Arcus Amsterdam](#)
To: [REDACTED]
Date: Tuesday, 03 September 2024 09:56:47
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[Amsterdam \(2023-08-16\).kmz](#)

Good day,

Please see attached KMZ files as requested.

Kind Regards



ERM

Sustainability is our business

Lucien Barbeau
Consultant

Cape Town
+27105963488

erm.com

From: Mpilo Masondo <MasondMM@ntcsa.co.za>
Sent: Monday, September 2, 2024 9:58 PM
To: ERM Arcus Amsterdam <ERM.ArcusAmsterdam@erm.com>
Subject: RE: [CAUTION:EXTERNAL EMAIL] Notification of Submission: Draft scoping Report Amsterdam WEFs, near Ermelo, Mpumalanga

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Sent: Thursday, 22 August 2024 17:33

To: ERM Arcus Amsterdam <ERM.ArcusAmsterdam@erm.com>

Subject: [CAUTION:EXTERNAL EMAIL] Notification of Submission: Draft scoping Report
Amsterdam WEFs, near Ermelo, Mpumalanga

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Stephanie Gopaul

Environmental Assessment Practitioner

From: [ERM Arcus Amsterdam](#)
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: [CAUTION:EXTERNAL EMAIL] Notification of Submission: Draft scoping Report Amsterdam WEFs, near Ermelo, Mpumalanga
Date: Tuesday, 03 September 2024 09:55:00
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[Amsterdam \(2023-08-16\).kmz](#)

Good day,

Please see attached KMZ files as requested.

Kind Regards



ERM

Sustainability is our business

Lucien Barbeau
Consultant

Cape Town
+27105963488

erm.com

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 2, 2024 9:58 PM
To: ERM Arcus Amsterdam <ERM.ArcusAmsterdam@erm.com>
Subject: RE: [CAUTION:EXTERNAL EMAIL] Notification of Submission: Draft scoping Report Amsterdam WEFs, near Ermelo, Mpumalanga

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To: ERM Arcus Amsterdam <ERM.ArcusAmsterdam@erm.com>

Subject: [CAUTION:EXTERNAL EMAIL] Notification of Submission: Draft scoping Report
Amsterdam WEFs, near Ermelo, Mpumalanga

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(SHEEPMOOR, ROCHDALE AND EMVELO) CLUSTER**

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Thank you and regards,

Stephanie Gopaul

Environmental Assessment Practitioner

From: [REDACTED]
To: [ERM Arcus Amsterdam](#)
Subject: Re: VOORGESTELDE ERMELO WINDPLASE
Date: Tuesday, 10 September 2024 20:22:03
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

EXTERNAL MESSAGE

Dankie vir uit maar EIENDOM GRENSE word nie getoon nie.
Uitleg dus nutteloos aangesien grense noodsaaklik is om enige kommentaar te lewer voor
periode daarvoor verstryk (20/9/24)
VERSOEK DUS DRINGEND UITLEG WAT EIENDOM GRENSE EN PAAIE DUIDELIK
TOON
Vertrou op u spoedige reaksie
By voorbaat dank

On Tue, Aug 6, 2024 at 9:45 AM ERM Arcus Amsterdam
<ERM.ArcusAmsterdam@erm.com> wrote:

Good day,

Kindly see attached Layout of Proposed WEF's. Additional information on the project can be
found in the link below:

<https://www.erm.com/public-information-sites/proposed-amsterdam-wind-energy-facility-and-auxiliary-infrastructure-cluster-mpumalanga/>

Kind Regards,



ERM

Sustainability is our business

Lucien Barbeau
Consultant

Cape Town
+27105963488

[erm.com](https://www.erm.com)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, August 1, 2024 9:06 PM
To: ERM Arcus Amsterdam <erm.arcusamsterdam@erm.com>
Subject: VOORGESTELDE ERMELO WINDPLASE

You don't often get email from [REDACTED]. [Learn why this is important](#)

EXTERNAL MESSAGE

Plasing, groottes van turbines onduidelik

Versoek duidelijke kaart waar turbines geplaas gaan word. Eiendom grense en distrikspaaie moet duidelijk getoon word.

From: [Josua Meyer](#)
To: [ERM Arcus Amsterdam](#)
Subject: Re: SHEEPMOOR, EMVELO WIND ENERGIE PROJEKTE
Date: Tuesday, 10 September 2024 20:29:05
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

EXTERNAL MESSAGE

Het ongelukkig nie toegang tot Aida nie
Kan u vorm asb aanstuur
Wys u egter daarop dat as aangrensende eienaar aan u beoogde ontwikkeling registrasie outomaties deur u ontwikkelaar gedoen moet word.
Graag verneem ek of sodanige registrasie wel gedoen is aangesien nog geen korrespondensie in die verband ontvang is nie
Vertrou op spoedige en gunstige reaksie op bogemelde

On Tue, Aug 6, 2024 at 12:09 PM ERM Arcus Amsterdam
<ERM.ArcusAmsterdam@erm.com> wrote:

Good day,

Thank you for your comment, you will now be added to the I&AP database.

Below is a link to the Aida form, there will be no need to register in order to fill out the form:

<https://mulilowef.aidaform.com/public-participation-form>

Thank you,



ERM

Sustainability is our business

Lucien Barbeau
Consultant

Cape Town
+27105963488

erm.com

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, July 30, 2024 11:00 AM
To: ERM Arcus Amsterdam <ERM.ArcusAmsterdam@erm.com>
Subject: Fwd: SHEEPMOOR, EMVELO WIND ENERGIE PROJEKTE

You don't often get email from meyerjosua55@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

EXTERNAL MESSAGE

----- Forwarded message -----

From: [REDACTED]
Date: Tue, Jul 30, 2024 at 10:59 AM
Subject: SHEEPMOOR, EMVELO WIND ENERGIE PROJEKTE
To: <lucien.barbeau@erm.com>

VERSOEK VORM OM TE REGISTREER AS BELANGHEBBENDE PARTY OP
BOGEMELDE PROJEKTE sodat kommentaar gelewer kan word.

Het nie rekening op aida om aanlyn te registreer nie en die foon nommer 011-798 5400 is
foutief.

Waardeer

Josua Meyer

081 019 2213 [0684401 Mulilo WEF-cluster](#)

From:



Subject:

Attendance Register | Mulilo Renewable Energies engagement

Date:

Wednesday, 11 September 2024 14:52:58

Attachments:

[Mulilo Amsterdam WEF Attendance Register 11Sep2024.pdf](#)

EXTERNAL MESSAGE

Good afternoon everyone,

Herewith the attendance register of physical attendees at today's meeting for your records.

Kind Regards

Robyn

*Robyn Luyt B.A., B.Sc., B.Sc (Hons) M.Sc., Pr.Sci.Nat. (400327/11), EAPASA (2019/1293)
Director: Environmental Impact Management
Department of Agriculture, Rural Development, Land & Environmental Affairs
Mpumalanga Provincial Government*



>>> Lloyd Barnes 09/09/24 11:48 AM >>>

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Passcode: MwqPTG

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Phone conference ID: 790 267 687#

For organizers: [Meeting options](#) | [Reset dial-in PIN](#)

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agriculture, rural development,
land & environmental affairs
MPUMALANGA PROVINCE
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



ATTENDANCE REGISTER:
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, RURAL DEV, LAND AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

A. MEETING DETAILS:

Name of Meeting	MULILO WEF MEETING
District	
Venue	2 ND FLOOR, CYCAD BOARDROOM
Date/Time	11 SEPTEMBER 2024
Meeting No	

B. SUMMARY OF PARTICIPATION

	GENDER	AGE	POPULATION				PWDs	PARTICIPANTS	FACILITATOR
			African	Coloured	Asian	White			
	MALE	0-18					Yes		
	FEMALE	19-35					No		
		36-59							
		60+							
TOTAL									

R. Luyt

INITIAL & SURNAME OF
PROGRAMME MANAGER/FACILITATOR

R. Luyt
SIGNATURE

11/09/2024
DATE

MULILO WEF MEETING
2ND FLOOR, CYCAD BOARDROOM
11 SEPTEMBER 2024



agriculture, rural development, land & environmental affairs

MPUMALANGA PROVINCE
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



NAME & SURNAME	ORGANIZATION	CONTACT	E-MAIL	GENDER		AGE			RACE				PWDs		SIGNATURE
				MALE	FEMALE	19-35	36-59	60+	AFRICAN	COLOURED	ASIAN	WHITE	YES	NO	
1. Robyn Luyt	Dardlea EIM	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]		✓		✓					✓		✓	[Signature]
2. GAVIN Coudon	DARDLEA (EPPE)	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	✓			✓		✓			✓	✓	✓	[Signature]
3. Florah Lekaka	MTPA	[REDACTED]	Florah.Lekaka@		✓	✓			✓					✓	[Signature]
4. Mixo Hlatshwayo	MTPA	[REDACTED]	Mixo.Hlatshwayo@		✓	✓			✓					✓	[Signature]
5. Rocky Nkosi	MTPA	[REDACTED]	Rocky.Nkosi@	✓		✓			✓					✓	[Signature]
6. Mirogn Lotte	MTPA	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	✓			✓					✓			[Signature]
7. Fred Kame	MTPA	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	✓				✓	✓					✓	[Signature]
8. Sindisiwe Mbuyane	DARDLEA: EIM	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]		✓		✓		✓					✓	[Signature]
9. Lloyd Barnes	Mulilo	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	✓		✓						✓		✓	[Signature]
10. Clifford Kubheka	DARDLEA	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	✓		✓			✓					✓	[Signature]
11. Okwethu Fatude	DARDLEA	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]		✓		✓		✓					✓	[Signature]

MULILO WEF MEETING
2ND FLOOR, CYCAD BOARDROOM
11 SEPTEMBER 2024

From: [Khanyisile Mabunda](#)
To: [ERM Arcus Amsterdam](#)
Subject: Automatic reply: Mulilo Sheepmoor, Rochdale and Emvelo EIA Phase Methodology
Date: Wednesday, 11 September 2024 15:28:30

EXTERNAL MESSAGE

Good day,
Thank you for your email.

Kindly note that I am out of office and unavailable until 16 September 2024.
I will respond to correspondence upon my return.

Best Regards,
Khanyisile.

CONFIDENTIALITY AND DATA PROTECTION. This email is intended only for the use of the intended recipient(s) and may contain information which is privileged and confidential, or personal data which is subject to data protection legislation. If you are not the intended recipient, any disclosure, copying and/or distribution of the content of this email, or reliance upon or other use of the contents of this email is strictly prohibited. If you have received this email in error, please erase all copies of it, including all attachments, do not forward it to anybody, and please also notify the sender immediately.

From: [ERM Arcus Amsterdam](#)
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Mulilo Sheepmoor, Rochdale and Emvelo EIA Phase Methodology
Date: Wednesday, 11 September 2024 15:28:50
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[EIA Phase Methodology.docx](#)

Good day,

Kindly see attached Impact Assessment Phase Methodology as requested.

Thank you,



ERM

Sustainability is our business

Lucien Barbeau
Consultant

Cape Town
+27105963488

erm.com



1 IMPACT ASSESSMENT METHODOLOGY

The purpose of the assessment of impacts in an EIA is to evaluate the likely extent and overall significance that a potential impact may have on an identified receptor or resource. Another important aspect of the assessment of impacts is to quantify those impacts that are not scientific-based or evidence-based and include the opinions of others (i.e., the involvement and comment from I&APs).

A successful assessment of the potential significance of impacts will include the description and development of measures that will be taken to avoid, minimise or compensate for any adverse environmental impacts, to enhance positive impacts, and to report the significance of residual impacts that occur following mitigation.

A 7-step approach for the determination of significance of potential impacts was developed by ERM to align with the requirements of Appendix 3 of the EIA Regulations, 2014 (as amended). The approach is both objective and scientific based to allow appointed specialists and EAPs to retain independence throughout the assessment process.

ERM has adapted this 7-step approach from standard ranking metrics such as the Hacking Method, Crawford Method etc. The ERM 7-step approach complies with the method provided in the EIA guideline document (GN 654 of 2010) and considers international EIA Regulatory reporting standards such as the newly amended European Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Directive (2014/52/EU).

The 7-Step approach for determining the significance of impacts pre, and post mitigation, is described below:

- **Step 1:** Predict potential impacts by means of an appraisal of:
 - Site Surveys,
 - Project-related components and infrastructure,
 - Activities related with the project life-cycle,
 - The nature and profile of the receiving environment and potential sensitive environmental features and attributes,
 - Input received during public participation from all stakeholders, and
 - The relevant legal framework applicable to the proposed development
- **Step 2:** Determination of whether the potential impacts identified in **Step 1** will be *direct* (caused by construction, operation, decommissioning or maintenance activities on the proposed development site or immediate surroundings of the site), *indirect* (not immediately observable or do not occur on the proposed development site or immediate surroundings of the site), *residual* (those impacts which remain after post mitigation) and *cumulative* (the combined impact of the project when considered in conjunction with similar projects in proximity).
- **Step 3:** Description and determination of the significance of the predicted impacts in terms of the criteria below to ensure a consistent and systematic basis for the decision-making process. Significance is numerically quantified on the basis score of the following impact parameters:
 1. **Extent (E)** of the impact: The geographical extent of the impact on a given environmental receptor.
 2. **Duration (D)** of the impact: The length of permanence of the impact on the environmental receptor.
 3. **Reversibility (R) of the impact:** The ability of the environmental receptor to rehabilitate or restore after the activity has caused environmental change

4. **Magnitude (M)** of the impact: The degree of alteration of the affected environmental receptor.
5. **Probability (P)** of the impact: The likelihood of the impact actually occurring.

A widely accepted numerical quantification of significance is the formula:

$$S=(E+D+R+M)*P$$

Where: *Significance=(Extent+Duration+Reversibility+Magnitude) * Probability*

The following has also been considered when determining the significance of a potential impact.

6. **Nature (N)** of the impact: A description of what causes the effect, what will be affected, and how it will be affected.
7. **Status (S)** of the impact: described as either positive, negative or neutral
8. **Cumulative impacts.**
9. Inclusion of **Public comment.**

The significance of environmental impacts is determined and ranked by considering the criteria presented in **Table 1** below. All criteria are rank according to 'Very Low', 'Low', 'Moderate', 'High' and 'Very High' and are assigned scores of 1 to 5 respectively.

Table 1: Defining the significant in terms of the impact criteria.

Impact Criteria	Definition	Score	Criteria Description
Extent (E)	Site	1	Impact is on the site only
	Local	2	Impact is localized inside the activity area
	Regional	3	Impact is localized outside the activity area
	National	4	Widespread impact beyond site boundary. May be defined in various ways, e.g. cadastral, catchment, topographic
	International	5	Impact widespread far beyond site boundary. Nationally or beyond
Duration (D)	Immediate	1	On impact only
	Short term	2	Quickly reversible, less than project life. Usually up to 5 years.
	Medium term	3	Reversible over time. Usually between 5 and 15 years.
	Long term	4	Longer than 10 years. Usually for the project life.
	Permanent	5	Indefinite
Magnitude (M)	Very Low	1	No impact on processes
	Low	2	Qualitative: Minor deterioration, nuisance or irritation, minor change in species/habitat/diversity or resource, no or very little quality deterioration. Quantitative: No measurable change; Recommended level will never be exceeded.
	Moderate	3	Qualitative: Moderate deterioration, discomfort, Partial loss of habitat /biodiversity /resource or slight or alteration. Quantitative: Measurable deterioration; Recommended level will occasionally be exceeded.

Impact Criteria	Definition	Score	Criteria Description
	High	4	Qualitative: Substantial deterioration death, illness or injury, loss of habitat /diversity or resource, severe alteration or disturbance of important processes. Quantitative: Measurable deterioration; Recommended level will often be exceeded(e.g. pollution)
	Very High	5	Permanent cessation of processes
Reversibility (R)	Reversible	1	Recovery which does not require rehabilitation and/or mitigation.
	Recoverable	3	Recovery which does require rehabilitation and/or mitigation.
	Irreversible	5	Not possible, despite action. The impact will still persist, and no mitigation will remedy or reverse the impact.
Probability (P)	Improbable	1	Not likely at all. No known risk or vulnerability to natural or induced hazards
	Low Probability	2	Unlikely; low likelihood; Seldom; low risk or vulnerability to natural or induced hazards
	Probable	3	Possible, distinct possibility, frequent; medium risk or vulnerability to natural or induced hazards.
	Highly Probable	4	Highly likely that there will be a continuous impact. High risk or vulnerability to natural or induced hazards
	Definite	5	Definite, regardless of prevention measures.

The *significance* (s) of potential impacts identified according to the criteria above has been colour coded for the purpose of comparison. This colour coding will be used in impact tables.

Significance is deemed Negative (-)			Significance is deemed Positive (+)		
0 - 30	31 - 60	61 - 100	0 - 30	31 - 60	61 - 100
Low	Moderate	High	Low	Moderate	High

- **Step 4:** Determination of practical and reasonable mitigation measures based on specialists' inputs and field observations following the mitigation hierarchy (avoid, minimise, manage, mitigate, or rehabilitate).
- **Step 5:** Evaluation of predicted residual impacts after implementation of mitigation measures.
- **Step 6:** Determination of the significance of the impact taking into consideration the predicted residual impacts after implementation of mitigation measures.
- **Step 7:** Based on an acceptable significance of the impact, determination of the need and desirability of the proposed development and an opinion as to whether the development should proceed or not.

The Assessment of the significance of potential impacts is then populated in an Impact Summary Table.

2 IMPACT SUMMARY TABLE

Please copy the below table into your reports for any impact assessments required.

Impact Phase: Detail if the impact will take place during Construction/ Operation/Decommissioning					
Nature of the impact: Name of impact					
Description of Impact: Detailed description of impact XXXX ...					
Impact Status: Detail of the impact is Positive, Neutral or Negative					
	E	D	R	M	P
Without Mitigation	Local	Medium Term	x	x	x
Score	2	3	x	x	x
With Mitigation	Site	Short Term	x	x	x
Score	1	2	x	x	x
Significance Calculation	Without Mitigation		With Mitigation		
S=(E+D+R+M)*P	Moderate Negative Impact (42)		Low Negative Impact (25)		
Was public comment received?	YES/NO. If yes, provide a bullet summary of main concerns.				
Has public comment been included in mitigation measures?	YES/NO, if NO then WHY? If YES then HOW/WHERE				
Mitigation measures to reduce residual risk or enhance opportunities: <i>List and describe</i> Aaa Aaa Aaa Aaa Aaaa ...					
Residual impact	<i>Describe the impact.</i>				

3 ASSESSMENT OF CUMULATIVE IMPACTS

In relation to an activity, cumulative impact means "the past, current and reasonably foreseeable future impact of an activity, considered together with the impact of activities associated with that activity, that in itself may not be significant, but may be significant when added to the existing and reasonably foreseeable impacts eventuating from similar or diverse activities"(NEMA EIA Reg GN R982 of 2014).

Specialists are required to assess cumulative impacts associated with similar developments within a 35 km radius of the proposed developments. The purpose of the cumulative assessment is to test if such impacts are relevant to the proposed developments in the proposed locations (i.e. whether the addition of the proposed project in the area will increase the impact). In this regard, specialist studies considered whether the construction of the proposed development will result in:

- Unacceptable risk
- Unacceptable loss
- Complete or whole-scale changes to the environment or sense of place
- Unacceptable increase in impact

Cumulative Impacts will be assessed and populate in a cumulative impact summary table.

Please copy the below table into your reports for any impact assessments required.

Cumulative Impact: Name of impact					
Description of Cumulative Impact: Detailed description of cumulative impact xxxx ...					
Impact Status: Detail of the impact is Positive, Neutral or Negative					
	E	D	R	M	P
Without Enhancement	Local	Medium Term	x	x	x
Score	2	3	x	x	x
With Enhancement	Site	Short Term	x	x	x
Score	1	2	x	x	x
Significance Calculation	Without Enhancement		With Enhancement		
S=(E+D+R+M)*P	Moderate Negative Impact (42)		Low Negative Impact (25)		
Can Impacts be Enhanced?	YES/NO and HOW/WHY				
Enhancement: <i>List and describe</i> Aaa Aaa Aaa Aaa Aaaa ...					
Residual impact	<i>Describe the impact.</i>				



What's your name?

First Name

Last Name



Who do you represent?

Organisation

Designation



Your Email



Your Phone Number



Alternative Phone Number



Your Address

Street Address

Street Address Line 2

City

State/Province

Zip Code

Country



What is your interest in the projects?



Please visit the ERM website (link below) for more info and access to the reports. Are you able to access the website?

Please copy and paste the link onto a browser (<https://www.erm.com/public-information-sites/proposed-amsterdam-wind-energy-facility-and-auxiliary-infrastructure-cluster-mpumalanga/>)

☐ Yes

☐ No



What are your comments regarding the Rochdale, Emvelo and Sheepmoor WEF Cluster?



Protection of Personal Information (POPI) Act, Act 4 of 2013

Do you consent to your information being published in the public domain, and being used as part of the Public Participation Process?

☐ Yes

☐ No

From: [Ryan David-Andersen](#)
To: [ERM Arcus Amsterdam](#)
Subject: Registration as I&AP for Mpumalanga Projects
Date: Friday, 13 September 2024 08:24:04
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

You don't often get email from ryan@amdadevelopments.co.za. [Learn why this is important](#)

EXTERNAL MESSAGE

Dear ERM

Please may you register my details in signature below for any Mpumalanga projects - including Amsterdam - we are developing a wind farm near Ermelo named Zephyr.

Thanks very much

Ryan David-Andersen
Senior Development Manager
AMDA Developments (Pty) Ltd



302E Sunclare
21 Dreyer Street, Claremont, Cape Town
PO Box 2681, Cape Town, 8000

From: [ERM Arcus Amsterdam](#)
To: [REDACTED]
Date: RE: Registration as I&AP for Mpumalanga Projects
Friday, 13 September 2024 10:12:58
Attachments: [image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)

Good day Ryan,

Thank you for reaching out, your details will be captured.

Kind regards,



ERM

Sustainability is our business

Lucien Barbeau
Consultant

Cape Town
+27105963488

erm.com

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 13, 2024 8:24 AM
To: ERM Arcus Amsterdam <ERM.ArcusAmsterdam@erm.com>
Subject: Registration as I&AP for Mpumalanga Projects

You don't often get email from ryan@amdadevelopments.co.za. [Learn why this is important](#)

EXTERNAL MESSAGE

Dear ERM

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Thanks very much

Ryan David-Andersen
Senior Development Manager
AMDA Developments (Pty) Ltd



302E Sunclare
21 Dreyer Street, Claremont, Cape Town

PO Box 2681, Cape Town, 8000

From:



Subject:

SR Comments | Emvelo WEF Amsterdam Cluster

Date:

Tuesday, 17 September 2024 14:43:31

Attachments:

[Comments SR Emvelo WEF 5G-30.pdf](#)

Importance:

High

EXTERNAL MESSAGE

Dear Stephanie,

Please find herewith DARDLEAs comments on the draft Scoping Report for the Emvelo WEF and Grid Connection.

Comments for Sheepmoor and Rochdale to follow.

Kind Regards

Robyn


Robyn Luyt B.A., B.Sc., B.Sc (Hons) M.Sc., Pr.Sci.Nat. (400327/11), EAPASA (2019/1293)

Director: Environmental Impact Management

Department of Agriculture, Rural Development, Land & Environmental Affairs

Mpumalanga Provincial Government



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KwetindzawoTasemakhaya, Temhlaba
Netesimondzawo

Departement van Landbou,
LandelikeOntwikkeling,
GrondenOngewing Sake

umNyangoweZelimo
UkuThuthukiswakweeNdawozemaKhaya,
iNarhaneeNdabazeBhoduluko

Enquiries : R. Luyt / O. Fakude
Telephone : (013) 004 1099
Reference : 1/3/1/16/5G-30

Stephanie Gopaul
ERM Southern Africa (Pty) Ltd
240 Main Road
Rondebosch
7700

Email: ERM.ArcusAmsterdam@erm.com

Dear Madam,

DRAFT SCOPING REPORT: ACTIVITIES ASSOCIATED WITH THE EMVELO WIND ENERGY FACILITY AND ASSOCIATED GRID CONNECTION ON VARIOUS PORTIONS OF THE FARMS SCHIEDAM 274 IT, VAALBANK 285 IT, WAALHOEK 286 IT, KLIPFONTEIN 283 IT, BOSJESSPRUIT 291 IT, ONVERWACHT 273 IT, ZWARTWATER 288 IT, WELTEVREDEN 289 IT, WITPUT AND MOOIPLAATS 290 IT AND CAMDEN POWER STATION 329 IT, ERMELO, MSUKALIGWA LOCAL MUNICIPALITY

The draft scoping report which was submitted by you in respect of the abovementioned application and received by the Department on 27 August 2024 has reference. The Department has considered the content of the report, and has the following comments:

1. The proposed Emvelo Wind Energy Facility and associated grid infrastructure is located in areas identified as CBA Irreplaceable and Optimal (**over 21%**), Intact Grassland Patches (**33%**), Key Biodiversity Areas (**21.4%**), ESAs, Priority Focus Areas, Freshwater Ecosystem Priority Areas and Threatened Ecosystems (Endangered). Furthermore, 43% of the site falls within Grasslands SA020 Important Bird Area (IBA), and close to two other Important Bird Areas.
2. The proposed Emvelo WEF and associated grid connection is located in an area comprising a high diversity of threatened bird species, including the following confirmed on site: African Marsh Harrier (Regionally Endangered); Denham's Bustard (Globally Near Threatened, Regionally Vulnerable); Secretary bird (Globally Endangered, Regionally Vulnerable); White-bellied Bustard (Regionally Vulnerable), Blue Crane (Globally Vulnerable, Regionally Near Threatened); Grey Crowned Crane (Globally and Regionally Endangered); Martial Eagle (Globally and Regionally Endangered); Lanner Falcon (Regionally Vulnerable); Greater Flamingo (Regionally Near Threatened); Southern Bald Ibis (Regionally and Globally Vulnerable); Cape Vulture (Globally Vulnerable and Regionally Endangered); and Yellow-breasted Pipit (Regionally and Globally Vulnerable).
3. Furthermore, intact grassland patches make up a third of the site footprint. DARDLEA does not support the development of WEFs (or any non-compatible land use) within intact grassland patches. The MBSP specifically incorporated climate change into spatial priorities through the prioritisation of the connectivity of remaining intact grassland patches in the province, as they provide habitat for species to thrive, and allow for their dispersal. Intact grasslands are crucial for supporting threatened avifauna.
4. DARDLEA is therefore concerned that the proposed location of the Emvelo Wind Energy Facility and associated grid infrastructure is not compatible with the desired land use. The WEF and all associated infrastructure is not a land use, in accordance with the Mpumalanga Biodiversity Sector Plan (MBSP), that will support the inherent biodiversity values of CBAs.



5. It is acknowledged that the layout plan in the draft Scoping Report is preliminary, and that you have confirmed that it will be revised further during the EIA phase to be informed by buffers and constraints provided by specialists. Such constraints identified to date include the location of turbines in areas identified in the Faunal Assessment as High Sensitivity and High Sensitivity Escarpment, the location of turbines and associated infrastructure in bat sensitive and bat no-go areas, the location of the laydown area in a sensitive aquatic feature, and the location of a number of turbines in avifaunal exclusion zones. It must be noted though that in addition to the exclusion zones identified in the specialist studies, a number of turbines as well as associated substation and laydown areas are still be located in Key Biodiversity Areas and IBAs (i.e. turbines 4, 8, 11, 18, 19, 22, 24, 26, 31, 33 and 35), Intact Grassland Patches (including turbines 1-6 9 and 13), and CBA Irreplaceable areas (12, 14, 16, 17, 29, 32 and 33) and CBA optimal areas (8, 18 and 19), which is very concerning.
6. We are concerned that cumulative impacts will not be dealt with adequately. While the Department of Fisheries, Forestry and the Environment has set a limit of 30km for the assessment of cumulative impacts, this should be viewed as a minimum requirement. Due to the extremely sensitive habitat within which all wind farms in the region have either been authorised or are currently in process, it is our view that all authorised and in-process wind farms in the Gert Sibande District should be included in the assessment of cumulative impacts. Currently, these include Ujekamanzi WEF 1, Ujekamanzi WEF 2, Ummbila Emoyeni WEF (authorised, and within 55km); Phefumula Emoyeni WEF (within 40km); Mukondeleli WEF (authorised), Zephyr WEF (within 30km), as well as Camden I and II, Sheepmoor WEF and Rochdale WEF. The cumulative assessment must, *inter alia*, identify the species and habitats most at risk of cumulative impacts, and identify key uncertainties. The definition of cumulative impacts as per the EIA Regulations is "the past, current and reasonably foreseeable future impact of an activity, considered together with the impact of activities associated with that activity, that in itself may not be significant, but may be significant when added to the existing and reasonably foreseeable impacts eventuating from similar or diverse activities". A comparative assessment of the impacts of this proposed facility, in relation to and in conjunction with, adjacent and surrounding renewable energy facilities should therefore be provided in the EIA Report.
7. Roads must be included in the draft layout plan, and must be incorporated in the impact analysis.
8. The plan of study for EIA must include and address the following:
 - 8.1 Terrestrial Biodiversity:
 - Intact Grassland Patches and Key Biodiversity Areas must be identified and considered in the analysis of impacts on terrestrial biodiversity.
 - Where infrastructure is to be developed in CBAs and Intact Grassland Patches, the impact of the loss of CBAs and intact grassland habitat in terms of metapopulation dynamics (i.e. how the loss of source areas will impact areas of low quality habitat that cannot support a population of species on its own) must be assessed.
 - The Site Ecological Importance methodology, as per the requirements of the Species Environmental Assessment Guidelines, must be demonstrated to have been applied.
 - The impact of the potential loss of ecological drivers on ecological processes must be analysed i.e. fire, which is an important driver for the maintenance of grassland biodiversity.
 - 8.2 Avifauna: DARDLEA supports the avifaunal specialists' recommendations to remove turbines from the "exclusion zones" identified during pre-construction monitoring. However, in the proposed re-assessment of the layout, the Avifaunal Assessment must consider and include the following:
 - The Birds and Wind-Energy Best-Practice Guidelines state that the duration of pre-construction monitoring should be extended (beyond 12 months) where there is a high risk of significant impacts on priority species. Sufficient evidence of high risk of significant impact on avifauna on site and within the Project Area of Influence exists to extend minimum pre-construction monitoring requirements to adequately assess impacts and determine appropriate mitigation measures. Where the layout of the proposed wind farm does not avoid all sensitive features, corridors and buffers (e.g. CBAs, intact grasslands patches, KBAs, pans and all waterbodies, and provide shaped buffers for such features), additional monitoring must be undertaken to

confirm the full spectrum of prevailing environmental conditions to ensure avoidance of significant impacts.

- Intact grassland patches are important habitat for foraging, and facilitate avifauna breeding and movement. Intact grassland patches must be considered and incorporated in the analysis of impact zones applicable to avifauna.
- Buffers for waterbodies / aquatic features – confirm the rationale in their determination and how their sizes (210m around drainage lines, and 110m around wetland no-go zones) were determined to be sufficient to account for movement of birds through the site, and protection of roosting areas and flight behaviours (approaching and leaving roost sites, foraging sites etc).
- DARDLEA is especially concerned that the site comprises habitat suitable for species with low detection probability, including the Globally Vulnerable Yellow-breasted Pipit, and Endangered Rudd's Lark, and the Critically Endangered Species 23. The precautionary principle must be applied in the undertaking of comprehensive habitat-based assessments in order to robustly delineate flyways and movement corridors for these species.
- Confirmation of compliance with vantage point requirements. Based on our viewshed analysis it appears that only 45-50% of the site is covered vs the required 75%, and that some turbines have been located outside of vantage point visibility.
- DARDLEAs position is that blade painting will be a non-negotiable, compulsory requirement for all authorised wind farms in the province, and Shut Down on Demand (SDoD) would be a compulsory adaptive management requirement. However, since neither of these measures are effective for night flying birds, which have been confirmed on and adjacent to the site, a separate operational impact analysis must be undertaken for "Mortality of priority night flying species due to collisions with the wind turbines".
- The night-flying greater flamingo was confirmed on site, and there is currently no known technology to mitigate for the collision of night flying birds.
- Due to the sensitivity of avifauna using the area, and the presence of pans and wetlands on and adjacent to the site, as well as the presence of night-flying birds, tracking data should be acquired to augment the 2D models used.
- Surveys and tracking should be undertaken to determine the collision risks for nocturnal species.
- A site-specific list of priority avifaunal species for wind farms for this particular region must be developed, which must include all wetland species (noting that the priority species list published by BirdLife South Africa in 2012 does not include most wetland species, and did not include Mpumalanga).
- Appropriate fatality thresholds (turbine collision, as well as power line collision and electrocution) need to be defined and agreed on **within and as part of the EIA process**, which must then be incorporated into the impact analysis.
- It is acknowledged that the Martial Eagle nest turbine no-go buffer is currently being investigated further with detailed modelling and additional survey work, to inform the final no-go area during the EIA phase. Latest available information from literature, specialists and BirdLife must be consulted during this exercise. This must include BirdLife's and EWT's recommendations of 5-6km buffer for Martial Eagle nests, noting however that Martial Eagles are known to have large breeding territories, and any buffer must be supported by the birds' actual use of an area.

8.3 Bat Assessment

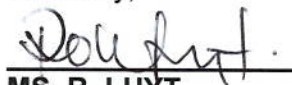
- Appropriate fatality thresholds need to be defined and agreed on within the EIA process and incorporated in the impact analysis.
- Separate mitigation measures need to be considered in more detail for high-flying bat species (i.e. Egyptian Free-Tailed bat) and lower-level bat species (e.g. Cape Serotine) in the EIA, i.e. different turbine design, blade / rotor sweep size and height, should be investigated for the specific wind turbines located adjacent to areas where these different bat species occur.

8.4 Microclimate Impact Assessment

- Research has demonstrated that turbines can affect the conditions required for mist formation, and that wind farms warm the land surface, especially at night. Altered microclimates will affect the conditions that support the highveld grasslands. Biodiversity and agricultural potential will potentially be affected. A Microclimate Impact Assessment must be undertaken, which must inform the terrestrial biodiversity study as well as the Agricultural Assessment. The impact of this WEF on the microclimate, in particular the potential impact on precipitation, soil moisture, soil temperature, etc. therefore also needs to be assessed as part of the EIA.
9. All relevant stakeholders, including but not limited to, BirdLife SA, Mpumalanga Tourism and Parks Agency (MTPA), Gert Sibande District Municipality (GSDM), Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development (DALRRD), Department of Public Works, Roads and Transport (DPWRT), and Msukaligwa Local Municipality must be must be consulted and provided with an opportunity of at least 30 days to submit comments.
 10. The public participation process must be demonstrated to have been conducted in accordance with Regulations 39 – 44 of the EIA Regulations, 2014 (as amended).
 11. Please provide this Department with an opportunity to review and engage with your response to these comments prior to the submission the final scoping report.
 12. We are concerned that the proposed development site is not suitable for the development of wind energy infrastructure, and do not support the layout in its current form.

Please do not hesitate to contact this office if there are any enquiries.

Sincerely,



MS. R. LUYT

DIRECTOR: ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT MANAGEMENT

DATE: 17/09/2024

Cc: Mr L Barnes Lloyd@mulilo.com
Dr Mervyn Lotter mervyn.lotter@mtpa.co.za
Mr Frans Krige frans.krige@mtpa.co.za
Ms S Dlomo sdlomo@dffe.gov.za
Ms O Letlalo oletlalo@dffe.gov.za
Ms M Morudu memorudu@dffe.gov.za
Mr C Agenbach cagenbach@dffe.gov.za
Mr G Cowden gcowden@mpg.gov.za
Ms S Mbuyane mbuyanesb@mpg.gov.za
Ms T Mogakabe tebogom@gsibande.gov.za

From:



Subject: SR Comments | Rochdale WEF Amsterdam Cluster

Date: Tuesday, 17 September 2024 14:46:30

Attachments: [Comments SR Rochdale WEF 5G-29.pdf](#)

EXTERNAL MESSAGE

Dear Stephanie,

Please find herewith DARDLEAs comments on the draft Scoping Report for the Rochdale WEF and Grid Connection.

Comments for Sheepmoor to follow.

Kind Regards
Robyn

*Robyn Luyt B.A., B.Sc., B.Sc (Hons) M.Sc., Pr.Sci.Nat. (400327/11), EAPASA (2019/1293)
Director: Environmental Impact Management
Department of Agriculture, Rural Development, Land & Environmental Affairs
Mpumalanga Provincial Government*



>>> Robyn Luyt 09/17/24 2:42 PM >>>

Dear Stephanie,

Please find herewith DARDLEAs comments on the draft Scoping Report for the Emvelo WEF and Grid Connection.

Comments for Sheepmoor and Rochdale to follow.

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Robyn

*Robyn Luyt B.A., B.Sc., B.Sc (Hons) M.Sc., Pr.Sci.Nat. (400327/11), EAPASA (2019/1293)
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Department of Agriculture, Rural Development, Land & Environmental Affairs
Mpumalanga Provincial Government*



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iNarhaneeNdabazeBhoduluko

Enquiries : R. Luyt / C. Kubheka
Telephone : (013) 004 0766
Reference : 1/3/1/16/5G-29

Stephanie Gopaul
ERM Southern Africa (Pty) Ltd
240 Main Road
Rondebosch
7700

Email: ERM.ArcusAmsterdam@erm.com

Dear Madam,

DRAFT SCOPING REPORT: ACTIVITIES ASSOCIATED WITH THE ROCHDALE WIND ENERGY FACILITY AND ASSOCIATED GRID CONNECTION ON PORTIONS 1, 2 & 5 OF THE FARM SCHIMMELHOEK 272 IT, PORTIONS 3, 6, 7, 8 & 13 OF THE FARM ONVERWACHT 273 IT, PORTION 3 OF THE FARM ONVERWACHT 287 IT, PORTIONS 1, 2, 9 & 10 OF THE FARM ZWARTWATER 288 IT, PORTIONS 6, 10, 11 & RE/3 OF THE FARM WELTEVREDEN 289 IT, AND PORTION RE/7 OF THE FARM WITPUNT 267 IT, ERMELO, MSUKALIGWA LOCAL MUNICIPALITY

The draft scoping report which was submitted by you in respect of the abovementioned application and received by the Department on 27 August 2024 has reference. The Department has considered the content of the report, and has the following comments:

1. The proposed Rochdale Wind Energy Facility and associated grid infrastructure is located in areas identified as CBA Irreplaceable and Optimal (**over 66%**), Intact Grassland Patches, Key Biodiversity Areas (**79.7%**), ESAs, Priority Focus Areas, Freshwater Ecosystem Priority Areas and Threatened Ecosystems (Endangered), and the northern, southern, and western borders of the site fall close to three different Important Bird Areas.
2. The proposed development is within a 30km radius of four (4) nature reserves i.e. Ahlers, Langcarel, Josua Moolman, and Laughing Waters Private Nature Reserves. The Chrissiesmeer Protected Environment is **within 5km** of the proposed site.
3. The proposed Rochdale WEF and associated grid connection is located in an area comprising a high diversity of threatened bird species, including the following confirmed on site: African Marsh Harrier (Regionally Endangered), Denham's Bustard (Globally Near Threatened, Regionally Vulnerable), Secretarybird (Globally Endangered, Regionally Vulnerable), White-bellied Bustard (Regionally Vulnerable), Blue Crane (Globally Vulnerable, Regionally Near Threatened), Grey Crowned Crane (Globally and Regionally Endangered), Martial Eagle (Globally and Regionally Endangered), Lanner Falcon (Regionally Vulnerable), Greater Flamingo (Regionally Near Threatened), Southern Bald Ibis (Regionally and Globally Vulnerable), Cape Vulture (Globally Vulnerable and Regionally Endangered), and Yellow-breasted Pipit (Regionally and Globally Vulnerable).
4. DARDLEA is therefore concerned that the location of the Rochdale Wind Energy Facility and associated grid infrastructure is not compatible with the desired land use. The WEF and all associated infrastructure is not a land use, in accordance with the Mpumalanga Biodiversity Sector Plan (MBSP), that will support the inherent biodiversity values of CBAs.
5. Furthermore, **intact grassland patches** are located within the site footprint. DARDLEA does not support the development of WEFs (or any non-compatible land use) within intact grassland

patches. The MBSP specifically incorporated climate change into spatial priorities through the prioritisation of the connectivity of remaining intact grassland patches in the province, as they provide habitat for species to thrive, and allow for their dispersal. Intact grasslands are crucial for supporting threatened avifauna.

6. It is acknowledged that the layout plan in the draft Scoping Report is preliminary, and that you have confirmed that it will be revised further during the EIA phase to be informed by buffers and constraints provided by specialists. Such constraints identified in the specialist reports to date include: the laydown areas in bat sensitive areas; the location of the substation and O&M buildings in sensitive aquatic areas; and the location of all but 3 turbines in avifaunal exclusion zones. It must be noted though, that these 3 turbines are all still located in **Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs)**, and one of them (WTG5) is in a CBA Irreplaceable area. Furthermore, all associated infrastructure (laydown areas, transmission lines, substation) is located in KBAs, and the laydown areas are in CBA Irreplaceable areas. The location of turbines and associated infrastructure in KBAs and CBA Irreplaceable areas is not supported.
7. We are concerned that cumulative impacts will not be dealt with adequately. While the Department of Fisheries, Forestry and the Environment has set a limit of 30km for the assessment of cumulative impacts, this should be viewed as a minimum requirement. Due to the extremely sensitive habitat within which all wind farms in the region have either been authorised or are currently in process, it is our view that all authorised and in-process wind farms in the Gert Sibande District should be included in the assessment of cumulative impacts. Currently these include Ujekamanzi WEF 1, Ujekamanzi WEF 2, Ummbila Emoyeni WEF (authorised, and within 55km); Phefumula Emoyeni WEF (within 40km); Zephyr WEF (within 30km), Mukondeleli WEF (authorised) as well as Camden I and II, Sheepmoor WEF and Emvelo WEF. The cumulative assessment must, *inter alia*, identify the species and habitats most at risk of cumulative impacts, and identify key uncertainties. The definition of cumulative impacts as per the EIA Regulations is "the past, current and reasonably foreseeable future impact of an activity, considered together with the impact of activities associated with that activity, that in itself may not be significant, but may be significant when added to the existing and reasonably foreseeable impacts eventuating from similar or diverse activities". A comparative assessment of the impacts of this proposed facility, in relation to and in conjunction with, adjacent and surrounding renewable energy facilities should therefore be provided in the EIA Report.
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 - The Site Ecological Importance methodology, as per the requirements of the Species Environmental Assessment Guidelines, must be demonstrated to have been applied.
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 - The Birds and Wind-Energy Best-Practice Guidelines state that the duration of pre-construction monitoring should be extended (beyond 12 months) where there is a high risk of significant impacts on priority species. Sufficient evidence of high risk of significant impact on avifauna on site and within the Project Area of Influence exists to extend minimum pre-construction monitoring requirements to adequately assess impacts and determine appropriate mitigation measures. Where the layout of the proposed wind farm does not avoid all sensitive features, corridors and buffers (e.g. CBAs, intact grasslands patches, KBAs, pans and all waterbodies, and provide

shaped buffers for such features), additional monitoring must be undertaken to confirm the full spectrum of prevailing environmental conditions to ensure avoidance of significant impacts.

- Intact grassland patches are important habitat for foraging, and facilitate avifauna breeding and movement. Intact grassland patches must be considered and incorporated in the analysis of impact zones applicable to avifauna.
- Buffers for waterbodies / aquatic features – confirm the rationale in their determination and how their sizes (210m around drainage lines, and 110m around wetland no-go zones) were determined to be sufficient to account for movement of birds through the site, and protection of roosting areas and flight behaviours (approaching and leaving roost sites, foraging sites etc).
- DARDLEA is especially concerned that the site comprises habitat suitable for species with low detection probability, including the Globally Vulnerable Yellow-breasted Pipit, and Endangered Rudd's Lark, and the Critically Endangered Species 23. The precautionary principle must be applied in the undertaking of comprehensive habitat-based assessments in order to robustly delineate flyways and movement corridors for these species.
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- DARDLEAs position is that blade painting will be a non-negotiable, compulsory requirement for all authorised wind farms in the province, and Shut Down on Demand (SDoD) would be a compulsory adaptive management requirement. However, since neither of these measures are effective for night flying birds, which have been confirmed on and adjacent to the site, a separate operational impact analysis must be undertaken for "Mortality of priority night flying species due to collisions with the wind turbines".
- The night-flying greater flamingo was confirmed on site, and there is currently no known technology to mitigate for the collision of night flying birds.
- Due to the sensitivity of avifauna using the area, and the presence of pans and wetlands on and adjacent to the site, as well as the presence of night-flying birds, tracking data should be acquired to augment the 2D models used.
- Surveys and tracking should be undertaken to determine the collision risks for nocturnal species.
- A site-specific list of priority avifaunal species for wind farms for this particular region must be developed, which must include all wetland species (noting that the priority species list published by BirdLife South Africa in 2012 does not include most wetland species, and did not include Mpumalanga).
- Appropriate fatality thresholds (turbine collision, as well as power line collision and electrocution) need to be defined and agreed on **within and as part of the EIA process**, which must then be incorporated into the impact analysis.
- It is acknowledged that the Martial Eagle nest turbine no-go buffer is currently being investigated further with detailed modelling and additional survey work, to inform the final no-go area during the EIA phase. Latest available information from literature, specialists and BirdLife must be consulted during this exercise. This must include BirdLife's and EWT's recommendations of 5-6km buffer for Martial Eagle nests, noting however that Martial Eagles are known to have large breeding territories, and any buffer must be supported by the birds' actual use of an area.

9.3 Bat Assessment

- Appropriate fatality thresholds need to be defined and agreed on within the EIA process and incorporated in the impact analysis.
- Separate mitigation measures need to be considered in more detail for high-flying bat species (i.e. Egyptian Free-Tailed bat) and lower-level bat species (e.g. Cape Serotine) in the EIA, i.e. different turbine design, blade / rotor sweep size and height, should be investigated for the specific wind turbines located adjacent to areas where these different bat species occur.

9.4 Microclimate Impact Assessment

- Research has demonstrated that turbines can affect the conditions required for mist formation, and that wind farms warm the land surface, especially at night. Altered microclimates will affect the conditions that support the highveld grasslands. Biodiversity and agricultural potential will potentially be affected. A Microclimate Impact Assessment must be undertaken, which must inform the terrestrial biodiversity study as well as the Agricultural Assessment. The impact of this WEF on the microclimate, in particular the potential impact on precipitation, soil moisture, soil temperature, etc. therefore also needs to be assessed as part of the EIA.
10. All relevant stakeholders, including but not limited to, BirdLife SA, Mpumalanga Tourism and Parks Agency (MTPA), Gert Sibande District Municipality (GSDM), Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development (DALRRD), Department of Public Works, Roads and Transport (DPWRT), and Msukaligwa Local Municipality must be consulted and provided with an opportunity of at least 30 days to submit comments.
 11. The public participation process must be demonstrated to have been conducted in accordance with Regulations 39 – 44 of the EIA Regulations, 2014 (as amended).
 12. Please provide this Department with an opportunity to review and engage with your response to these comments prior to the submission of the final scoping report.
 13. We are concerned that the proposed development site is not suitable for the development of wind energy infrastructure, and do not support the layout in its current form.

Please do not hesitate to contact this office if there are any enquiries.

Sincerely,



MS. R. LUYT

DIRECTOR: ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT MANAGEMENT

DATE: 17/09/2024.

Cc: Mr L Barnes Lloyd@mulilo.com
Dr Mervyn Lotter mervyn.lotter@mtpa.co.za
Mr Frans Krige frans.krige@mtpa.co.za
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Mr G Cowden gcowden@mpg.gov.za
Ms S Mbuyane mbuyanesb@mpg.gov.za
Ms T Mogakabe tebogom@gsibande.gov.za

From: [Robyn Luyt](#)
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: SR Comments | Sheepmoor WEF Amsterdam Cluster
Date: Tuesday, 17 September 2024 14:46:29
Attachments: [Comments SR_Sheepmoor_WEF 5G-28.pdf](#)

EXTERNAL MESSAGE

Dear Stephanie,

Please find herewith DARDLEAs comments on the draft Scoping Report for the Sheepmoor WEF and Grid Connection.

Kind Regards
Robyn

Robyn Luyt B.A., B.Sc., B.Sc (Hons) M.Sc., Pr.Sci.Nat. (400327/11), EAPASA (2019/1293)
Director: Environmental Impact Management
Department of Agriculture, Rural Development, Land & Environmental Affairs
Mpumalanga Provincial Government
Riverside Office Park, Aqua Street (Cycad Building - Block 4)
Nelspruit, 1200
Tel: 013 759 4000
Email: rluyt@mpg.gov.za

>>> Robyn Luyt 09/17/24 2:43 PM >>>
Dear Stephanie,

Please find herewith DARDLEAs comments on the draft Scoping Report for the Rochdale WEF and Grid Connection.

Comments for Sheepmoor to follow.

Kind Regards
Robyn

Robyn Luyt B.A., B.Sc., B.Sc (Hons) M.Sc., Pr.Sci.Nat. (400327/11), EAPASA (2019/1293)
Director: Environmental Impact Management
Department of Agriculture, Rural Development, Land & Environmental Affairs
Mpumalanga Provincial Government
Riverside Office Park, Aqua Street (Cycad Building - Block 4)


>>> [REDACTED] 09/17/24 2:42 PM >>>
Dear Stephanie,

Please find herewith DARDLEAs comments on the draft Scoping Report for the Emvelo WEF and Grid Connection.

Comments for Sheepmoor and Rochdale to follow.

Kind Regards
Robyn

Robyn Luyt B.A., B.Sc., B.Sc (Hons) M.Sc., Pr.Sci.Nat. (400327/11), EAPASA (2019/1293)
Director: Environmental Impact Management
Department of Agriculture, Rural Development, Land & Environmental Affairs
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Departement van Landbou,
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GrondenOngewing Sake

umNyangoweZelimo
UkuThuthukiswakweeNdawozemaKhaya,
iNarhaneeNdabazeBhoduluko

Enquiries : R. Luyt / S. Mbuyane
Telephone : 076 870 5543
Reference : 1/3/1/16/5G-28

Ms. Stephanie Gopaul
ERM Southern Africa (Pty) Ltd
240 Main Road
Rondebosch
7700

Email: ERM.ArcusAmsterdam@erm.com

Dear Madam,

DRAFT SCOPING REPORT: ACTIVITIES ASSOCIATED WITH THE SHEEPMOOR WIND ENERGY FACILITY AND ASSOCIATED GRID CONNECTION ON VARIOUS PORTIONS OF THE FARMS ONVERWACHT 273 IT, ONVERWACHT 287 IT, WAAIHOEK 286 IT, WINDHOEK291 IT, ZWARTWATER 288 IT, WELTERVREDEN 289 IT, WELTERVREDEN 290 IT, MOOIPLAATS 290 IT, WITPUNT 267 IT AND CAMDEN POWER STATION 329 IT, ERMELO, MSUKALIGWA LOCAL MUNICIPALITY

The draft scoping report which was submitted by you in respect of the abovementioned application and received by the Department on 27 August 2024 has reference. The Department has considered the content of the report, and has the following comments:

1. The proposed Sheepmoor Wind Energy Facility and associated grid infrastructure is located in areas identified as CBA Irreplaceable and Optimal (**over 28%**), Intact Grassland Patches (**36%**), Key Biodiversity Areas (**9.3%**), ESAs, Priority Focus Areas, Freshwater Ecosystem Priority Areas and Threatened Ecosystems (Endangered). Furthermore, 84% of the site falls within Grasslands SA020, Important Bird Area (IBA), and close to two other Important Bird Areas.
2. The proposed Sheepmoor WEF and associated grid connection is located in an area comprising a high diversity of threatened bird species, including the following confirmed on site: African Marsh Harrier (Regionally Endangered); Denham's Bustard (Globally Near Threatened, Regionally Vulnerable); Secretarybird (Globally Endangered, Regionally Vulnerable); White-bellied Bustard (Regionally Vulnerable), Blue Crane (Globally Vulnerable, Regionally Near Threatened); Grey Crowned Crane (Globally and Regionally Endangered); Martial Eagle (Globally and Regionally Endangered); Lanner Falcon (Regionally Vulnerable); Greater Flamingo (Regionally Near Threatened); Southern Bald Ibis (Regionally and Globally Vulnerable); Cape Vulture (Globally Vulnerable and Regionally Endangered); and Yellow-breasted Pipit (Regionally and Globally Vulnerable).
4. Furthermore, **intact grassland patches** make up **36%** of the site footprint. DARDLEA does not support the development of WEFs (or any non-compatible land use) within intact grassland patches. The MBSP specifically incorporated climate change into spatial priorities through the prioritisation of the connectivity of remaining intact grassland patches in the province, as they provide habitat for species to thrive, and allow for their dispersal. Intact grasslands are crucial for supporting threatened avifauna.

5. The proposed Sheepmoor WEF development is within a 10km-30km radius of three protected private nature reserves (Ahlers, Langcarel and Josua Moolman), and the Chrissiesmeer Protected Environment is within 10km of the proposed site.
6. DARDLEA is therefore concerned that the proposed location of the Sheepmoor Wind Energy Facility and associated grid infrastructure is not compatible with the desired land use. The WEF and all associated infrastructure is not a land use, in accordance with the Mpumalanga Biodiversity Sector Plan (MBSP), that will support the inherent biodiversity values of CBAs.
7. It is acknowledged that the layout plan in the draft Scoping Report is preliminary, and that you have confirmed that it will be revised further during the EIA phase to be informed by buffers and constraints provided by specialists. Such constraints identified in the specialist reports to date include: the location of laydown areas, O&M Buildings and a substation in avian exclusion zones; the location of the substation and O&M Buildings in a sensitive aquatic area; the location of infrastructure within areas of High faunal sensitivity; the location of the Laydown Area, O&M buildings and the Alternative substation within in no-go bat areas; and the location of all but 3 turbines in avifaunal exclusion zones. It must be noted also that the substation, laydown area, and at least 13 turbines are located in intact grassland patches, and all but 6 turbines are located in an IBA, which is very concerning.
8. We are concerned that cumulative impacts will not be dealt with adequately. While the Department of Fisheries, Forestry and the Environment has set a limit of 30km for the assessment of cumulative impacts, this should be viewed as a minimum requirement. Due to the extremely sensitive habitat within which all wind farms in the region have either been authorised or are currently in process, it is our view that all authorised and in-process wind farms in the Gert Sibande District should be included in the assessment of cumulative impacts. These include Ujekamanzi WEF 1, Ujekamanzi WEF 2, Ummbila Emoyeni WEF (authorised, and within 55km); Phefumula Emoyeni WEF (within 40km); Zephyr WEF (within 30km), as well as Camden I and II, Emvelo WEF and Rochdale WEF. The cumulative assessment must, *inter alia*, identify the species and habitats most at risk of cumulative impacts, and identify key uncertainties. The definition of cumulative impacts as per the EIA Regulations is "the past, current and reasonably foreseeable future impact of an activity, considered together with the impact of activities associated with that activity, that in itself may not be significant, but may be significant when added to the existing and reasonably foreseeable impacts eventuating from similar or diverse activities". A comparative assessment of the impacts of this proposed facility, in relation to and in conjunction with, adjacent and surrounding renewable energy facilities should therefore be provided in the EIA Report.
9. Roads to be developed must be included in the draft layout plan, and must be incorporated in the impact analysis.
10. The plan of study for EIA must include and address the following:
 - 10.1 Terrestrial Biodiversity:
 - Intact Grassland Patches and Key Biodiversity Areas must be identified and considered in the analysis of impacts on terrestrial biodiversity.
 - Where infrastructure is to be developed in CBAs and Intact Grassland Patches, the impact of the loss of CBAs and intact grassland habitat in terms of metapopulation dynamics (ie. how the loss of source areas will impact areas of low quality habitat that cannot support a population of species on its own) must be assessed.
 - The Site Ecological Importance methodology, as per the requirements of the Species Environmental Assessment Guidelines, must be demonstrated to have been applied.
 - The impact of the potential loss of ecological drivers on ecological processes must be analysed ie. fire, which is an important driver for the maintenance of grassland biodiversity.
 - 10.2 Avifauna: DARDLEA supports the supports the avifaunal specialists' recommendations to remove turbines from the "exclusion zones" identified during pre-construction monitoring. However, in the proposed re-assessment of the layout, the Avifaunal Assessment must consider and include the following:

- The Birds and Wind-Energy Best-Practice Guidelines state that the duration of pre-construction monitoring should be extended (beyond 12 months) where there is a high risk of significant impacts on priority species. Sufficient evidence of high risk of significant impact on avifauna on site and within the Project Area of Influence exists to extend minimum pre-construction monitoring requirements to adequately assess impacts and determine appropriate mitigation measures. Where the layout of the proposed wind farm does not avoid all sensitive features, corridors and buffers (e.g. CBAs, intact grasslands patches, KBAs, pans and all waterbodies, and provide shaped buffers for such features), additional monitoring must be undertaken to confirm the full spectrum of prevailing environmental conditions to ensure avoidance of significant impacts.
- Intact grassland patches are important habitat for foraging, and facilitate avifauna breeding and movement. Intact grassland patches must be considered and incorporated in the analysis of impact zones applicable to avifauna.
- Buffers for waterbodies / aquatic features – confirm the rationale in their determination and how their sizes (210m around drainage lines, and 110m around wetland no-go zones) were determined to be sufficient to account for movement of birds through the site, and protection of roosting areas and flight behaviours (approaching and leaving roost sites, foraging sites etc).
- DARDLEA is especially concerned that the site comprises habitat suitable for species with low detection probability, including the Globally Vulnerable Yellow-breasted Pipit, and Endangered Rudd's Lark, and the Critically Endangered Species 23. The precautionary principle must be applied in the undertaking of comprehensive habitat-based assessments in order to robustly delineate flyways and movement corridors for these species.
- Confirmation of compliance with vantage point requirements. Based on our viewshed analysis it appears that only 45-50% of the site is covered vs the required 75%, and that some turbines have been located outside of vantage point visibility.
- DARDLEAs position is that blade painting will be a non-negotiable, compulsory requirement for all authorised wind farms in the province, and Shut Down on Demand (SDoD) would be a compulsory adaptive management requirement. However, since neither of these measures are effective for night flying birds, which have been confirmed on and adjacent to the site, a separate operational impact analysis must be undertaken for "Mortality of priority night flying species due to collisions with the wind turbines".
- The night-flying greater flamingo was confirmed on site, and there is currently no known technology to mitigate for the collision of night flying birds.
- Due to the sensitivity of avifauna using the area, and the presence of pans and wetlands on and adjacent to the site, as well as the presence of night-flying birds, tracking data should be acquired to augment the 2D models used.
- Surveys and tracking should be undertaken to determine the collision risks for nocturnal species.
- A site-specific list of priority avifaunal species for wind farms for this particular region must be developed, which must include all wetland species (noting that the priority species list published by BirdLife South Africa in 2012 does not include most wetland species, and did not include Mpumalanga).
- Appropriate fatality thresholds (turbine collision, as well as power line collision and electrocution) need to be defined and agreed on **within and as part of the EIA process**, which must then be incorporated into the impact analysis.
- It is acknowledged that the Martial Eagle nest turbine no-go buffer is currently being investigated further with detailed modelling and additional survey work, to inform the final no-go area during the EIA phase. Latest available information from literature, specialists and BirdLife must be consulted during this exercise. This must include BirdLife's and EWT's recommendations of 5-6km buffer for Martial Eagle nests, noting

however that Martial Eagles are known to have large breeding territories, and any buffer must be supported by the birds' actual use of an area.

10.3 Bat Assessment

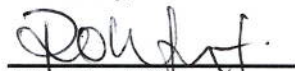
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- Separate mitigation measures need to be considered in more detail for high-flying bat species (i.e. Egyptian Free-Tailed bat) and lower-level bat species (e.g. Cape Serotine) in the EIA, i.e. different turbine design, blade / rotor sweep size and height, should be investigated for the specific wind turbines located adjacent to areas where these different bat species occur.

10.4 Microclimate Impact Assessment

- Research has demonstrated that turbines can affect the conditions required for mist formation, and that wind farms warm the land surface, especially at night. Altered microclimates will affect the conditions that support the highveld grasslands. Biodiversity and agricultural potential will potentially be affected. A Microclimate Impact Assessment must be undertaken, which must inform the terrestrial biodiversity study as well as the Agricultural Assessment. The impact of this WEF on the microclimate, in particular the potential impact on precipitation, soil moisture, soil temperature, etc. therefore also needs to be assessed as part of the EIA.
11. All relevant stakeholders, including but not limited to, BirdLife SA, Mpumalanga Tourism and Parks Agency (MTPA), Gert Sibande District Municipality (GSDM), Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development (DALRRD), Department of Public Works, Roads and Transport (DPWRT), and Msukaligwa Local Municipality must be must be consulted and provided with an opportunity of at least 30 days to submit comments.
 12. The public participation process must be demonstrated to have been conducted in accordance with Regulations 39 – 44 of the EIA Regulations, 2014 (as amended).
 13. Please provide this Department with an opportunity to review and engage with your response to these comments prior to the submission the final scoping report.
 14. We are concerned that the proposed development site is not suitable for the development of wind energy infrastructure, and do not support the layout in its current form.

Please do not hesitate to contact this office if there are any enquiries.

Sincerely,



MS. R. LUYT

DIRECTOR: ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT MANAGEMENT

DATE: 17/09/2024

Cc: Mr L Barnes Lloyd@mulilo.com
Dr Mervyn Lotter mervyn.lotter@mtpa.co.za
Mr Frans Krige frans.krige@mtpa.co.za
Ms S Dlomo sdlomo@dffe.gov.za
Ms O Letlalo oletlalo@dffe.gov.za
Ms M Morudu memorudu@dffe.gov.za
Mr C Agenbach cagenbach@dffe.gov.za
Mr G Cowden gcowden@mpg.gov.za
Ms S Mbuyane mbuyanesb@mpg.gov.za
Ms T Mogakabe tebogom@gsibande.gov.za

From: [Lloyd Barnes](#)
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: SR Comments | Emvelo WEF Amsterdam Cluster
Date: Tuesday, 17 September 2024 14:57:39
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[Comments SR Emvelo WEF 5G-30.pdf](#)
[Comments SR Sheepmoor WEF 5G-28.pdf](#)
[Comments SR Rochdale WEF 5G-29.pdf](#)

EXTERNAL MESSAGE

Good day team,

Please advise if we require a meeting to discuss these comments.

Noting that specialist responses will be required.

Please can we mobilise on this asap.

Kind Regards,

Lloyd Barnes

Project Manager: Environmental

[REDACTED]

www.mulilo.com

21st Floor, Portside, 5 Buitengracht Street, Cape Town, 8001



From: Robyn Luyt <rluyt@mpg.gov.za>

Sent: Tuesday, September 17, 2024 2:42 PM

To: Erm.arcusamsterdam@erm.com

Cc: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Subject: SR Comments | Emvelo WEF Amsterdam Cluster

Importance: High

Dear Stephanie,

Please find herewith DARDLEAs comments on the draft Scoping Report for the Emvelo WEF and Grid Connection.

Comments for Sheepmoor and Rochdale to follow.

Kind Regards

Robyn

*Robyn Luyt B.A., B.Sc., B.Sc (Hons) M.Sc., Pr.Sci.Nat. (400327/11), EAPASA (2019/1293)
Director: Environmental Impact Management
Department of Agriculture, Rural Development, Land & Environmental Affairs
Mpumalanga Provincial Government*

[REDACTED]
Nelspruit, 1200
[REDACTED]

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iNarhaneeNdabazeBhoduluko

Enquiries : R. Luyt / O. Fakude
Telephone : (013) 004 1099
Reference : 1/3/1/16/5G-30

Stephanie Gopaul
ERM Southern Africa (Pty) Ltd
240 Main Road
Rondebosch
7700

Email: ERM.ArcusAmsterdam@erm.com

Dear Madam,

DRAFT SCOPING REPORT: ACTIVITIES ASSOCIATED WITH THE EMVELO WIND ENERGY FACILITY AND ASSOCIATED GRID CONNECTION ON VARIOUS PORTIONS OF THE FARMS SCHIEDAM 274 IT, VAALBANK 285 IT, WAALHOEK 286 IT, KLIPFONTEIN 283 IT, BOSJESSPRUIT 291 IT, ONVERWACHT 273 IT, ZWARTWATER 288 IT, WELTEVREDEN 289 IT, WITPUT AND MOOIPLAATS 290 IT AND CAMDEN POWER STATION 329 IT, ERMELO, MSUKALIGWA LOCAL MUNICIPALITY

The draft scoping report which was submitted by you in respect of the abovementioned application and received by the Department on 27 August 2024 has reference. The Department has considered the content of the report, and has the following comments:

1. The proposed Emvelo Wind Energy Facility and associated grid infrastructure is located in areas identified as CBA Irreplaceable and Optimal (**over 21%**), Intact Grassland Patches (**33%**), Key Biodiversity Areas (**21.4%**), ESAs, Priority Focus Areas, Freshwater Ecosystem Priority Areas and Threatened Ecosystems (Endangered). Furthermore, 43% of the site falls within Grasslands SA020 Important Bird Area (IBA), and close to two other Important Bird Areas.
2. The proposed Emvelo WEF and associated grid connection is located in an area comprising a high diversity of threatened bird species, including the following confirmed on site: African Marsh Harrier (Regionally Endangered); Denham's Bustard (Globally Near Threatened, Regionally Vulnerable); Secretary bird (Globally Endangered, Regionally Vulnerable); White-bellied Bustard (Regionally Vulnerable), Blue Crane (Globally Vulnerable, Regionally Near Threatened); Grey Crowned Crane (Globally and Regionally Endangered); Martial Eagle (Globally and Regionally Endangered); Lanner Falcon (Regionally Vulnerable); Greater Flamingo (Regionally Near Threatened); Southern Bald Ibis (Regionally and Globally Vulnerable); Cape Vulture (Globally Vulnerable and Regionally Endangered); and Yellow-breasted Pipit (Regionally and Globally Vulnerable).
3. Furthermore, intact grassland patches make up a third of the site footprint. DARDLEA does not support the development of WEFs (or any non-compatible land use) within intact grassland patches. The MBSP specifically incorporated climate change into spatial priorities through the prioritisation of the connectivity of remaining intact grassland patches in the province, as they provide habitat for species to thrive, and allow for their dispersal. Intact grasslands are crucial for supporting threatened avifauna.
4. DARDLEA is therefore concerned that the proposed location of the Emvelo Wind Energy Facility and associated grid infrastructure is not compatible with the desired land use. The WEF and all associated infrastructure is not a land use, in accordance with the Mpumalanga Biodiversity Sector Plan (MBSP), that will support the inherent biodiversity values of CBAs.

5. It is acknowledged that the layout plan in the draft Scoping Report is preliminary, and that you have confirmed that it will be revised further during the EIA phase to be informed by buffers and constraints provided by specialists. Such constraints identified to date include the location of turbines in areas identified in the Faunal Assessment as High Sensitivity and High Sensitivity Escarpment, the location of turbines and associated infrastructure in bat sensitive and bat no-go areas, the location of the laydown area in a sensitive aquatic feature, and the location of a number of turbines in avifaunal exclusion zones. It must be noted though that in addition to the exclusion zones identified in the specialist studies, a number of turbines as well as associated substation and laydown areas are still be located in Key Biodiversity Areas and IBAs (i.e. turbines 4, 8, 11, 18, 19, 22, 24, 26, 31, 33 and 35), Intact Grassland Patches (including turbines 1-6 9 and 13), and CBA Irreplaceable areas (12, 14, 16, 17, 29, 32 and 33) and CBA optimal areas (8, 18 and 19), which is very concerning.
6. We are concerned that cumulative impacts will not be dealt with adequately. While the Department of Fisheries, Forestry and the Environment has set a limit of 30km for the assessment of cumulative impacts, this should be viewed as a minimum requirement. Due to the extremely sensitive habitat within which all wind farms in the region have either been authorised or are currently in process, it is our view that all authorised and in-process wind farms in the Gert Sibande District should be included in the assessment of cumulative impacts. Currently, these include Ujekamanzi WEF 1, Ujekamanzi WEF 2, Ummbila Emoyeni WEF (authorised, and within 55km); Phefumula Emoyeni WEF (within 40km); Mukondeleli WEF (authorised), Zephyr WEF (within 30km), as well as Camden I and II, Sheepmoor WEF and Rochdale WEF. The cumulative assessment must, *inter alia*, identify the species and habitats most at risk of cumulative impacts, and identify key uncertainties. The definition of cumulative impacts as per the EIA Regulations is "the past, current and reasonably foreseeable future impact of an activity, considered together with the impact of activities associated with that activity, that in itself may not be significant, but may be significant when added to the existing and reasonably foreseeable impacts eventuating from similar or diverse activities". A comparative assessment of the impacts of this proposed facility, in relation to and in conjunction with, adjacent and surrounding renewable energy facilities should therefore be provided in the EIA Report.
7. Roads must be included in the draft layout plan, and must be incorporated in the impact analysis.
8. The plan of study for EIA must include and address the following:
 - 8.1 Terrestrial Biodiversity:
 - Intact Grassland Patches and Key Biodiversity Areas must be identified and considered in the analysis of impacts on terrestrial biodiversity.
 - Where infrastructure is to be developed in CBAs and Intact Grassland Patches, the impact of the loss of CBAs and intact grassland habitat in terms of metapopulation dynamics (i.e. how the loss of source areas will impact areas of low quality habitat that cannot support a population of species on its own) must be assessed.
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 - The impact of the potential loss of ecological drivers on ecological processes must be analysed i.e. fire, which is an important driver for the maintenance of grassland biodiversity.
 - 8.2 Avifauna: DARDLEA supports the avifaunal specialists' recommendations to remove turbines from the "exclusion zones" identified during pre-construction monitoring. However, in the proposed re-assessment of the layout, the Avifaunal Assessment must consider and include the following:
 - The Birds and Wind-Energy Best-Practice Guidelines state that the duration of pre-construction monitoring should be extended (beyond 12 months) where there is a high risk of significant impacts on priority species. Sufficient evidence of high risk of significant impact on avifauna on site and within the Project Area of Influence exists to extend minimum pre-construction monitoring requirements to adequately assess impacts and determine appropriate mitigation measures. Where the layout of the proposed wind farm does not avoid all sensitive features, corridors and buffers (e.g. CBAs, intact grasslands patches, KBAs, pans and all waterbodies, and provide shaped buffers for such features), additional monitoring must be undertaken to

confirm the full spectrum of prevailing environmental conditions to ensure avoidance of significant impacts.

- Intact grassland patches are important habitat for foraging, and facilitate avifauna breeding and movement. Intact grassland patches must be considered and incorporated in the analysis of impact zones applicable to avifauna.
- Buffers for waterbodies / aquatic features – confirm the rationale in their determination and how their sizes (210m around drainage lines, and 110m around wetland no-go zones) were determined to be sufficient to account for movement of birds through the site, and protection of roosting areas and flight behaviours (approaching and leaving roost sites, foraging sites etc).
- DARDLEA is especially concerned that the site comprises habitat suitable for species with low detection probability, including the Globally Vulnerable Yellow-breasted Pipit, and Endangered Rudd's Lark, and the Critically Endangered Species 23. The precautionary principle must be applied in the undertaking of comprehensive habitat-based assessments in order to robustly delineate flyways and movement corridors for these species.
- Confirmation of compliance with vantage point requirements. Based on our viewshed analysis it appears that only 45-50% of the site is covered vs the required 75%, and that some turbines have been located outside of vantage point visibility.
- DARDLEAs position is that blade painting will be a non-negotiable, compulsory requirement for all authorised wind farms in the province, and Shut Down on Demand (SDoD) would be a compulsory adaptive management requirement. However, since neither of these measures are effective for night flying birds, which have been confirmed on and adjacent to the site, a separate operational impact analysis must be undertaken for "Mortality of priority night flying species due to collisions with the wind turbines".
- The night-flying greater flamingo was confirmed on site, and there is currently no known technology to mitigate for the collision of night flying birds.
- Due to the sensitivity of avifauna using the area, and the presence of pans and wetlands on and adjacent to the site, as well as the presence of night-flying birds, tracking data should be acquired to augment the 2D models used.
- Surveys and tracking should be undertaken to determine the collision risks for nocturnal species.
- A site-specific list of priority avifaunal species for wind farms for this particular region must be developed, which must include all wetland species (noting that the priority species list published by BirdLife South Africa in 2012 does not include most wetland species, and did not include Mpumalanga).
- Appropriate fatality thresholds (turbine collision, as well as power line collision and electrocution) need to be defined and agreed on **within and as part of the EIA process**, which must then be incorporated into the impact analysis.
- It is acknowledged that the Martial Eagle nest turbine no-go buffer is currently being investigated further with detailed modelling and additional survey work, to inform the final no-go area during the EIA phase. Latest available information from literature, specialists and BirdLife must be consulted during this exercise. This must include BirdLife's and EWT's recommendations of 5-6km buffer for Martial Eagle nests, noting however that Martial Eagles are known to have large breeding territories, and any buffer must be supported by the birds' actual use of an area.

8.3 Bat Assessment

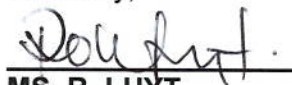
- Appropriate fatality thresholds need to be defined and agreed on within the EIA process and incorporated in the impact analysis.
- Separate mitigation measures need to be considered in more detail for high-flying bat species (i.e. Egyptian Free-Tailed bat) and lower-level bat species (e.g. Cape Serotine) in the EIA, i.e. different turbine design, blade / rotor sweep size and height, should be investigated for the specific wind turbines located adjacent to areas where these different bat species occur.

8.4 Microclimate Impact Assessment

- Research has demonstrated that turbines can affect the conditions required for mist formation, and that wind farms warm the land surface, especially at night. Altered microclimates will affect the conditions that support the highveld grasslands. Biodiversity and agricultural potential will potentially be affected. A Microclimate Impact Assessment must be undertaken, which must inform the terrestrial biodiversity study as well as the Agricultural Assessment. The impact of this WEF on the microclimate, in particular the potential impact on precipitation, soil moisture, soil temperature, etc. therefore also needs to be assessed as part of the EIA.
9. All relevant stakeholders, including but not limited to, BirdLife SA, Mpumalanga Tourism and Parks Agency (MTPA), Gert Sibande District Municipality (GSDM), Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development (DALRRD), Department of Public Works, Roads and Transport (DPWRT), and Msukaligwa Local Municipality must be must be consulted and provided with an opportunity of at least 30 days to submit comments.
 10. The public participation process must be demonstrated to have been conducted in accordance with Regulations 39 – 44 of the EIA Regulations, 2014 (as amended).
 11. Please provide this Department with an opportunity to review and engage with your response to these comments prior to the submission the final scoping report.
 12. We are concerned that the proposed development site is not suitable for the development of wind energy infrastructure, and do not support the layout in its current form.

Please do not hesitate to contact this office if there are any enquiries.

Sincerely,



MS. R. LUYT

DIRECTOR: ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT MANAGEMENT

DATE: 17/09/2024

Cc: Mr L Barnes Lloyd@mulilo.com
Dr Mervyn Lotter mervyn.lotter@mtpa.co.za
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agriculture, rural development,
land & environmental affairs

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Departement van Landbou,
LandelikeOntwikkeling,
GrondenOngewing Sake

umNyangoweZelimo
UkuThuthukiswakweeNdawozemaKhaya,
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Enquiries : R. Luyt / C. Kubheka
Telephone : (013) 004 0766
Reference : 1/3/1/16/5G-29

Stephanie Gopaul
ERM Southern Africa (Pty) Ltd
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7700

Email: ERM.ArcusAmsterdam@erm.com

Dear Madam,

DRAFT SCOPING REPORT: ACTIVITIES ASSOCIATED WITH THE ROCHDALE WIND ENERGY FACILITY AND ASSOCIATED GRID CONNECTION ON PORTIONS 1, 2 & 5 OF THE FARM SCHIMMELHOEK 272 IT, PORTIONS 3, 6, 7, 8 & 13 OF THE FARM ONVERWACHT 273 IT, PORTION 3 OF THE FARM ONVERWACHT 287 IT, PORTIONS 1, 2, 9 & 10 OF THE FARM ZWARTWATER 288 IT, PORTIONS 6, 10, 11 & RE/3 OF THE FARM WELTEVREDEN 289 IT, AND PORTION RE/7 OF THE FARM WITPUNT 267 IT, ERMELO, MSUKALIGWA LOCAL MUNICIPALITY

The draft scoping report which was submitted by you in respect of the abovementioned application and received by the Department on 27 August 2024 has reference. The Department has considered the content of the report, and has the following comments:

1. The proposed Rochdale Wind Energy Facility and associated grid infrastructure is located in areas identified as CBA Irreplaceable and Optimal (**over 66%**), Intact Grassland Patches, Key Biodiversity Areas (**79.7%**), ESAs, Priority Focus Areas, Freshwater Ecosystem Priority Areas and Threatened Ecosystems (Endangered), and the northern, southern, and western borders of the site fall close to three different Important Bird Areas.
2. The proposed development is within a 30km radius of four (4) nature reserves i.e. Ahlers, Langcarel, Josua Moolman, and Laughing Waters Private Nature Reserves. The Chrissiesmeer Protected Environment is **within 5km** of the proposed site.
3. The proposed Rochdale WEF and associated grid connection is located in an area comprising a high diversity of threatened bird species, including the following confirmed on site: African Marsh Harrier (Regionally Endangered), Denham's Bustard (Globally Near Threatened, Regionally Vulnerable), Secretarybird (Globally Endangered, Regionally Vulnerable), White-bellied Bustard (Regionally Vulnerable), Blue Crane (Globally Vulnerable, Regionally Near Threatened), Grey Crowned Crane (Globally and Regionally Endangered), Martial Eagle (Globally and Regionally Endangered), Lanner Falcon (Regionally Vulnerable), Greater Flamingo (Regionally Near Threatened), Southern Bald Ibis (Regionally and Globally Vulnerable), Cape Vulture (Globally Vulnerable and Regionally Endangered), and Yellow-breasted Pipit (Regionally and Globally Vulnerable).
4. DARDLEA is therefore concerned that the location of the Rochdale Wind Energy Facility and associated grid infrastructure is not compatible with the desired land use. The WEF and all associated infrastructure is not a land use, in accordance with the Mpumalanga Biodiversity Sector Plan (MBSP), that will support the inherent biodiversity values of CBAs.
5. Furthermore, **intact grassland patches** are located within the site footprint. DARDLEA does not support the development of WEFs (or any non-compatible land use) within intact grassland

patches. The MBSP specifically incorporated climate change into spatial priorities through the prioritisation of the connectivity of remaining intact grassland patches in the province, as they provide habitat for species to thrive, and allow for their dispersal. Intact grasslands are crucial for supporting threatened avifauna.

6. It is acknowledged that the layout plan in the draft Scoping Report is preliminary, and that you have confirmed that it will be revised further during the EIA phase to be informed by buffers and constraints provided by specialists. Such constraints identified in the specialist reports to date include: the laydown areas in bat sensitive areas; the location of the substation and O&M buildings in sensitive aquatic areas; and the location of all but 3 turbines in avifaunal exclusion zones. It must be noted though, that these 3 turbines are all still located in **Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs)**, and one of them (WTG5) is in a CBA Irreplaceable area. Furthermore, all associated infrastructure (laydown areas, transmission lines, substation) is located in KBAs, and the laydown areas are in CBA Irreplaceable areas. The location of turbines and associated infrastructure in KBAs and CBA Irreplaceable areas is not supported.
7. We are concerned that cumulative impacts will not be dealt with adequately. While the Department of Fisheries, Forestry and the Environment has set a limit of 30km for the assessment of cumulative impacts, this should be viewed as a minimum requirement. Due to the extremely sensitive habitat within which all wind farms in the region have either been authorised or are currently in process, it is our view that all authorised and in-process wind farms in the Gert Sibande District should be included in the assessment of cumulative impacts. Currently these include Ujekamanzi WEF 1, Ujekamanzi WEF 2, Ummbila Emoyeni WEF (authorised, and within 55km); Phefumula Emoyeni WEF (within 40km); Zephyr WEF (within 30km), Mukondeleli WEF (authorised) as well as Camden I and II, Sheepmoor WEF and Emvelo WEF. The cumulative assessment must, *inter alia*, identify the species and habitats most at risk of cumulative impacts, and identify key uncertainties. The definition of cumulative impacts as per the EIA Regulations is "the past, current and reasonably foreseeable future impact of an activity, considered together with the impact of activities associated with that activity, that in itself may not be significant, but may be significant when added to the existing and reasonably foreseeable impacts eventuating from similar or diverse activities". A comparative assessment of the impacts of this proposed facility, in relation to and in conjunction with, adjacent and surrounding renewable energy facilities should therefore be provided in the EIA Report.
8. Roads must be included in the draft layout plan, and must be incorporated in the impact analysis.
9. The plan of study for EIA must include and address the following:
 - 9.1 Terrestrial Biodiversity:
 - Intact Grassland Patches and Key Biodiversity Areas must be identified and considered in the analysis of impacts on terrestrial biodiversity.
 - Where infrastructure is to be developed in CBAs and Intact Grassland Patches, the impact of the loss of CBAs and intact grassland habitat in terms of metapopulation dynamics (ie. how the loss of source areas will impact areas of low quality habitat that cannot support a population of species on its own) must be assessed.
 - The Site Ecological Importance methodology, as per the requirements of the Species Environmental Assessment Guidelines, must be demonstrated to have been applied.
 - The impact of the potential loss of ecological drivers on ecological processes must be analysed ie. fire, which is an important driver for the maintenance of grassland biodiversity.
 - 9.2 Avifauna: DARDLEA supports the avifaunal specialists' recommendations to remove turbines from the "exclusion zones" identified during pre-construction monitoring. However, in the proposed re-assessment of the layout, the Avifaunal Assessment must consider and include the following:
 - The Birds and Wind-Energy Best-Practice Guidelines state that the duration of pre-construction monitoring should be extended (beyond 12 months) where there is a high risk of significant impacts on priority species. Sufficient evidence of high risk of significant impact on avifauna on site and within the Project Area of Influence exists to extend minimum pre-construction monitoring requirements to adequately assess impacts and determine appropriate mitigation measures. Where the layout of the proposed wind farm does not avoid all sensitive features, corridors and buffers (e.g. CBAs, intact grasslands patches, KBAs, pans and all waterbodies, and provide

shaped buffers for such features), additional monitoring must be undertaken to confirm the full spectrum of prevailing environmental conditions to ensure avoidance of significant impacts.

- Intact grassland patches are important habitat for foraging, and facilitate avifauna breeding and movement. Intact grassland patches must be considered and incorporated in the analysis of impact zones applicable to avifauna.
- Buffers for waterbodies / aquatic features – confirm the rationale in their determination and how their sizes (210m around drainage lines, and 110m around wetland no-go zones) were determined to be sufficient to account for movement of birds through the site, and protection of roosting areas and flight behaviours (approaching and leaving roost sites, foraging sites etc).
- DARDLEA is especially concerned that the site comprises habitat suitable for species with low detection probability, including the Globally Vulnerable Yellow-breasted Pipit, and Endangered Rudd's Lark, and the Critically Endangered Species 23. The precautionary principle must be applied in the undertaking of comprehensive habitat-based assessments in order to robustly delineate flyways and movement corridors for these species.
- Confirmation of compliance with vantage point requirements. Based on our viewshed analysis it appears that only 45-50% of the site is covered vs the required 75%, and that some turbines have been located outside of vantage point visibility.
- DARDLEAs position is that blade painting will be a non-negotiable, compulsory requirement for all authorised wind farms in the province, and Shut Down on Demand (SDoD) would be a compulsory adaptive management requirement. However, since neither of these measures are effective for night flying birds, which have been confirmed on and adjacent to the site, a separate operational impact analysis must be undertaken for "Mortality of priority night flying species due to collisions with the wind turbines".
- The night-flying greater flamingo was confirmed on site, and there is currently no known technology to mitigate for the collision of night flying birds.
- Due to the sensitivity of avifauna using the area, and the presence of pans and wetlands on and adjacent to the site, as well as the presence of night-flying birds, tracking data should be acquired to augment the 2D models used.
- Surveys and tracking should be undertaken to determine the collision risks for nocturnal species.
- A site-specific list of priority avifaunal species for wind farms for this particular region must be developed, which must include all wetland species (noting that the priority species list published by BirdLife South Africa in 2012 does not include most wetland species, and did not include Mpumalanga).
- Appropriate fatality thresholds (turbine collision, as well as power line collision and electrocution) need to be defined and agreed on **within and as part of the EIA process**, which must then be incorporated into the impact analysis.
- It is acknowledged that the Martial Eagle nest turbine no-go buffer is currently being investigated further with detailed modelling and additional survey work, to inform the final no-go area during the EIA phase. Latest available information from literature, specialists and BirdLife must be consulted during this exercise. This must include BirdLife's and EWT's recommendations of 5-6km buffer for Martial Eagle nests, noting however that Martial Eagles are known to have large breeding territories, and any buffer must be supported by the birds' actual use of an area.

9.3 Bat Assessment

- Appropriate fatality thresholds need to be defined and agreed on within the EIA process and incorporated in the impact analysis.
- Separate mitigation measures need to be considered in more detail for high-flying bat species (i.e. Egyptian Free-Tailed bat) and lower-level bat species (e.g. Cape Serotine) in the EIA, i.e. different turbine design, blade / rotor sweep size and height, should be investigated for the specific wind turbines located adjacent to areas where these different bat species occur.

9.4 Microclimate Impact Assessment

- Research has demonstrated that turbines can affect the conditions required for mist formation, and that wind farms warm the land surface, especially at night. Altered microclimates will affect the conditions that support the highveld grasslands. Biodiversity and agricultural potential will potentially be affected. A Microclimate Impact Assessment must be undertaken, which must inform the terrestrial biodiversity study as well as the Agricultural Assessment. The impact of this WEF on the microclimate, in particular the potential impact on precipitation, soil moisture, soil temperature, etc. therefore also needs to be assessed as part of the EIA.
10. All relevant stakeholders, including but not limited to, BirdLife SA, Mpumalanga Tourism and Parks Agency (MTPA), Gert Sibande District Municipality (GSDM), Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development (DALRRD), Department of Public Works, Roads and Transport (DPWRT), and Msukaligwa Local Municipality must be consulted and provided with an opportunity of at least 30 days to submit comments.
 11. The public participation process must be demonstrated to have been conducted in accordance with Regulations 39 – 44 of the EIA Regulations, 2014 (as amended).
 12. Please provide this Department with an opportunity to review and engage with your response to these comments prior to the submission of the final scoping report.
 13. We are concerned that the proposed development site is not suitable for the development of wind energy infrastructure, and do not support the layout in its current form.

Please do not hesitate to contact this office if there are any enquiries.

Sincerely,



MS. R. LUYT

DIRECTOR: ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT MANAGEMENT

DATE: 17/09/2024.

Cc: Mr L Barnes Lloyd@mulilo.com
Dr Mervyn Lotter mervyn.lotter@mtpa.co.za
Mr Frans Krige frans.krige@mtpa.co.za
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agriculture, rural development,
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GrondenOngewing Sake

umNyangoweZelimo
UkuThuthukiswakweeNdawozemaKhaya,
iNarhaneeNdabazeBhoduluko

Enquiries : R. Luyt / S. Mbuyane
Telephone : 076 870 5543
Reference : 1/3/1/16/5G-28

Ms. Stephanie Gopaul
ERM Southern Africa (Pty) Ltd
240 Main Road
Rondebosch
7700

Email: ERM.ArcusAmsterdam@erm.com

Dear Madam,

DRAFT SCOPING REPORT: ACTIVITIES ASSOCIATED WITH THE SHEEPMOOR WIND ENERGY FACILITY AND ASSOCIATED GRID CONNECTION ON VARIOUS PORTIONS OF THE FARMS ONVERWACHT 273 IT, ONVERWACHT 287 IT, WAAIHOEK 286 IT, WINDHOEK291 IT, ZWARTWATER 288 IT, WELTERVREDEN 289 IT, WELTERVREDEN 290 IT, MOOIPLAATS 290 IT, WITPUNT 267 IT AND CAMDEN POWER STATION 329 IT, ERMELO, MSUKALIGWA LOCAL MUNICIPALITY

The draft scoping report which was submitted by you in respect of the abovementioned application and received by the Department on 27 August 2024 has reference. The Department has considered the content of the report, and has the following comments:

1. The proposed Sheepmoor Wind Energy Facility and associated grid infrastructure is located in areas identified as CBA Irreplaceable and Optimal (**over 28%**), Intact Grassland Patches (**36%**), Key Biodiversity Areas (**9.3%**), ESAs, Priority Focus Areas, Freshwater Ecosystem Priority Areas and Threatened Ecosystems (Endangered). Furthermore, 84% of the site falls within Grasslands SA020, Important Bird Area (IBA), and close to two other Important Bird Areas.
2. The proposed Sheepmoor WEF and associated grid connection is located in an area comprising a high diversity of threatened bird species, including the following confirmed on site: African Marsh Harrier (Regionally Endangered); Denham's Bustard (Globally Near Threatened, Regionally Vulnerable); Secretarybird (Globally Endangered, Regionally Vulnerable); White-bellied Bustard (Regionally Vulnerable), Blue Crane (Globally Vulnerable, Regionally Near Threatened); Grey Crowned Crane (Globally and Regionally Endangered); Martial Eagle (Globally and Regionally Endangered); Lanner Falcon (Regionally Vulnerable); Greater Flamingo (Regionally Near Threatened); Southern Bald Ibis (Regionally and Globally Vulnerable); Cape Vulture (Globally Vulnerable and Regionally Endangered); and Yellow-breasted Pipit (Regionally and Globally Vulnerable).
4. Furthermore, **intact grassland patches** make up **36%** of the site footprint. DARDLEA does not support the development of WEFs (or any non-compatible land use) within intact grassland patches. The MBSP specifically incorporated climate change into spatial priorities through the prioritisation of the connectivity of remaining intact grassland patches in the province, as they provide habitat for species to thrive, and allow for their dispersal. Intact grasslands are crucial for supporting threatened avifauna.

5. The proposed Sheepmoor WEF development is within a 10km-30km radius of three protected private nature reserves (Ahlers, Langcarel and Josua Moolman), and the Chrissiesmeer Protected Environment is within 10km of the proposed site.
6. DARDLEA is therefore concerned that the proposed location of the Sheepmoor Wind Energy Facility and associated grid infrastructure is not compatible with the desired land use. The WEF and all associated infrastructure is not a land use, in accordance with the Mpumalanga Biodiversity Sector Plan (MBSP), that will support the inherent biodiversity values of CBAs.
7. It is acknowledged that the layout plan in the draft Scoping Report is preliminary, and that you have confirmed that it will be revised further during the EIA phase to be informed by buffers and constraints provided by specialists. Such constraints identified in the specialist reports to date include: the location of laydown areas, O&M Buildings and a substation in avian exclusion zones; the location of the substation and O&M Buildings in a sensitive aquatic area; the location of infrastructure within areas of High faunal sensitivity; the location of the Laydown Area, O&M buildings and the Alternative substation within in no-go bat areas; and the location of all but 3 turbines in avifaunal exclusion zones. It must be noted also that the substation, laydown area, and at least 13 turbines are located in intact grassland patches, and all but 6 turbines are located in an IBA, which is very concerning.
8. We are concerned that cumulative impacts will not be dealt with adequately. While the Department of Fisheries, Forestry and the Environment has set a limit of 30km for the assessment of cumulative impacts, this should be viewed as a minimum requirement. Due to the extremely sensitive habitat within which all wind farms in the region have either been authorised or are currently in process, it is our view that all authorised and in-process wind farms in the Gert Sibande District should be included in the assessment of cumulative impacts. These include Ujekamanzi WEF 1, Ujekamanzi WEF 2, Ummbila Emoyeni WEF (authorised, and within 55km); Phefumula Emoyeni WEF (within 40km); Zephyr WEF (within 30km), as well as Camden I and II, Emvelo WEF and Rochdale WEF. The cumulative assessment must, *inter alia*, identify the species and habitats most at risk of cumulative impacts, and identify key uncertainties. The definition of cumulative impacts as per the EIA Regulations is "the past, current and reasonably foreseeable future impact of an activity, considered together with the impact of activities associated with that activity, that in itself may not be significant, but may be significant when added to the existing and reasonably foreseeable impacts eventuating from similar or diverse activities". A comparative assessment of the impacts of this proposed facility, in relation to and in conjunction with, adjacent and surrounding renewable energy facilities should therefore be provided in the EIA Report.
9. Roads to be developed must be included in the draft layout plan, and must be incorporated in the impact analysis.
10. The plan of study for EIA must include and address the following:
 - 10.1 Terrestrial Biodiversity:
 - Intact Grassland Patches and Key Biodiversity Areas must be identified and considered in the analysis of impacts on terrestrial biodiversity.
 - Where infrastructure is to be developed in CBAs and Intact Grassland Patches, the impact of the loss of CBAs and intact grassland habitat in terms of metapopulation dynamics (ie. how the loss of source areas will impact areas of low quality habitat that cannot support a population of species on its own) must be assessed.
 - The Site Ecological Importance methodology, as per the requirements of the Species Environmental Assessment Guidelines, must be demonstrated to have been applied.
 - The impact of the potential loss of ecological drivers on ecological processes must be analysed ie. fire, which is an important driver for the maintenance of grassland biodiversity.
 - 10.2 Avifauna: DARDLEA supports the supports the avifaunal specialists' recommendations to remove turbines from the "exclusion zones" identified during pre-construction monitoring. However, in the proposed re-assessment of the layout, the Avifaunal Assessment must consider and include the following:

- The Birds and Wind-Energy Best-Practice Guidelines state that the duration of pre-construction monitoring should be extended (beyond 12 months) where there is a high risk of significant impacts on priority species. Sufficient evidence of high risk of significant impact on avifauna on site and within the Project Area of Influence exists to extend minimum pre-construction monitoring requirements to adequately assess impacts and determine appropriate mitigation measures. Where the layout of the proposed wind farm does not avoid all sensitive features, corridors and buffers (e.g. CBAs, intact grasslands patches, KBAs, pans and all waterbodies, and provide shaped buffers for such features), additional monitoring must be undertaken to confirm the full spectrum of prevailing environmental conditions to ensure avoidance of significant impacts.
- Intact grassland patches are important habitat for foraging, and facilitate avifauna breeding and movement. Intact grassland patches must be considered and incorporated in the analysis of impact zones applicable to avifauna.
- Buffers for waterbodies / aquatic features – confirm the rationale in their determination and how their sizes (210m around drainage lines, and 110m around wetland no-go zones) were determined to be sufficient to account for movement of birds through the site, and protection of roosting areas and flight behaviours (approaching and leaving roost sites, foraging sites etc).
- DARDLEA is especially concerned that the site comprises habitat suitable for species with low detection probability, including the Globally Vulnerable Yellow-breasted Pipit, and Endangered Rudd's Lark, and the Critically Endangered Species 23. The precautionary principle must be applied in the undertaking of comprehensive habitat-based assessments in order to robustly delineate flyways and movement corridors for these species.
- Confirmation of compliance with vantage point requirements. Based on our viewshed analysis it appears that only 45-50% of the site is covered vs the required 75%, and that some turbines have been located outside of vantage point visibility.
- DARDLEAs position is that blade painting will be a non-negotiable, compulsory requirement for all authorised wind farms in the province, and Shut Down on Demand (SDoD) would be a compulsory adaptive management requirement. However, since neither of these measures are effective for night flying birds, which have been confirmed on and adjacent to the site, a separate operational impact analysis must be undertaken for "Mortality of priority night flying species due to collisions with the wind turbines".
- The night-flying greater flamingo was confirmed on site, and there is currently no known technology to mitigate for the collision of night flying birds.
- Due to the sensitivity of avifauna using the area, and the presence of pans and wetlands on and adjacent to the site, as well as the presence of night-flying birds, tracking data should be acquired to augment the 2D models used.
- Surveys and tracking should be undertaken to determine the collision risks for nocturnal species.
- A site-specific list of priority avifaunal species for wind farms for this particular region must be developed, which must include all wetland species (noting that the priority species list published by BirdLife South Africa in 2012 does not include most wetland species, and did not include Mpumalanga).
- Appropriate fatality thresholds (turbine collision, as well as power line collision and electrocution) need to be defined and agreed on **within and as part of the EIA process**, which must then be incorporated into the impact analysis.
- It is acknowledged that the Martial Eagle nest turbine no-go buffer is currently being investigated further with detailed modelling and additional survey work, to inform the final no-go area during the EIA phase. Latest available information from literature, specialists and BirdLife must be consulted during this exercise. This must include BirdLife's and EWT's recommendations of 5-6km buffer for Martial Eagle nests, noting

however that Martial Eagles are known to have large breeding territories, and any buffer must be supported by the birds' actual use of an area.

10.3 Bat Assessment

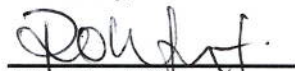
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- Separate mitigation measures need to be considered in more detail for high-flying bat species (i.e. Egyptian Free-Tailed bat) and lower-level bat species (e.g. Cape Serotine) in the EIA, i.e. different turbine design, blade / rotor sweep size and height, should be investigated for the specific wind turbines located adjacent to areas where these different bat species occur.

10.4 Microclimate Impact Assessment

- Research has demonstrated that turbines can affect the conditions required for mist formation, and that wind farms warm the land surface, especially at night. Altered microclimates will affect the conditions that support the highveld grasslands. Biodiversity and agricultural potential will potentially be affected. A Microclimate Impact Assessment must be undertaken, which must inform the terrestrial biodiversity study as well as the Agricultural Assessment. The impact of this WEF on the microclimate, in particular the potential impact on precipitation, soil moisture, soil temperature, etc. therefore also needs to be assessed as part of the EIA.
11. All relevant stakeholders, including but not limited to, BirdLife SA, Mpumalanga Tourism and Parks Agency (MTPA), Gert Sibande District Municipality (GSDM), Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development (DALRRD), Department of Public Works, Roads and Transport (DPWRT), and Msukaligwa Local Municipality must be must be consulted and provided with an opportunity of at least 30 days to submit comments.
 12. The public participation process must be demonstrated to have been conducted in accordance with Regulations 39 – 44 of the EIA Regulations, 2014 (as amended).
 13. Please provide this Department with an opportunity to review and engage with your response to these comments prior to the submission the final scoping report.
 14. We are concerned that the proposed development site is not suitable for the development of wind energy infrastructure, and do not support the layout in its current form.

Please do not hesitate to contact this office if there are any enquiries.

Sincerely,



MS. R. LUYT

DIRECTOR: ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT MANAGEMENT

DATE: 17/09/2024

Cc: Mr L Barnes Lloyd@mulilo.com
Dr Mervyn Lotter mervyn.lotter@mtpa.co.za
Mr Frans Krige frans.krige@mtpa.co.za
Ms S Dlomo sdlomo@dffe.gov.za
Ms O Letlalo oletlalo@dffe.gov.za
Ms M Morudu memorudu@dffe.gov.za
Mr C Agenbach cagenbach@dffe.gov.za
Mr G Cowden gcowden@mpg.gov.za
Ms S Mbuyane mbuyanesb@mpg.gov.za
Ms T Mogakabe tebogom@gsibande.gov.za

From: [Gail Wheeler](#)
To: [ERM Arcus Amsterdam](#)
Subject: Automatic reply: SR Comments | Emvelo WEF Amsterdam Cluster
Date: Wednesday, 18 September 2024 08:28:11

EXTERNAL MESSAGE

Good day,

Thank you for your email.

Please note that I am currently on site and will not be responding to emails. I will be back in office on Thursday and once I'm back in office, I will reply to your email as soon as possible.

If you have any urgent queries, please contact me on 063 082 9515.

Kind regards
Gail Wheeler

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From: [ERM Arcus Amsterdam](#)
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: SR Comments | Emvelo WEF Amsterdam Cluster
Date: Wednesday, 18 September 2024 08:27:56
Attachments: [image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)

Hi Lloyd,

We have gone through the comments and are happy to meet sometime during the course of today to discuss the way forward. Please would you let us know a suitable time today to meet.

Thank you,



ERM

Sustainability is our business

Lucien Barbeau
Consultant

Cape Town
+27105963488

erm.com

From: Lloyd Barnes <Lloyd@mulilo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, September 17, 2024 2:57 PM
To: ERM Arcus Amsterdam <Erm.arcusamsterdam@erm.com>; Andrew Pearson
[REDACTED]
<Lucien.Barbeau@erm.com>
Cc: Gail Wheeler <Gail@mulilo.com>
Subject: RE: SR Comments | Emvelo WEF Amsterdam Cluster

EXTERNAL MESSAGE

Good day team,

Please advise if we require a meeting to discuss these comments.

Noting that specialist responses will be required.

Please can we mobilise on this asap.

Kind Regards,

Lloyd Barnes
[REDACTED]

www.mulilo.com

21st Floor, Portside, 5 Buitengracht Street, Cape Town, 8001



mulilo

From: Robyn Luyt <rluyt@mpg.gov.za>

Sent: Tuesday, September 17, 2024 2:42 PM

To: Erm.arcusamsterdam@erm.com

Cc: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Subject: SR Comments | Emvelo WEF Amsterdam Cluster

Importance: High

Dear Stephanie,

Please find herewith DARDLEAs comments on the draft Scoping Report for the Emvelo WEF and Grid Connection.

Comments for Sheepmoor and Rochdale to follow.

Kind Regards
Robyn

*Robyn Luyt B.A., B.Sc., B.Sc (Hons) M.Sc., Pr.Sci.Nat. (400327/11), EAPASA (2019/1293)
Director: Environmental Impact Management
Department of Agriculture, Rural Development, Land & Environmental Affairs
Mpumalanga Provincial Government*

[REDACTED]

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From: [Lloyd Barnes](#)
To: [ERM Arcus Amsterdam](#); [Andrew Pearson](#); [Stephen Burton](#); [Lucien Barbeau](#)
Cc: [REDACTED]
Date: Wednesday, 18 September 2024 09:26:30
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)

EXTERNAL MESSAGE

Hi Lucien,

Could we please meet between 2 and 4.

Please will you include the necessary specialists.

Kind Regards,

Lloyd Barnes

[REDACTED]



From: ERM Arcus Amsterdam <ERM.ArcusAmsterdam@erm.com>

Sent: Wednesday, September 18, 2024 8:28 AM

To: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
<Stephen.Burton@erm.com>; Lucien [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Subject: RE: SR Comments | Emvelo WEF Amsterdam Cluster

Hi Lloyd,

We have gone through the comments and are happy to meet sometime during the course of today to discuss the way forward. Please would you let us know a suitable time today to meet.

Thank you,



Sustainability is our business

Lucien Barbeau
Consultant

Cape Town
+27105963488

erm.com

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Sent: Tuesday, September 17, 2024 2:57 PM

To: ERM Arcus Amsterdam <Erm.arcusamsterdam@erm.com>; Andrew Pearson

<Lucien.Barbeau@erm.com>

Cc:

Subject: RE: SR Comments | Emvelo WEF Amsterdam Cluster

EXTERNAL MESSAGE

Good day team,

Please advise if we require a meeting to discuss these comments.

Noting that specialist responses will be required.

Please can we mobilise on this asap.

Kind Regards,

Lloyd Barnes

5 Buitengracht Street, Cape Town, 8001



mulilo

From: Robyn Luyt <rluyt@mpg.gov.za>

Sent: Tuesday, September 17, 2024 2:42 PM

To: Erm.arcusamsterdam@erm.com

Subject: SR Comments | Emvelo WEF Amsterdam Cluster

Importance: High

Dear Stephanie,


Please find herewith DARDLEAs comments on the draft Scoping Report for the Emvelo WEF and Grid Connection.

Comments for Sheepmoor and Rochdale to follow.

Kind Regards

Robyn

*Robyn Luyt B.A., B.Sc., B.Sc (Hons) M.Sc., Pr.Sci.Nat. (400327/11), EAPASA (2019/1293)
Director: Environmental Impact Management
Department of Agriculture, Rural Development, Land & Environmental Affairs
Mpumalanga Provincial Government
Riverside Office Park, Aqua Street (Cycad Building - Block 4)*



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agriculture, rural development,
land & environmental affairs

MPUMALANGA PROVINCE
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LitikoLetekulima, Kutfutukiswa
KwetindzawoTasemakhaya, Temhlaba
Netesimondzawo

Departement van Landbou,
LandelikeOntwikkeling,
GrondenOngewing Sake

umNyangoweZelimo
UkuThuthukiswakweeNdawozemaKhaya,
iNarhaneeNdabazeBhoduluko

Enquiries : R. Luyt / O. Fakude
Telephone : (013) 004 1099
Reference : 1/3/1/16/5G-30

Stephanie Gopaul
ERM Southern Africa (Pty) Ltd
240 Main Road
Rondebosch
7700

Email: ERM.ArcusAmsterdam@erm.com

Dear Madam,

DRAFT SCOPING REPORT: ACTIVITIES ASSOCIATED WITH THE EMVELO WIND ENERGY FACILITY AND ASSOCIATED GRID CONNECTION ON VARIOUS PORTIONS OF THE FARMS SCHIEDAM 274 IT, VAALBANK 285 IT, WAALHOEK 286 IT, KLIPFONTEIN 283 IT, BOSJESSPRUIT 291 IT, ONVERWACHT 273 IT, ZWARTWATER 288 IT, WELTEVREDEN 289 IT, WITPUT AND MOOIPLAATS 290 IT AND CAMDEN POWER STATION 329 IT, ERMELO, MSUKALIGWA LOCAL MUNICIPALITY

The draft scoping report which was submitted by you in respect of the abovementioned application and received by the Department on 27 August 2024 has reference. The Department has considered the content of the report, and has the following comments:

1. The proposed Emvelo Wind Energy Facility and associated grid infrastructure is located in areas identified as CBA Irreplaceable and Optimal (**over 21%**), Intact Grassland Patches (**33%**), Key Biodiversity Areas (**21.4%**), ESAs, Priority Focus Areas, Freshwater Ecosystem Priority Areas and Threatened Ecosystems (Endangered). Furthermore, 43% of the site falls within Grasslands SA020 Important Bird Area (IBA), and close to two other Important Bird Areas.
2. The proposed Emvelo WEF and associated grid connection is located in an area comprising a high diversity of threatened bird species, including the following confirmed on site: African Marsh Harrier (Regionally Endangered); Denham's Bustard (Globally Near Threatened, Regionally Vulnerable); Secretary bird (Globally Endangered, Regionally Vulnerable); White-bellied Bustard (Regionally Vulnerable), Blue Crane (Globally Vulnerable, Regionally Near Threatened); Grey Crowned Crane (Globally and Regionally Endangered); Martial Eagle (Globally and Regionally Endangered); Lanner Falcon (Regionally Vulnerable); Greater Flamingo (Regionally Near Threatened); Southern Bald Ibis (Regionally and Globally Vulnerable); Cape Vulture (Globally Vulnerable and Regionally Endangered); and Yellow-breasted Pipit (Regionally and Globally Vulnerable).
3. Furthermore, intact grassland patches make up a third of the site footprint. DARDLEA does not support the development of WEFs (or any non-compatible land use) within intact grassland patches. The MBSP specifically incorporated climate change into spatial priorities through the prioritisation of the connectivity of remaining intact grassland patches in the province, as they provide habitat for species to thrive, and allow for their dispersal. Intact grasslands are crucial for supporting threatened avifauna.
4. DARDLEA is therefore concerned that the proposed location of the Emvelo Wind Energy Facility and associated grid infrastructure is not compatible with the desired land use. The WEF and all associated infrastructure is not a land use, in accordance with the Mpumalanga Biodiversity Sector Plan (MBSP), that will support the inherent biodiversity values of CBAs.



5. It is acknowledged that the layout plan in the draft Scoping Report is preliminary, and that you have confirmed that it will be revised further during the EIA phase to be informed by buffers and constraints provided by specialists. Such constraints identified to date include the location of turbines in areas identified in the Faunal Assessment as High Sensitivity and High Sensitivity Escarpment, the location of turbines and associated infrastructure in bat sensitive and bat no-go areas, the location of the laydown area in a sensitive aquatic feature, and the location of a number of turbines in avifaunal exclusion zones. It must be noted though that in addition to the exclusion zones identified in the specialist studies, a number of turbines as well as associated substation and laydown areas are still be located in Key Biodiversity Areas and IBAs (i.e. turbines 4, 8, 11, 18, 19, 22, 24, 26, 31, 33 and 35), Intact Grassland Patches (including turbines 1-6 9 and 13), and CBA Irreplaceable areas (12, 14, 16, 17, 29, 32 and 33) and CBA optimal areas (8, 18 and 19), which is very concerning.
6. We are concerned that cumulative impacts will not be dealt with adequately. While the Department of Fisheries, Forestry and the Environment has set a limit of 30km for the assessment of cumulative impacts, this should be viewed as a minimum requirement. Due to the extremely sensitive habitat within which all wind farms in the region have either been authorised or are currently in process, it is our view that all authorised and in-process wind farms in the Gert Sibande District should be included in the assessment of cumulative impacts. Currently, these include Ujekamanzi WEF 1, Ujekamanzi WEF 2, Ummbila Emoyeni WEF (authorised, and within 55km); Phefumula Emoyeni WEF (within 40km); Mukondeleli WEF (authorised), Zephyr WEF (within 30km), as well as Camden I and II, Sheepmoor WEF and Rochdale WEF. The cumulative assessment must, *inter alia*, identify the species and habitats most at risk of cumulative impacts, and identify key uncertainties. The definition of cumulative impacts as per the EIA Regulations is "the past, current and reasonably foreseeable future impact of an activity, considered together with the impact of activities associated with that activity, that in itself may not be significant, but may be significant when added to the existing and reasonably foreseeable impacts eventuating from similar or diverse activities". A comparative assessment of the impacts of this proposed facility, in relation to and in conjunction with, adjacent and surrounding renewable energy facilities should therefore be provided in the EIA Report.
7. Roads must be included in the draft layout plan, and must be incorporated in the impact analysis.
8. The plan of study for EIA must include and address the following:
 - 8.1 Terrestrial Biodiversity:
 - Intact Grassland Patches and Key Biodiversity Areas must be identified and considered in the analysis of impacts on terrestrial biodiversity.
 - Where infrastructure is to be developed in CBAs and Intact Grassland Patches, the impact of the loss of CBAs and intact grassland habitat in terms of metapopulation dynamics (i.e. how the loss of source areas will impact areas of low quality habitat that cannot support a population of species on its own) must be assessed.
 - The Site Ecological Importance methodology, as per the requirements of the Species Environmental Assessment Guidelines, must be demonstrated to have been applied.
 - The impact of the potential loss of ecological drivers on ecological processes must be analysed i.e. fire, which is an important driver for the maintenance of grassland biodiversity.
 - 8.2 Avifauna: DARDLEA supports the avifaunal specialists' recommendations to remove turbines from the "exclusion zones" identified during pre-construction monitoring. However, in the proposed re-assessment of the layout, the Avifaunal Assessment must consider and include the following:
 - The Birds and Wind-Energy Best-Practice Guidelines state that the duration of pre-construction monitoring should be extended (beyond 12 months) where there is a high risk of significant impacts on priority species. Sufficient evidence of high risk of significant impact on avifauna on site and within the Project Area of Influence exists to extend minimum pre-construction monitoring requirements to adequately assess impacts and determine appropriate mitigation measures. Where the layout of the proposed wind farm does not avoid all sensitive features, corridors and buffers (e.g. CBAs, intact grasslands patches, KBAs, pans and all waterbodies, and provide shaped buffers for such features), additional monitoring must be undertaken to

confirm the full spectrum of prevailing environmental conditions to ensure avoidance of significant impacts.

- Intact grassland patches are important habitat for foraging, and facilitate avifauna breeding and movement. Intact grassland patches must be considered and incorporated in the analysis of impact zones applicable to avifauna.
- Buffers for waterbodies / aquatic features – confirm the rationale in their determination and how their sizes (210m around drainage lines, and 110m around wetland no-go zones) were determined to be sufficient to account for movement of birds through the site, and protection of roosting areas and flight behaviours (approaching and leaving roost sites, foraging sites etc).
- DARDLEA is especially concerned that the site comprises habitat suitable for species with low detection probability, including the Globally Vulnerable Yellow-breasted Pipit, and Endangered Rudd's Lark, and the Critically Endangered Species 23. The precautionary principle must be applied in the undertaking of comprehensive habitat-based assessments in order to robustly delineate flyways and movement corridors for these species.
- Confirmation of compliance with vantage point requirements. Based on our viewshed analysis it appears that only 45-50% of the site is covered vs the required 75%, and that some turbines have been located outside of vantage point visibility.
- DARDLEAs position is that blade painting will be a non-negotiable, compulsory requirement for all authorised wind farms in the province, and Shut Down on Demand (SDoD) would be a compulsory adaptive management requirement. However, since neither of these measures are effective for night flying birds, which have been confirmed on and adjacent to the site, a separate operational impact analysis must be undertaken for "Mortality of priority night flying species due to collisions with the wind turbines".
- The night-flying greater flamingo was confirmed on site, and there is currently no known technology to mitigate for the collision of night flying birds.
- Due to the sensitivity of avifauna using the area, and the presence of pans and wetlands on and adjacent to the site, as well as the presence of night-flying birds, tracking data should be acquired to augment the 2D models used.
- Surveys and tracking should be undertaken to determine the collision risks for nocturnal species.
- A site-specific list of priority avifaunal species for wind farms for this particular region must be developed, which must include all wetland species (noting that the priority species list published by BirdLife South Africa in 2012 does not include most wetland species, and did not include Mpumalanga).
- Appropriate fatality thresholds (turbine collision, as well as power line collision and electrocution) need to be defined and agreed on **within and as part of the EIA process**, which must then be incorporated into the impact analysis.
- It is acknowledged that the Martial Eagle nest turbine no-go buffer is currently being investigated further with detailed modelling and additional survey work, to inform the final no-go area during the EIA phase. Latest available information from literature, specialists and BirdLife must be consulted during this exercise. This must include BirdLife's and EWT's recommendations of 5-6km buffer for Martial Eagle nests, noting however that Martial Eagles are known to have large breeding territories, and any buffer must be supported by the birds' actual use of an area.

8.3 Bat Assessment

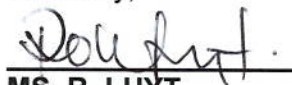
- Appropriate fatality thresholds need to be defined and agreed on within the EIA process and incorporated in the impact analysis.
- Separate mitigation measures need to be considered in more detail for high-flying bat species (i.e. Egyptian Free-Tailed bat) and lower-level bat species (e.g. Cape Serotine) in the EIA, i.e. different turbine design, blade / rotor sweep size and height, should be investigated for the specific wind turbines located adjacent to areas where these different bat species occur.

8.4 Microclimate Impact Assessment

- Research has demonstrated that turbines can affect the conditions required for mist formation, and that wind farms warm the land surface, especially at night. Altered microclimates will affect the conditions that support the highveld grasslands. Biodiversity and agricultural potential will potentially be affected. A Microclimate Impact Assessment must be undertaken, which must inform the terrestrial biodiversity study as well as the Agricultural Assessment. The impact of this WEF on the microclimate, in particular the potential impact on precipitation, soil moisture, soil temperature, etc. therefore also needs to be assessed as part of the EIA.
9. All relevant stakeholders, including but not limited to, BirdLife SA, Mpumalanga Tourism and Parks Agency (MTPA), Gert Sibande District Municipality (GSDM), Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development (DALRRD), Department of Public Works, Roads and Transport (DPWRT), and Msukaligwa Local Municipality must be must be consulted and provided with an opportunity of at least 30 days to submit comments.
 10. The public participation process must be demonstrated to have been conducted in accordance with Regulations 39 – 44 of the EIA Regulations, 2014 (as amended).
 11. Please provide this Department with an opportunity to review and engage with your response to these comments prior to the submission the final scoping report.
 12. We are concerned that the proposed development site is not suitable for the development of wind energy infrastructure, and do not support the layout in its current form.

Please do not hesitate to contact this office if there are any enquiries.

Sincerely,



MS. R. LUYT

DIRECTOR: ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT MANAGEMENT

DATE: 17/09/2024

Cc: Mr L Barnes Lloyd@mulilo.com
Dr Mervyn Lotter mervyn.lotter@mtpa.co.za
Mr Frans Krige frans.krige@mtpa.co.za
Ms S Dlomo sdlomo@dffe.gov.za
Ms O Letlalo oletlalo@dffe.gov.za
Ms M Morudu memorudu@dffe.gov.za
Mr C Agenbach cagenbach@dffe.gov.za
Mr G Cowden gcowden@mpg.gov.za
Ms S Mbuyane mbuyanesb@mpg.gov.za
Ms T Mogakabe tebogom@gsibande.gov.za



agriculture, rural development,
land & environmental affairs

MPUMALANGA PROVINCE
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LitikoLetekulima, Kutfutukiswa
KwetindzawoTasemakhaya, Temhlaba
Netesimondzawo

Departement van Landbou,
LandelikeOntwikkeling,
GrondenOngewing Sake

umNyangoweZelimo
UkuThuthukiswakweeNdawozemaKhaya,
iNarhaneeNdabazeBhoduluko

Enquiries : R. Luyt / C. Kubheka
Telephone : (013) 004 0766
Reference : 1/3/1/16/5G-29

Stephanie Gopaul
ERM Southern Africa (Pty) Ltd
240 Main Road
Rondebosch
7700

Email: ERM.ArcusAmsterdam@erm.com

Dear Madam,

DRAFT SCOPING REPORT: ACTIVITIES ASSOCIATED WITH THE ROCHDALE WIND ENERGY FACILITY AND ASSOCIATED GRID CONNECTION ON PORTIONS 1, 2 & 5 OF THE FARM SCHIMMELHOEK 272 IT, PORTIONS 3, 6, 7, 8 & 13 OF THE FARM ONVERWACHT 273 IT, PORTION 3 OF THE FARM ONVERWACHT 287 IT, PORTIONS 1, 2, 9 & 10 OF THE FARM ZWARTWATER 288 IT, PORTIONS 6, 10, 11 & RE/3 OF THE FARM WELTEVREDEN 289 IT, AND PORTION RE/7 OF THE FARM WITPUNT 267 IT, ERMELO, MSUKALIGWA LOCAL MUNICIPALITY

The draft scoping report which was submitted by you in respect of the abovementioned application and received by the Department on 27 August 2024 has reference. The Department has considered the content of the report, and has the following comments:

1. The proposed Rochdale Wind Energy Facility and associated grid infrastructure is located in areas identified as CBA Irreplaceable and Optimal (**over 66%**), Intact Grassland Patches, Key Biodiversity Areas (**79.7%**), ESAs, Priority Focus Areas, Freshwater Ecosystem Priority Areas and Threatened Ecosystems (Endangered), and the northern, southern, and western borders of the site fall close to three different Important Bird Areas.
2. The proposed development is within a 30km radius of four (4) nature reserves i.e. Ahlers, Langcarel, Josua Moolman, and Laughing Waters Private Nature Reserves. The Chrissiesmeer Protected Environment is **within 5km** of the proposed site.
3. The proposed Rochdale WEF and associated grid connection is located in an area comprising a high diversity of threatened bird species, including the following confirmed on site: African Marsh Harrier (Regionally Endangered), Denham's Bustard (Globally Near Threatened, Regionally Vulnerable), Secretarybird (Globally Endangered, Regionally Vulnerable), White-bellied Bustard (Regionally Vulnerable), Blue Crane (Globally Vulnerable, Regionally Near Threatened), Grey Crowned Crane (Globally and Regionally Endangered), Martial Eagle (Globally and Regionally Endangered), Lanner Falcon (Regionally Vulnerable), Greater Flamingo (Regionally Near Threatened), Southern Bald Ibis (Regionally and Globally Vulnerable), Cape Vulture (Globally Vulnerable and Regionally Endangered), and Yellow-breasted Pipit (Regionally and Globally Vulnerable).
4. DARDLEA is therefore concerned that the location of the Rochdale Wind Energy Facility and associated grid infrastructure is not compatible with the desired land use. The WEF and all associated infrastructure is not a land use, in accordance with the Mpumalanga Biodiversity Sector Plan (MBSP), that will support the inherent biodiversity values of CBAs.
5. Furthermore, **intact grassland patches** are located within the site footprint. DARDLEA does not support the development of WEFs (or any non-compatible land use) within intact grassland

- patches. The MBSP specifically incorporated climate change into spatial priorities through the prioritisation of the connectivity of remaining intact grassland patches in the province, as they provide habitat for species to thrive, and allow for their dispersal. Intact grasslands are crucial for supporting threatened avifauna.
6. It is acknowledged that the layout plan in the draft Scoping Report is preliminary, and that you have confirmed that it will be revised further during the EIA phase to be informed by buffers and constraints provided by specialists. Such constraints identified in the specialist reports to date include: the laydown areas in bat sensitive areas; the location of the substation and O&M buildings in sensitive aquatic areas; and the location of all but 3 turbines in avifaunal exclusion zones. It must be noted though, that these 3 turbines are all still located in **Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs)**, and one of them (WTG5) is in a CBA Irreplaceable area. Furthermore, all associated infrastructure (laydown areas, transmission lines, substation) is located in KBAs, and the laydown areas are in CBA Irreplaceable areas. The location of turbines and associated infrastructure in KBAs and CBA Irreplaceable areas is not supported.
 7. We are concerned that cumulative impacts will not be dealt with adequately. While the Department of Fisheries, Forestry and the Environment has set a limit of 30km for the assessment of cumulative impacts, this should be viewed as a minimum requirement. Due to the extremely sensitive habitat within which all wind farms in the region have either been authorised or are currently in process, it is our view that all authorised and in-process wind farms in the Gert Sibande District should be included in the assessment of cumulative impacts. Currently these include Ujekamanzi WEF 1, Ujekamanzi WEF 2, Ummbila Emoyeni WEF (authorised, and within 55km); Phefumula Emoyeni WEF (within 40km); Zephyr WEF (within 30km), Mukondeleli WEF (authorised) as well as Camden I and II, Sheepmoor WEF and Emvelo WEF. The cumulative assessment must, *inter alia*, identify the species and habitats most at risk of cumulative impacts, and identify key uncertainties. The definition of cumulative impacts as per the EIA Regulations is "the past, current and reasonably foreseeable future impact of an activity, considered together with the impact of activities associated with that activity, that in itself may not be significant, but may be significant when added to the existing and reasonably foreseeable impacts eventuating from similar or diverse activities". A comparative assessment of the impacts of this proposed facility, in relation to and in conjunction with, adjacent and surrounding renewable energy facilities should therefore be provided in the EIA Report.
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 9. The plan of study for EIA must include and address the following:
 - 9.1 Terrestrial Biodiversity:
 - Intact Grassland Patches and Key Biodiversity Areas must be identified and considered in the analysis of impacts on terrestrial biodiversity.
 - Where infrastructure is to be developed in CBAs and Intact Grassland Patches, the impact of the loss of CBAs and intact grassland habitat in terms of metapopulation dynamics (ie. how the loss of source areas will impact areas of low quality habitat that cannot support a population of species on its own) must be assessed.
 - The Site Ecological Importance methodology, as per the requirements of the Species Environmental Assessment Guidelines, must be demonstrated to have been applied.
 - The impact of the potential loss of ecological drivers on ecological processes must be analysed ie. fire, which is an important driver for the maintenance of grassland biodiversity.
 - 9.2 Avifauna: DARDLEA supports the avifaunal specialists' recommendations to remove turbines from the "exclusion zones" identified during pre-construction monitoring. However, in the proposed re-assessment of the layout, the Avifaunal Assessment must consider and include the following:
 - The Birds and Wind-Energy Best-Practice Guidelines state that the duration of pre-construction monitoring should be extended (beyond 12 months) where there is a high risk of significant impacts on priority species. Sufficient evidence of high risk of significant impact on avifauna on site and within the Project Area of Influence exists to extend minimum pre-construction monitoring requirements to adequately assess impacts and determine appropriate mitigation measures. Where the layout of the proposed wind farm does not avoid all sensitive features, corridors and buffers (e.g. CBAs, intact grasslands patches, KBAs, pans and all waterbodies, and provide

shaped buffers for such features), additional monitoring must be undertaken to confirm the full spectrum of prevailing environmental conditions to ensure avoidance of significant impacts.

- Intact grassland patches are important habitat for foraging, and facilitate avifauna breeding and movement. Intact grassland patches must be considered and incorporated in the analysis of impact zones applicable to avifauna.
- Buffers for waterbodies / aquatic features – confirm the rationale in their determination and how their sizes (210m around drainage lines, and 110m around wetland no-go zones) were determined to be sufficient to account for movement of birds through the site, and protection of roosting areas and flight behaviours (approaching and leaving roost sites, foraging sites etc).
- DARDLEA is especially concerned that the site comprises habitat suitable for species with low detection probability, including the Globally Vulnerable Yellow-breasted Pipit, and Endangered Rudd's Lark, and the Critically Endangered Species 23. The precautionary principle must be applied in the undertaking of comprehensive habitat-based assessments in order to robustly delineate flyways and movement corridors for these species.
- Confirmation of compliance with vantage point requirements. Based on our viewshed analysis it appears that only 45-50% of the site is covered vs the required 75%, and that some turbines have been located outside of vantage point visibility.
- DARDLEAs position is that blade painting will be a non-negotiable, compulsory requirement for all authorised wind farms in the province, and Shut Down on Demand (SDoD) would be a compulsory adaptive management requirement. However, since neither of these measures are effective for night flying birds, which have been confirmed on and adjacent to the site, a separate operational impact analysis must be undertaken for "Mortality of priority night flying species due to collisions with the wind turbines".
- The night-flying greater flamingo was confirmed on site, and there is currently no known technology to mitigate for the collision of night flying birds.
- Due to the sensitivity of avifauna using the area, and the presence of pans and wetlands on and adjacent to the site, as well as the presence of night-flying birds, tracking data should be acquired to augment the 2D models used.
- Surveys and tracking should be undertaken to determine the collision risks for nocturnal species.
- A site-specific list of priority avifaunal species for wind farms for this particular region must be developed, which must include all wetland species (noting that the priority species list published by BirdLife South Africa in 2012 does not include most wetland species, and did not include Mpumalanga).
- Appropriate fatality thresholds (turbine collision, as well as power line collision and electrocution) need to be defined and agreed on **within and as part of the EIA process**, which must then be incorporated into the impact analysis.
- It is acknowledged that the Martial Eagle nest turbine no-go buffer is currently being investigated further with detailed modelling and additional survey work, to inform the final no-go area during the EIA phase. Latest available information from literature, specialists and BirdLife must be consulted during this exercise. This must include BirdLife's and EWT's recommendations of 5-6km buffer for Martial Eagle nests, noting however that Martial Eagles are known to have large breeding territories, and any buffer must be supported by the birds' actual use of an area.

9.3 Bat Assessment

- Appropriate fatality thresholds need to be defined and agreed on within the EIA process and incorporated in the impact analysis.
- Separate mitigation measures need to be considered in more detail for high-flying bat species (i.e. Egyptian Free-Tailed bat) and lower-level bat species (e.g. Cape Serotine) in the EIA, i.e. different turbine design, blade / rotor sweep size and height, should be investigated for the specific wind turbines located adjacent to areas where these different bat species occur.

9.4 Microclimate Impact Assessment

- Research has demonstrated that turbines can affect the conditions required for mist formation, and that wind farms warm the land surface, especially at night. Altered microclimates will affect the conditions that support the highveld grasslands. Biodiversity and agricultural potential will potentially be affected. A Microclimate Impact Assessment must be undertaken, which must inform the terrestrial biodiversity study as well as the Agricultural Assessment. The impact of this WEF on the microclimate, in particular the potential impact on precipitation, soil moisture, soil temperature, etc. therefore also needs to be assessed as part of the EIA.
10. All relevant stakeholders, including but not limited to, BirdLife SA, Mpumalanga Tourism and Parks Agency (MTPA), Gert Sibande District Municipality (GSDM), Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development (DALRRD), Department of Public Works, Roads and Transport (DPWRT), and Msukaligwa Local Municipality must be must be consulted and provided with an opportunity of at least 30 days to submit comments.
 11. The public participation process must be demonstrated to have been conducted in accordance with Regulations 39 – 44 of the EIA Regulations, 2014 (as amended).
 12. Please provide this Department with an opportunity to review and engage with your response to these comments prior to the submission the final scoping report.
 13. We are concerned that the proposed development site is not suitable for the development of wind energy infrastructure, and do not support the layout in its current form.

Please do not hesitate to contact this office if there are any enquiries.

Sincerely,



MS. R. LUYT

DIRECTOR: ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT MANAGEMENT

DATE: 17/09/2024.

Cc: Mr L Barnes Lloyd@mulilo.com
Dr Mervyn Lotter mervyn.lotter@mtpa.co.za
Mr Frans Krige frans.krige@mtpa.co.za
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LitikoLetekulima, Kutfutukiswa
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Departement van Landbou,
LandelikeOntwikkeling,
GrondenOngewing Sake

umNyangoweZelimo
UkuThuthukiswakweeNdawozemaKhaya,
iNarhaneeNdabazeBhoduluko

Enquiries : R. Luyt / S. Mbuyane
Telephone : 076 870 5543
Reference : 1/3/1/16/5G-28

Ms. Stephanie Gopaul
ERM Southern Africa (Pty) Ltd
240 Main Road
Rondebosch
7700

Email: ERM.ArcusAmsterdam@erm.com

Dear Madam,

DRAFT SCOPING REPORT: ACTIVITIES ASSOCIATED WITH THE SHEEPMOOR WIND ENERGY FACILITY AND ASSOCIATED GRID CONNECTION ON VARIOUS PORTIONS OF THE FARMS ONVERWACHT 273 IT, ONVERWACHT 287 IT, WAAIHOEK 286 IT, WINDHOEK 291 IT, ZWARTWATER 288 IT, WELTERVREDEN 289 IT, WELTERVREDEN 290 IT, MOOIPLAATS 290 IT, WITPUNT 267 IT AND CAMDEN POWER STATION 329 IT, ERMELO, MSUKALIGWA LOCAL MUNICIPALITY

The draft scoping report which was submitted by you in respect of the abovementioned application and received by the Department on 27 August 2024 has reference. The Department has considered the content of the report, and has the following comments:

1. The proposed Sheepmoor Wind Energy Facility and associated grid infrastructure is located in areas identified as CBA Irreplaceable and Optimal (**over 28%**), Intact Grassland Patches (**36%**), Key Biodiversity Areas (**9.3%**), ESAs, Priority Focus Areas, Freshwater Ecosystem Priority Areas and Threatened Ecosystems (Endangered). Furthermore, 84% of the site falls within Grasslands SA020, Important Bird Area (IBA), and close to two other Important Bird Areas.
2. The proposed Sheepmoor WEF and associated grid connection is located in an area comprising a high diversity of threatened bird species, including the following confirmed on site: African Marsh Harrier (Regionally Endangered); Denham's Bustard (Globally Near Threatened, Regionally Vulnerable); Secretarybird (Globally Endangered, Regionally Vulnerable); White-bellied Bustard (Regionally Vulnerable), Blue Crane (Globally Vulnerable, Regionally Near Threatened); Grey Crowned Crane (Globally and Regionally Endangered); Martial Eagle (Globally and Regionally Endangered); Lanner Falcon (Regionally Vulnerable); Greater Flamingo (Regionally Near Threatened); Southern Bald Ibis (Regionally and Globally Vulnerable); Cape Vulture (Globally Vulnerable and Regionally Endangered); and Yellow-breasted Pipit (Regionally and Globally Vulnerable).
4. Furthermore, **intact grassland patches** make up **36%** of the site footprint. DARDLEA does not support the development of WEFs (or any non-compatible land use) within intact grassland patches. The MBSP specifically incorporated climate change into spatial priorities through the prioritisation of the connectivity of remaining intact grassland patches in the province, as they provide habitat for species to thrive, and allow for their dispersal. Intact grasslands are crucial for supporting threatened avifauna.

5. The proposed Sheepmoor WEF development is within a 10km-30km radius of three protected private nature reserves (Ahlers, Langcarel and Josua Moolman), and the Chrissiesmeer Protected Environment is within 10km of the proposed site.
6. DARDLEA is therefore concerned that the proposed location of the Sheepmoor Wind Energy Facility and associated grid infrastructure is not compatible with the desired land use. The WEF and all associated infrastructure is not a land use, in accordance with the Mpumalanga Biodiversity Sector Plan (MBSP), that will support the inherent biodiversity values of CBAs.
7. It is acknowledged that the layout plan in the draft Scoping Report is preliminary, and that you have confirmed that it will be revised further during the EIA phase to be informed by buffers and constraints provided by specialists. Such constraints identified in the specialist reports to date include: the location of laydown areas, O&M Buildings and a substation in avian exclusion zones; the location of the substation and O&M Buildings in a sensitive aquatic area; the location of infrastructure within areas of High faunal sensitivity; the location of the Laydown Area, O&M buildings and the Alternative substation within in no-go bat areas; and the location of all but 3 turbines in avifaunal exclusion zones. It must be noted also that the substation, laydown area, and at least 13 turbines are located in intact grassland patches, and all but 6 turbines are located in an IBA, which is very concerning.
8. We are concerned that cumulative impacts will not be dealt with adequately. While the Department of Fisheries, Forestry and the Environment has set a limit of 30km for the assessment of cumulative impacts, this should be viewed as a minimum requirement. Due to the extremely sensitive habitat within which all wind farms in the region have either been authorised or are currently in process, it is our view that all authorised and in-process wind farms in the Gert Sibande District should be included in the assessment of cumulative impacts. These include Ujekamanzi WEF 1, Ujekamanzi WEF 2, Ummbila Emoyeni WEF (authorised, and within 55km); Phefumula Emoyeni WEF (within 40km); Zephyr WEF (within 30km), as well as Camden I and II, Emvelo WEF and Rochdale WEF. The cumulative assessment must, *inter alia*, identify the species and habitats most at risk of cumulative impacts, and identify key uncertainties. The definition of cumulative impacts as per the EIA Regulations is "the past, current and reasonably foreseeable future impact of an activity, considered together with the impact of activities associated with that activity, that in itself may not be significant, but may be significant when added to the existing and reasonably foreseeable impacts eventuating from similar or diverse activities". A comparative assessment of the impacts of this proposed facility, in relation to and in conjunction with, adjacent and surrounding renewable energy facilities should therefore be provided in the EIA Report.
9. Roads to be developed must be included in the draft layout plan, and must be incorporated in the impact analysis.
10. The plan of study for EIA must include and address the following:
 - 10.1 Terrestrial Biodiversity:
 - Intact Grassland Patches and Key Biodiversity Areas must be identified and considered in the analysis of impacts on terrestrial biodiversity.
 - Where infrastructure is to be developed in CBAs and Intact Grassland Patches, the impact of the loss of CBAs and intact grassland habitat in terms of metapopulation dynamics (ie. how the loss of source areas will impact areas of low quality habitat that cannot support a population of species on its own) must be assessed.
 - The Site Ecological Importance methodology, as per the requirements of the Species Environmental Assessment Guidelines, must be demonstrated to have been applied.
 - The impact of the potential loss of ecological drivers on ecological processes must be analysed ie. fire, which is an important driver for the maintenance of grassland biodiversity.
 - 10.2 Avifauna: DARDLEA supports the supports the avifaunal specialists' recommendations to remove turbines from the "exclusion zones" identified during pre-construction monitoring. However, in the proposed re-assessment of the layout, the Avifaunal Assessment must consider and include the following:

- The Birds and Wind-Energy Best-Practice Guidelines state that the duration of pre-construction monitoring should be extended (beyond 12 months) where there is a high risk of significant impacts on priority species. Sufficient evidence of high risk of significant impact on avifauna on site and within the Project Area of Influence exists to extend minimum pre-construction monitoring requirements to adequately assess impacts and determine appropriate mitigation measures. Where the layout of the proposed wind farm does not avoid all sensitive features, corridors and buffers (e.g. CBAs, intact grasslands patches, KBAs, pans and all waterbodies, and provide shaped buffers for such features), additional monitoring must be undertaken to confirm the full spectrum of prevailing environmental conditions to ensure avoidance of significant impacts.
- Intact grassland patches are important habitat for foraging, and facilitate avifauna breeding and movement. Intact grassland patches must be considered and incorporated in the analysis of impact zones applicable to avifauna.
- Buffers for waterbodies / aquatic features – confirm the rationale in their determination and how their sizes (210m around drainage lines, and 110m around wetland no-go zones) were determined to be sufficient to account for movement of birds through the site, and protection of roosting areas and flight behaviours (approaching and leaving roost sites, foraging sites etc).
- DARDLEA is especially concerned that the site comprises habitat suitable for species with low detection probability, including the Globally Vulnerable Yellow-breasted Pipit, and Endangered Rudd's Lark, and the Critically Endangered Species 23. The precautionary principle must be applied in the undertaking of comprehensive habitat-based assessments in order to robustly delineate flyways and movement corridors for these species.
- Confirmation of compliance with vantage point requirements. Based on our viewshed analysis it appears that only 45-50% of the site is covered vs the required 75%, and that some turbines have been located outside of vantage point visibility.
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- Appropriate fatality thresholds (turbine collision, as well as power line collision and electrocution) need to be defined and agreed on **within and as part of the EIA process**, which must then be incorporated into the impact analysis.
- It is acknowledged that the Martial Eagle nest turbine no-go buffer is currently being investigated further with detailed modelling and additional survey work, to inform the final no-go area during the EIA phase. Latest available information from literature, specialists and BirdLife must be consulted during this exercise. This must include BirdLife's and EWT's recommendations of 5-6km buffer for Martial Eagle nests, noting

however that Martial Eagles are known to have large breeding territories, and any buffer must be supported by the birds' actual use of an area.

10.3 Bat Assessment

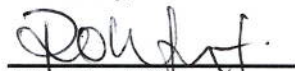
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11. All relevant stakeholders, including but not limited to, BirdLife SA, Mpumalanga Tourism and Parks Agency (MTPA), Gert Sibande District Municipality (GSDM), Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development (DALRRD), Department of Public Works, Roads and Transport (DPWRT), and Msukaligwa Local Municipality must be must be consulted and provided with an opportunity of at least 30 days to submit comments.
 12. The public participation process must be demonstrated to have been conducted in accordance with Regulations 39 – 44 of the EIA Regulations, 2014 (as amended).
 13. Please provide this Department with an opportunity to review and engage with your response to these comments prior to the submission the final scoping report.
 14. We are concerned that the proposed development site is not suitable for the development of wind energy infrastructure, and do not support the layout in its current form.

Please do not hesitate to contact this office if there are any enquiries.

Sincerely,



MS. R. LUYT

DIRECTOR: ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT MANAGEMENT

DATE: 17/09/2024

Cc: Mr L Barnes Lloyd@mulilo.com
Dr Mervyn Lotter mervyn.lotter@mtpa.co.za
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Kind Regards



ERM

Sustainability is our business

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From: [Jamie Pote](#)
To: [ERM Arcus Amsterdam](#)
Cc: [Stephen Burton](#)
Subject: Re: Terrestrial Biodiversity + Faunal Specialist - Mulilo Amsterdam CA Commenting Responses required
Date: Wednesday, 18 September 2024 11:09:57
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

EXTERNAL MESSAGE

Hi Lucien

Unfortunately I'm on the road today mostly off network and on a critical timeline so will not be available for 2pm. It was lucky I even received this email, I must have snuck past some network signal.

I'm also on a field trip in remote areas for almost the rest of the month, so looking at and addressing comments is likely to be a challenge before the 23rd.

I had actually archived this project as I queried a few times over the last few months without response, so had assumed it had been parked indefinitely.

It seems characteristic of Mulilo to park things for months or years and then suddenly it pops up for immediate response and I cannot in good conscience now tell other clients that have well in advance planned timelines, that they must now wait because Mulilo wants a response immediately.

My apologies for being blunt about this but it happens every time and while I try and accommodate everyone including when urgent matters arise if one is going to follow this sort of approach sooner or later there is going to be a scheduling conflict.

In addition because it is parked so long I have to review all the reports to refresh myself of the specifics, which was not included in my budget or timeline.

Thank you and kind regards
Jamie

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

From: ERM Arcus Amsterdam <ERM.ArcusAmsterdam@erm.com>

Sent: Wednesday, September 18, 2024 10:44:39 AM

[Redacted]

Subject: Terrestrial Biodiversity + Faunal Specialist - Mulilo Amsterdam CA Commenting Responses required

From: [Celia de Waal](#)
To: [ERM Arcus Amsterdam](#)
Cc: [REDACTED]

Date: Wednesday, 18 September 2024 14:36:50
Attachments: [LUA 24-3967 MTPA objection DSR SHEEPMOOR WEF ERM.pdf](#)

[REDACTED] Scoping Report for the proposed development of the Sheepmoor Wind Energy facility.

You don't often get email from celia@mtpa.co.za. [Learn why this is important](#)

WARNING: The sender of this email could not be validated and may not match the person in the "From" field.

EXTERNAL MESSAGE

Dear Ms. Gopaul

Kindly receive the attached comments from the MTPA regarding a Draft EIA Report for the proposed development of the Sheepmoor Wind Energy facility (WEF) with 23 wind turbines and Auxiliary infrastructure.

Your reference number: **Project 0684401** (DFFE: 14/12/16/3/3/2/2593)

Our EIA registration/reference number is **LUA 24/3967** (kindly use this number in any further correspondence to us regarding this project)

Kind regards

Celia de Waal



Cecilia de Waal
Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Data Capturer
Land Use Advisory (LUA)
Biodiversity Conservation: Scientific Services



OFFICE OF BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION

Ref: LUA 24/3967
Unit: LUA/SS
Inquiries: F.N. Krige & F.N. Lekaka
Email: frans@mtpa.co.za
Tel: 013- 0650286

Ms. Stephanie Gopaul

ERM Southern Africa (Pty) Ltd
240 Main Road
Great Westerford Building, 1st Floor
Rondebosch
CAPE TOWN
7700

Email: ERM.ArcusAmsterdam@erm.com

Dear Ms., Gopaul

SUBJECT: THE MTPA COMMENTS ON THE DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL SCOPING REPORT FOR THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF THE SHEEPMOOR WIND ENERGY FACILITY (WEF) (23 WIND TURBINES) AND AUXILIARY INFRASTRUCTURE (1 ON-SITE SUBSTATION WITH A CAPACITY OF 132Kv, AND 1 OVER-HEAD POWERLINE OF APPROXIMATELY 22.3 KM) ON SEVERAL PORTIONS OF FARMS COVERING AN AREA OF 5 918 HA EAST OF ERMELO FOR SHEEPMOOR WIND ENERGY FACILITY (PTY) LTD, MSUKALIGWA LOCAL MUNICIPALITY, MPUMALANGA PROVINCE. DFFE REFERENCE NUMBER TO BE PROVIDED.

With reference to your correspondence reference **Project no: 0684401** of August 2024, herewith the MTPA comments.

The application has been assessed by using the following tools: Mpumalanga Biodiversity Sector Plan (2014 as updated 2022) land use guidelines, the DFFE web-based sensitivity screening tool, Environmental legislation NEMA and EIA regulations 2014 as amended, Department of Water and Sanitation and Water Research Commission Guidelines on wetlands, the South African Heritage Resources Act and knowledge to assess Development Applications.

The sensitivity of the area, in which the prospecting activity is proposed and is likely to occur was assessed according to the Mpumalanga Biodiversity Sector plan (MBSP; MTPA, 2014). The sensitivity is assessed in terms of terrestrial and freshwater assessments. In the MBSP, sensitivity areas are identified in terms of *Critical Biodiversity Areas* (CBAs) and *Ecological Support Areas* (ESAs). CBAs and ESAs are deemed to be

necessary to ensure the protection of biodiversity, environmental sustainability and sustainable living and are to remain unaltered.

Comments with regards to the terms of reference for studies needed:

With reference to the assessment of your Draft Scoping Report the MTPA is concerned about the following issues raised with regards to the terms of reference for specialist studies to be done.

1. The alternative sites, although less sensitive to the preferred site, are still located in sensitive areas.
2. Ground truthing and on-site studying of areas regarded as degraded or sensitive and suitable for potential wind turbines must be done considering that cultivated/vegetated lands might be feeding areas for many Species of Conservation Concern. The Site sensitivity verification report must include the feeding areas for SCC.
3. The avoidance of large areas of critical biodiversity terrestrial and freshwater sensitivity areas and the preliminary project layout overlain area is a large concern especially in the southeastern part of the study area.
4. The threat of this WEF to the Important Bird Area and the status of globally threatened bird species such as the Southern Bald Ibis and Secretary bird is of concern. The onsite avifaunal study must include local knowledge of the distribution of large birds especially the Blue crane that is a local migrant during the wintertime.
5. Included in the MTPA's comments are the following discussion that illustrates the **need and desirability** of this proposal:

Renewable energy applications

- Given the energy needs of the country, significant emphasis is being placed on the need to transition away from coal towards renewable energy. However, the urgency and desire to approve nearly all renewable energy applications needs to be put into perspective considering the incredible investment and proliferation of new renewable energy projects within Mpumalanga.
- The MTPA and DARDLEA are maintaining a database of renewable energy projects, which include those in the pre-application phase. We can confirm that 61 renewable energy projects have now been submitted within Mpumalanga. Just over 50% of these have been approved to date. 18 of these are for Wind Energy Farms, which together make up for over 233 000 ha, and this amount is growing as the province is being inundated with renewable energy applications.
- The explosion of renewable energy applications does require careful consideration as to the likely impacts. There is no shortage of renewable energy projects within the Province and the Province has room to apply its mind and navigate this space carefully. The province has now over 300 000 ha of renewable energy applications, and the many more than are still to be submitted.

Mpumalanga Biodiversity Sector Plan (MBSP), Intact Grassland Patches and Important Bird Areas (IBAs)

- The project **footprint overlaps with a significant amount of Critical Biodiversity Areas (CBA)**. 1 488.9 ha (over 28%) of the footprint area is identified as a CBA. Wind farms are not appropriate land uses within CBA areas. Two proposed wind turbines are placed in CBA Irreplaceable areas.
- The MBSP Terrestrial assessment indicates that the project footprint is within CBA: Irreplaceable, CBA: Optimal, ESA: Local Corridor, ESA: Landscape Corridor, ESA: Species Specific, Other Natural Areas, Moderately Modified, and Heavily Modified Areas.
- The MBSP Freshwater Assessment indicates that the project footprint is within ESA: Strategic Water Source Areas, and has CBA: Aquatic River, ESA: Wetland Clusters, ESA: Wetlands, ESA: Important Sub-catchments, Other Natural and Heavily Modified Areas.
- ESA: Strategic Water Source Area (SWSAs) maintain ecological integrity across the entire sub-catchment, paying particular attention to maintaining water quality, water quantity, and habitat integrity. They represent 10% of the surface area producing approximately 50% of Mpumalanga's water. The proposed WEF activity in the area might compromise the quality and quantity of the surface water resources through siltation.
- The whole of the proposed Sheepmoor wind farm falls within an Important Bird Area (IBA), which underscores the need to consider its implications on metapopulation dynamics and the need to avoid wind farms in "source" areas.
- The project area mainly falls within the Mesic Eastern Highveld Grassland (Endangered). A high proportion of this vegetation type is threatened and is generally poorly protected. Hence, it should be carefully managed for the persistence of biodiversity; large areas of natural habitat are needed for many bird species, plants, and numerous wetlands that the Mesic Highveld Grassland supports.
- The proposed project area has a portion of Wakkerstroom Montane Grassland (Least Concern). A variety of land-uses are supported by this area and the conservation and good management of this area depends on the continued land-uses practices that have been able to support this biodiversity. The importance of sustainable development is crucial to the long-term maintenance of the biodiversity and ecosystem services in this area.
- 2 143.6 ha (36 %) of the proposed wind farm is comprised of intact grassland patches. With only 51% of the grasslands remaining in a natural state, very little intact natural grasslands still occur in Mpumalanga. Three proposed wind turbines are placed in intact grassland patches.
- Intact grassland patches are areas larger than 100ha, with little or no gaps or edge effects. They were then prioritised according to their connectivity importance. These intact grasslands are "source" areas for avifaunal species where birth rates are expected to exceed death rates, and no wind farms should be placed anywhere near these intact grassland patches.
- The identification of actual avifaunal source areas may be difficult, but as these intact grassland patches occur within an Important Bird Area (IBA) where there are several nesting and roosting avifaunal species of conservation concern, it highlights their significance and our confidence in confirming these as "source" areas. The presence of these intact grassland patches, CBAs, and the IBAs, is probably the biggest concern that the MTPA may have about the proposed wind farm.

- 84 % of the proposed study area is Important Bird Area and 9.3% of the proposed study area is a Key Biodiversity Area.
- Wind farms are not to be placed in IBAs or intact grassland areas as these are important areas where avifauna should be allowed to thrive and then disperse to other areas.
- Approval of the project in such a location could have far-reaching consequences for threatened bird species, potentially disrupting vital source areas critical for population sustainability.
- The south of the project area falls within the National Protected Areas Expansion Strategy (NPAES) Focus Area (Moist Escarpment Grasslands). The Chrissiesmeer Protected Environment overlaps the north of the project area and Jericho Dam Nature Reserve overlaps the eastern part of the project area.
- It is imperative to adopt a precautionary approach and prioritize the conservation of these essential habitats.

Avifaunal concerns

- **Thirteen out of the 23 proposed wind turbines are placed within the 5 km buffer of a Martial Eagles' recommended buffer these should be removed.**
- 26% of the proposed wind turbines are not covered by vantage points.
- The presence of priority bird species for wind energy developments were recorded within the footprint area.
- Two Southern Bald Ibis colonies (Vulnerable) occur within footprint area.
- A Secretary bird nest (Endangered) was found within this area.
- Birds are very mobile and with the proposed turbine height and blade lengths, the current proposed buffers seem inadequate.
- This raises particular concern as these birds may continuously collide with the blades of the wind turbines and the continuous loss of several of these long-lived birds every year may have a significant impact on population status.
- The artificial water bodies within the footprint area may be important for flamingos and other water-dependent birds.

Site Sensitivity Verification

- The results of the Site Sensitivity Verification confirmed that:
 - The sensitivity for the Terrestrial biodiversity impact assessment as Very High in grassland and wetland habitat.
 - Aquatic Biodiversity Impact Assessment as Very High Sensitivity
 - Plant Species Assessment as Medium Sensitivity
 - Animal Species Assessment as High Sensitivity
 - Bat Assessment Very High/High Sensitivity
 - Avifaunal Assessment as Very High/High Sensitivity.

Additional concerns

- Not all the infrastructure has been included on the map or addressed in terms of likely impact, in this case, roads.

Recommendations:

- There should be a thorough Oribi census plan in place, and it should be included in the final EIA report as the project area is home to many Oribi antelope. (Red data species dependant on healthy highveld grasslands).
- Species 23 must be accounted for, and a management plan drawn up for it since the project area is a potential site for its occurrence.
- The EWT's recommended 5 km buffer for the Martial Eagle's nest is non-negotiable and should be adhered to throughout the project lifecycle.
- The current identified Avifaunal Sensitivities map of all 'no-go' areas (Figure (I)) indicates little area for available for the wind farm. With more appropriate buffers, more field work, and all the associated infrastructure (such as roads), we cannot see how it would be possible to establish a wind farm within the footprint area.
- Increase buffer zones for endangered bird nesting sites to reflect their wider flight ranges relative to the height of the turbines.
- Consider alternative locations with less ecological sensitivity, especially considering the numerous renewable energy projects already approved in Mpumalanga.

Conclusion:

The proposed Sheepmoor Wind Energy Facility poses a significant threat to a Critical Biodiversity Areas, intact grassland patches, Important Bird areas, and the habitat of numerous threatened bird species. Relying on the information presented to date, and the desktop assessments, **it is in the MTPA's opinion that this project is fatally flawed.** The anticipated impacts on biodiversity, particularly the avifauna, is too great to support this project. More ecological assessments and exploration of alternative locations are crucial before proceeding with this project.

Please do not hesitate to contact this office if there are any inquiries.

Kind Regards



MS. NOMCEBO KUNENE
EXECUTIVE MANAGER BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION
DATE: 18 / 09 / 2024

From: [Stephen Burton](#)
To: [ERM Arcus Amsterdam](#)
Subject: RE: MTPA's comments LUA 24/3967 - Draft EIA Scoping Report for the proposed development of the Sheepmoor Wind Energy facility.
Date: Wednesday, 18 September 2024 15:49:49

Better get these comments out to the specialists as well

Stephen Burton

Principal Consultant: Ecology and Biodiversity Pr. Sci.Nat.
He/Him/His

Ground Floor, Building 27, The
woodlands Office Park, Woodlands [erm.com](#)
Drive, Woodmead, 2148,
Johannesburg, South Africa
T +27 11 798 4300
M +27 83 795 2804

If I am sending this email outside of regular working hours, it is because it suits my schedule, but I don't expect you to read, respond or action it outside of your regular hours.

From: ERM Arcus Amsterdam <ERM.ArcusAmsterdam@erm.com>
Sent: Wednesday, September 18, 2024 3:46 PM
To: Stephen Burton <Stephen.Burton@erm.com>
Subject: FW: MTPA's comments LUA 24/3967 - Draft EIA Scoping Report for the proposed development of the Sheepmoor Wind Energy facility.

Lucien Barbeau
Consultant

Cape Town [erm.com](#)
+27105963488

Sent: Wednesday, September 18, 2024 2:36 PM
To: ERM Arcus Amsterdam <[ERM.ArcusAmsterdam@erm.com](#)>
Cc: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Subject: MTPA's comments LUA 24/3967 - Draft EIA Scoping Report for the proposed development of the Sheepmoor Wind Energy facility.

You don't often get email from celia@mtpa.co.za. [Learn why this is important](#)

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EXTERNAL MESSAGE

Dear Ms. Gopaul

Kindly receive the attached comments from the MTPA regarding a Draft EIA Report for the proposed development of the Sheepmoore Wind Energy facility (WEF) with 23 wind turbines and Auxiliary infrastructure.

Your reference number: **Project 0684401** (DFFE: 14/12/16/3/3/2/2593)

Our EIA registration/reference number is **LUA 24/3967** (kindly use this number in any further correspondence to us regarding this project)

Kind regards

Celia de Waal



Cecilia de Waal

Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Data Capturer

Land Use Advisory (LUA)

Biodiversity Conservation: Scientific Services



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From: [Gavin Anderson](#)
To: [ERM Arcus Amsterdam](#)
Subject: Re: Mulilo Amsterdam WEF Cluster (Sheepmoor, Rochdale and Emvelo)
Date: Wednesday, 18 September 2024 18:40:53
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

EXTERNAL MESSAGE

Hi Lucien

Highly unlikely that I can get comments by then. It is too short notice. If they require more than a sentence and if there are many it will take longer. I have been in the field for 3 weeks and have 3 weeks to go. Will see what I can do.

We still have not been paid that VO. Can you please look into it.

Regards

Gavin

On Wed, 18 Sept 2024 at 11:07, ERM Arcus Amsterdam

<ERM.ArcusAmsterdam@erm.com> wrote:

Hi there.

I hope this email finds you well. Please see attached comments from the CA (DARDLEA/MTPA) pertaining to the Mulilo Amsterdam WEF cluster. Please read through all comments and respond to the comments directed at your speciality.

If responses could please be provided by Monday the 23rd September that would be appreciated.

Thank you,



ERM

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Lucien Barbeau
Consultant

Cape Town
+27105963488

erm.com



--

=====

20 years of Heritage Impact Assessments

=====

UMLANDO: Archaeological Surveys & Heritage Management
PO Box 10153, Meerensee, KwaZulu-Natal 3901



From: [ERM Arcus Amsterdam](#)
To: [Stephen Burton](#); [ERM Arcus Amsterdam](#)
Subject: RE: MTPA's comments LUA 24/3967 - Draft EIA Scoping Report for the proposed development of the Sheepmoor Wind Energy facility.
Date: Thursday, 19 September 2024 06:57:37

Just waiting on Rochdale and Emvelo to come through and I'll send them out as well

Lucien Barbeau
Consultant

Cape Town [erm.com](#)
+27105963488

From: Stephen Burton <Stephen.Burton@erm.com>
Sent: Wednesday, September 18, 2024 3:50 PM
To: ERM Arcus Amsterdam <ERM.ArcusAmsterdam@erm.com>
Subject: RE: MTPA's comments LUA 24/3967 - Draft EIA Scoping Report for the proposed development of the Sheepmoor Wind Energy facility.

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Stephen Burton
Principal Consultant: Ecology and Biodiversity Pr. Sci.Nat.
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Lucien Barbeau
Consultant

Cape Town
+27105963488

erm.com

From: Celia de Waal <celia@mtpa.co.za>
Sent: Wednesday, September 18, 2024 2:36 PM
To: ERM Arcus Amsterdam <ERM.ArcusAmsterdam@erm.com>
Cc: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Subject: MTPA's comments LUA 24/3967 - Draft EIA Scoping Report for the proposed development of the Sheepmoor Wind Energy facility.

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Kind regards

Celia de Waal



Cecilia de Waal

Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Data Capturer
Land Use Advisory (LUA)



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From: [Celia de Waal](#)
To: [ERM Arcus Amsterdam](#)
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: MTPA's comments LUA 24/3967 - Draft EIA Scoping Report for the proposed development of the Sheepmoor Wind Energy facility.
Date: Thursday, 19 September 2024 11:07:20
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

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EXTERNAL MESSAGE

Good morning

Regarding your enquiry below, the following:

- The comments for the Emvelo project (our ref: LUA 24/3966) is currently at the Acting Manager: Scientific Service for review). The signed copy might be released today, which will be send to you as soon as I receive it.
- The commenting scientist is currently still busy commenting on the Rochdale project (LUA 24/3965).

Kind regards

Celia

From: ERM Arcus Amsterdam <ERM.ArcusAmsterdam@erm.com>

Sent: Thursday, 19 September 2024 09:54

To: [REDACTED]
<ERM.ArcusAmsterdam@erm.com>

Cc: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Subject: RE: MTPA's comments LUA 24/3967 - Draft EIA Scoping Report for the proposed development of the Sheepmoor Wind Energy facility.

Hi Celia,

Thank you for providing comment on the Sheepmoor WEF facility. Are you able to please indicate when we can expect comment on the remaining 2 facilities, namely Rochdale and Emvelo.

Kind regards
Lucien



Sustainability is our business

From: Celia de Waal <celia@mtpa.co.za>

Sent: Wednesday, September 18, 2024 2:36 PM

To: ERM Arcus Amsterdam <ERM.ArcusAmsterdam@erm.com>

Cc: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Subject: MTPA's comments LUA 24/3967 - Draft EIA Scoping Report for the proposed development of the Sheepmoor Wind Energy facility.

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Cecilia de Waal

Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Data Capturer

Land Use Advisory (LUA)

Biodiversity Conservation: Scientific Services

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: [ERM Arcus Amsterdam](#)
To: [REDACTED]
Date: Thursday, 19 September 2024 11:15:22
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
RE: MTPA's comments LUA 24/3967 - Draft EIA Scoping Report for the proposed development of the Sheepmoor Wind Energy facility.

Hi Celia,

Thank you for the update,

Regards



ERM

Sustainability is our business

Lucien Barbeau
Consultant

Cape Town
+27105963488

erm.com

From: Celia de Waal <celia@mtpa.co.za>
Sent: Thursday, September 19, 2024 11:07 AM
To: ERM Arcus Amsterdam <ERM.ArcusAmsterdam@erm.com>
Cc: [REDACTED]
<[REDACTED]>
[REDACTED] 24/3967 - Draft EIA Scoping Report for the proposed development of the Sheepmoor Wind Energy facility.

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Sent: Thursday, 19 September 2024 09:54

To: Celia de Waal <celia@mtpa.co.za>; ERM Arcus Amsterdam
<ERM.ArcusAmsterdam@erm.com>

Cc: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Subject: RE: MTPA's comments LUA 24/3967 - Draft EIA Scoping Report for the proposed development of the Sheepmoor Wind Energy facility.

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ERM

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Cc: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Subject: MTPA's comments LUA 24/3967 - Draft EIA Scoping Report for the proposed development of the Sheepmoor Wind Energy facility.

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Kind regards

Celia de Waal



Cecilia de Waal

Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Data Capturer

Land Use Advisory (LUA)

Biodiversity Conservation: Scientific Services



From: [Postnet Ermelo](#)
To: [ERM Arcus Amsterdam](#)
Cc: [REDACTED]
Date: Thursday, 19 September 2024 13:23:10
Attachments: [SKM_C250i24091906550.pdf](#)

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EXTERNAL MESSAGE

AAN: ERM Arcus Amsterdam ERM.ArcusAmsterdam@erm.com

VAN: [REDACTED]

Datum: 18/09/2024

CC : Lucien.barbeau@erm.com

In Sake: SHEEPMOOR, EMVELO AND ROCHDALE WIND ENERGIE
PROJEKTE

Ingesluit vind u Publieke deelname vorm (2 bladsye) en Kommentaar (Bylaag A) (3 bladsye)

BYLAAG A

KOMMENTAAR TOV ROCKDALE, EMVELO EN SHEEPMOOR WINDPLASE

Die volgende probleme word met ontwikkeling van bogemelde windplase voorsien

1. VERSTEURING VAN KLIMAAT EN REËNVAL

Die platorand het 'n unieke reënval patroon waar die oostewind vog in lae inbring en kondenseer as reën en/of presipiteer as mis en dou sodra dit oor die plato in beweeg. Die mis en dou wat op die wyse inkom saam met die ooste wind is krities belangrik en voorkom bestuiwings probleme veral gedurende mid-somer droogtes.

Turbulensie van roterende turbine rotors verhoog vertikale vermenging van hitte en water damp wat meteorologiese kondisies windaf nadelig beïnvloed, ingesluit reënval

Wind turbines veroorsaak verder aansienlike uitdroging van grond deur dit die warmer bolug af grond toe trek om sodoende grond temperature te verhoog.

Turbines verander dus lokale wind patrone wat negatiewe impak op reënval, grondvog en selfs mikro klimaat het met lang termyn gevolge op vrugbaarheid en produktiviteit van landbou grond en grasvelde.

DIE PLASING VAN DIE WINDTURBINES AAN DIE ONDERKANT VAN DIE PLATORAND SAL DUS FATAAL WEES VIR DIE OMGEWING SE KLIMAAT EN PLANTEGROEI WAT OOK MY BOERDERY VOORUITSIGTE OP DIE LANGTERMYN NADELIG SAL BEÏNVOED.

2. VOËL LEWE WORD BEDREIG

Area bestaan uit unieke grasveld wat ideale habitat vir verskeie skaars en bedreigde voël spesies bied. Dit huisves ook groot verkeidenheid klein grasveld spesies wat nie eers hier genoem word nie.

Aantal verskeie bedreigde en / of beskermde spesies wat hier voorkom sluit in :

- **Breekop arende.** Broei paar het vanjaar kuiken suksesvol uitgebroei.
- **Sekretaris voels.** Verskeie ou sowel as aktiewe neste kom in in die gebied. So onlangs as Mei '24 is 'n paar met kuiken by Waaihoek opgemerk.
- **Mahem** kom verspreid oor hele gebied voor wat ook aktief broei. 'n Kuiken word gereeld saam met volwasenes opgemerk.
- **Blou Kraanvoels** is aan die toeneem met tenminste een kuiken wat jaarliks waargeneem is.
- **Visarende** besoek ook gereeld die damme in die gebied.
- **Veldpou** kom voor maar raak tans skaars. Neste in die veld is ook al opgemerk.
- **Kalkoen Ibus** is algemeen met verskeie aktiewe broei kolonies.
- Daar is positiewe tekens dat **Aasvoels** ook na die terug beweeg. Broei kolonies is by Smithfield, nie ver van die area, se kranse aktief.

- Verskeie uil spesie wat miskien nie bedryg is nie maar uitters noodsaaklik is om ekologiese balans te verseker is ook in groot getalle teenwoordig

Al die voëlspepies, asook vlermuise en insekte, is noodsaaklik om balans in die ekologie te behou en staan gevaar om of gedood of te verskuif na ander gebiede a.g.v.

- Noodlottige botsing met turbine lemme
- Habitat versteurings deur verhoogte grond temperature.
- Lugdruk veranderinge voor turbines asook die werwels agter turbines.
- Baie gevoelig vir lae frekwensie elektromagnetiese druk golwe deur windturbines veroorsaak wat nadelig op hul inwerk
- Uitwis van neste en selfs doodskiet daarvan om goedkeuring hindernisse te elimineer soos reeds bewys is met die skiet van 'n breekop arend.

3. DIERELEWE WORD BEDREIG

Die volgende skaars en beskermde soog diere word o.a. hier aangetref

- Oorbietjie
- Bruinhiëna
- Miershoop tier
- Aardwolf

Die diere staan gevaar om weg te beweeg deur habitat vernietiging, vibrasie en geraas deur turbines veroorsaak. Vuil elektrisiteit deur windkrag geproduseer kan deur kables en in die grond beweeg. Die grond stroom het nadelige effek op die produktiwiteit en voortplanting van soogdiere.

4. GERAAS EN VIRTUELE BESOEDLING

Wind turbines produseer klankgolwe (drukgolwe) deur die roterende lemme en word gehoor as gedruis en / of waarneembaar as infraklanke asook elektromagnetiese golwe wat gegenereer word by omskakeling van wind energie na elektrisiteit. Die omskakeling produseer swak kwaliteit krag (dirty electricity and ground current) wat nadelig op gesondheid van mens en dier is. Die skadu flikkering van turbines is ook bydraende faktor tot gesondheids probleme.

Daar is 'n besliste verband tussen die 'ground current' deur turbines geproduseer en kanker. Dit is al gedokumenteer dat leukemia by kinders met 300% toeneem het a.g.v. daarvan.

Bogemelde kan egter nog verskeie ander kliniese gesondheids toestande by die mens aktiveer.

By diere en insekte wat lae frekwensie geluide en vibrasies beter as mens waarneem bestaan groot gevaar dat as gevolg daarvan om uit gebied te beweeg en sodoende heeltemal te verdwyn.

IN DIE LIG VAN DIE FEITE MOET 'N TURBINE EN KABEL VRYE BUFFERSONE VAN MINSTENS 1,5KM VANAF MY EIENDOM SE GRENSDRADE GEHANHAAF WORD.

Die aantal hoe turbines dra by tot virtuele besoedeling van die natuur.

5. INFRASTRUKTUUR

Die verbeterde infrastruktuur sal lei tot toename in beweging en invloei van ongewenste elemente wat misdaad drasties sal verhoog. Veediefstal by my boerdery het gestop sedert ek opgehou het om distrikpad na Sheepmoor te skraap omdat dit moeilik begaanbaar geword het.

Gedurende die konstruksie fase kan arbeids onrus verwag word a.g.v. verwagtinge wat by lokale bevolking geskep word.

Die feit dat geen turbines op my eiendom toegelaat word nie gaan my eiendom nie vrywaar van die negatiewe nuwe effekte van die 3 windplase nie.

DEEGLIKE VERDERE ONDERSOEKE WORD DUS VERSOEK ALVORENS GOEDKEURING DEUR DIE OWERHEID AAN PROJEK VERLEEN WORD

- **LANGTERMYN INVLOED VAN BEPLANDE WINDPLASE OP LANDBOU, KLIMAAT EN REENVAL.**
- **IDENTIFISEERING EN BEWEGINGS VAN BEDREIGDE EN BESKERMDE VOËLSPEIE ASOOK WAAR NESTE VOORKOM, AKTIEWE EN OU NESTE.**
- **IDENTIFISERING VAN DIE SKAARS SOOGDIERE ASOOK HUL BEWEGINGS IN DIE GERBIED.**

Voorsien nadelige langtermyn vooruitsigte vir die landbou en omgewing en kan dus ontwikkeling van windplase nie ONVOORWAARLIK steun nie.

Die uwe



Namens JOSUA MEYER TRUST

From: kirsten@red-cap.co.za
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Sheepmoor, Rochdale and Emvelo WEFs - Registration as I&AP
Date: Thursday, 19 September 2024 16:16:52
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

You don't often get email from kirsten@red-cap.co.za. [Learn why this is important](#)

EXTERNAL MESSAGE

Hi there,

Please could you register myself and colleague Francois le Roex (copied) as I&APs on these projects,

Kind regards



[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

From: [ERM Arcus Amsterdam](#)
To: [REDACTED]
Date: Thursday, 19 September 2024 20:12:47
Attachments: [image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)

Good day,

Thank you for your email, you will now be added as an I&AP to the proposed Sheepmoor, Rochdale and Emvelo WEFs.

Kind Regards



ERM

Sustainability is our business

Lucien Barbeau
Consultant

Cape Town
+27105963488

erm.com

From: kirsten@red-cap.co.za <kirsten@red-cap.co.za>
Sent: Thursday, September 19, 2024 4:17 PM
To: ERM Arcus Amsterdam <ERM.ArcusAmsterdam@erm.com>
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Sheepmoor, Rochdale and Emvelo WEFs - Registration as I&AP

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Kind regards



[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Sheepmoor, Rochdale and Emvelo WEFs - Registration as I&AP
Date: Friday, 20 September 2024 09:55:56
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)

You don't often get email from kirsten@red-cap.co.za. [Learn why this is important](#)

EXTERNAL MESSAGE

Thanks Lucien,

Will you be uploading the FSR onto the website (and notifying I&APs) once it has been submitted to DFFE?

Kind regards
Kirsten

From: ERM Arcus Amsterdam <ERM.ArcusAmsterdam@erm.com>
Sent: Thursday, 19 September 2024 20:13
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Sheepmoor, Rochdale and Emvelo WEFs - Registration as I&AP

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From: [Postnet Ermelo](#)
To: [ERM Arcus Amsterdam](#)
Cc: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] Friday, 20 September 2024 11:18:42
Attachments: [SKM_C250i24092004520.pdf](#)

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EXTERNAL MESSAGE

AAN: ERM Arcus Amsterdam ERM.ArcusAmsterdam@erm.com

VAN: [REDACTED]

Datum: 18/09/2024

CC : Lucien.barbeau@erm.com

In Sake: SHEEPMOOR, EMVELO AND ROCHDALE WIND ENERGIE
PROJEKTE

Ingesluit vind u Publieke deelname vorm (2 bladsye) en Kommentaar (Bylaag A) (3 bladsye)

What's your name?

First Name

JOSUA

Last Name

MEYER

Who do you represent?

Organisation

JOSUA MEYER TRUST

Designation

TRUSTEE

Your Email

[REDACTED]

Your Phone Number

[REDACTED]

Alternative Phone Number

—

Your Address

Street Address

RADS ONDAMENT

Street Address Line 2

RADS WADHOK

City

ERMSRO

State/Province

APUMALANGA

Zip Code

—

Country

RSA

What is your interest in the projects?

PLANS KINVAR

Please visit the ERM website (link below) for more info and access to the reports. Are you able to access the website?

Please copy and paste the link onto a browser (<https://www.erm.com/public-information-sites/proposed-amsterdam-wind-energy-facility-and-auxiliary-infrastructure-cluster-mpumalanga/>)

☐ Yes

☒ No

What are your comments regarding the Rochdale, Emvelo and Sheepmoor WEF Cluster?

UBUKWIS NA BYLAKA A ADWENHET.

3.

Protection of Personal Information (POPI) Act, Act 4 of 2013

Do you consent to your information being published in the public domain, and being used as part of the Public Participation Process?

☒ Yes

☐ No

BYLAAG A

KOMMENTAAR TOV ROCKDALE, EMVELO EN SHEEPMOOR WINDPLASE

Die volgende probleme word met ontwikkeling van bogemelde windplase voorsien

1. VERSTEURING VAN KLIMAAT EN REËNVAL

Die platorand het 'n unieke reënval patroon waar die oostewind vog in lae inbring en kondenseer as reën en/of presipiteer as mis en dou sodra dit oor die plato in beweeg. Die mis en dou wat op die wyse inkom saam met die ooste wind is krities belangrik en voorkom bestuiwings probleme veral gedurende mid-somer droogtes.

Turbulensie van roterende turbine rotors verhoog vertikale vermenging van hitte en water damp wat meteorologiese kondisies windaf nadelig beïnvloed, ingesluit reënval

Wind turbines veroorsaak verder aansienlike uitdroging van grond deur dit die warmer bolug af grond toe trek om sodoende grond temperature te verhoog.

Turbines verander dus lokale wind patrone wat negatiewe impak op reënval, grondvog en selfs mikro klimaat het met lang termyn gevolge op vrugbaarheid en produktiviteit van landbou grond en grasvelde.

DIE PLASING VAN DIE WINDTURBINES AAN DIE ONDERKANT VAN DIE PLATORAND SAL DUS FATAAL WEES VIR DIE OMGEWING SE KLIMAAT EN PLANTEGROEI WAT OOK MY BOERDERY VOORUITSIGTE OP DIE LANGTERMYN NADELIG SAL BEINVLOED.

2. VOËL LEWE WORD BEDREIG

Area bestaan uit unieke grasveld wat ideale habitat vir verskeie skaars en bedreigde voël spesies bied. Dit huisves ook groot verkeidenheid klein grasveld spesies wat nie eers hier genoem word nie.

Aantal verskeie bedreigde en / of beskermde spesies wat hier voorkom sluit in :

- **Breekop arende.** Broei paar het vanjaar kuiken suksesvol uitgebroei.
- **Sekretaris voëls.** Verskeie ou sowel as aktiewe neste kom in in die gebied. So onlangs as Mei '24 is 'n paar met kuiken by Waaihoek opgemerk.
- **Mahem** kom verspreid oor hele gebied voor wat ook aktief broei. 'n Kuiken word gereeld saam met volwasenes opgemerk.
- **Blou Kraanvoëls** is aan die toeneem met tenminste een kuiken wat jaarliks waargeneem is.
- **Visarende** besoek ook gereeld die damme in die gebied.
- **Veldpou** kom voor maar raak tans skaars. Neste in die veld is ook al opgemerk.
- **Kalkoen Ibus** is algemeen met verskeie aktiewe broei kolonies.
- Daar is positiewe tekens dat **Aasvoels** ook na die terug beweeg. Broei kolonies is by Smithfield, nie ver van die area, se kranse aktief.

- Verskeie **uil** spesie wat miskien nie bedryg is nie maar uitters noodsaaklik is om ekologiese balans te verseker is ook in groot getalle teenwoordig

Al die voëlspesies, asook vlermuise en insekte, is noodsaaklik om balans in die ekologie te behou en staan gevaar om of gedood of te verskuif na ander gebiede a.g.v.

- Noodlottige botsing met turbine lemme
- Habitat versteurings deur verhoogte grond temperature.
- Lugdruk veranderinge voor turbines asook die werwels agter turbines.
- Baie gevoelig vir lae frekwensie elektromagnetiese druk golwe deur windturbines veroorsaak wat nadelig op hul inwerk
- Uitwis van neste en selfs doodskiet daarvan om goedkeuring hindernisse te elimineer soos reeds bewys is met die skiet van 'n breekop arend.

3. DIERELEWE WORD BEDREIG

Die volgende skaars en beskermde soog diere word o.a. hier aangetref

- Oorbietjie
- Bruinhiëna
- Miershoop tier
- Aardwolf

Die diere staan gevaar om weg te beweeg deur habitat vernietiging, vibrasie en geraas deur turbines veroorsaak. Vuil elektrisiteit deur windkrag geproduseer kan deur kables en in die grond beweeg. Die grond stroom het nadelige effek op die produktiwiteit en voortplanting van soogdiere.

4. GERAAS EN VIRTUELE BESOEDELING

Wind turbines produseer klankgolwe (druk golwe) deur die roterende lemme en word gehoor as gedruis en / of waarneembaar as infraklanke asook elektromagnetiese golwe wat gegenereer word by omskakeling van wind energie na elektrisiteit. Die omskakeling produseer swak kwaliteit krag (dirty electricity and ground current) wat nadelig op gesondheid van mens en dier is. Die skadu flikkering van turbines is ook bydraende faktor tot gesondheids probleme.

Daar is 'n besliste verband tussen die 'ground current' deur turbines geproduseer en kanker. Dit is al gedokumenteer dat leukemia by kinders met 300% toeneem het a.g.v. daarvan.

Bogemelde kan egter nog verskeie ander kliniese gesondheids toestande by die mens aktiveer.

By diere en insekte wat lae frekwensie geluide en vibrasies beter as mens waarneem bestaan groot gevaar dat as gevolg daarvan om uit gebied te beweeg en sodoende heeltemal te verdwyn.

IN DIE LIG VAN DIE FEITE MOET 'N TURBINE EN KABEL VRYE BUFFERSONE VAN MINSTENS 1,5KM VANAF MY EIENDOM SE GRENSDRADE GEHANHAAF WORD.

Die aantal hoe turbines dra by tot virtuele besoedeling van die natuur.

5. INFRASTRUKTUUR

Die verbeterde infrastruktuur sal lei tot toename in beweging en invloei van ongewenste elemente wat misdaad drasties sal verhoog. Veediefstal by my boerdery het gestop sedert ek opgehou het om distrikpad na Sheepmoor te skraap omdat dit moeilik begaanbaar geword het.

Gedurende die konstruksie fase kan arbeids onrus verwag word a.g.v. verwagtinge wat by lokale bevolking geskep word.

Die feit dat geen turbines op my eiendom toegelaat word nie gaan my eiendom nie vrywaar van die negatiewe nuwe effekte van die 3 windplase nie.

DEEGLIKE VERDERE ONDERSOEKE WORD DUS VERSOEK ALVORENS GOEDKEURING DEUR DIE OWERHEID AAN PROJEK VERLEEN WORD

- **LANGTERMYN INVLOED VAN BEPLANDE WINDPLASE OP LANDBOU, KLIMAAT EN REENVAL.**
- **IDENTIFISEERING EN BEWEGINGS VAN BEDREIGDE EN BESKERMDE VOËLSPEKIE ASOOK WAAR NESTE VOORKOM, AKTIEWE EN OU NESTE.**
- **IDENTIFISERING VAN DIE SKAARS SOOGDIERE ASOOK HUL BEWEGINGS IN DIE GERBIED.**

Voorsien nadelige langtermyn vooruitsigte vir die landbou en omgewing en kan dus ontwikkeling van windplase nie ONVOORWAARLIK steun nie.

Die uwe



Namens JOSUA MEYER TRUST

[illegible]

[REDACTED]

Saturday, September 21, 2024 17:58 UTC

What's your name?

First Name

[REDACTED]

Last Name

[REDACTED]

Who do you represent?

Organisation

Heya Lidri Pty Ltd

Designation

[REDACTED]

Your Email

[REDACTED]

Your Phone Number

[REDACTED]

Alternative Phone Number

[REDACTED]

Your Address

Street Address

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]²

Amsterdam

City

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Zip Code

2375

Country

South Africa

What is your interest in the projects?

Environment

Please visit the ERM website (link below) for more info and access to the reports. Are you able to access the website?

Yes

What are your comments regarding the Rochdale, Emvelo and Sheepmoor WEF Cluster?

It will change the environment forever

Protection of Personal Information (POPI) Act, Act 4 of 2013

No (0)

[REDACTED]

Saturday, September 21, 2024 18:09 UTC

What's your name?

First Name

[REDACTED]

Last Name

[REDACTED]

Who do you represent?

Organisation

Individual

Designation

Affected party

Your Email

[REDACTED]

Your Phone Number

[REDACTED]

Alternative Phone Number

[REDACTED]

Your Address

Street Address

[REDACTED]

City

[REDACTED]

State/Province

[REDACTED]

Zip Code

2375

Country

South Africa

What is your interest in the projects?

Strongly oppose

Please visit the ERM website (link below) for more info and access to the reports. Are you able to access the website?

No

What are your comments regarding the Rochdale, Emvelo and Sheepmoor WEF Cluster?

Negative impact on the environment and bird life.

Protection of Personal Information (POPI) Act, Act 4 of 2013

No (0)

From: [Bathandwa Ncube](#)
To: [Stephanie Gopaul](#); [ERM Arcus Amsterdam](#)
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: 14/12/16/3/3/2/2611; 14/12/16/3/3/2/2612; 14/12/16/3/3/2/2613
Date: Tuesday, 24 September 2024 18:07:46
Attachments: [14-12-16-3-3-2-2611.pdf](#)
[14-12-16-3-3-2-2612.pdf](#)
[14-12-16-3-3-2-2613.pdf](#)

EXTERNAL MESSAGE

Goodday

Please find attached, DSR comments for the proposed Emvelo, Rochdale and Sheepmoor WEF developments.

Kind regards

Ms Bathandwa Ncube (EAPASA)
Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE)
Integrated Environmental Authorisations

[REDACTED]



forestry, fisheries & the environment

Department:
Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Private Bag X447, Pretoria, 0001, Environment House, 473 Steve Biko Road, Pretoria, 0002 Tel: +27 12 399 9000, Fax: +27 86 625 1042

DFFE Reference: 14/12/16/3/3/2/2611

Enquiries: Ms Bathandwa Ncube

Telephone: 012 399 9368 **E-mail:** BNcube@dff.gov.za

Ms Stephanie Gopaul
Environmental Resource Management Southern Africa (Pty) Ltd
Regus, Floor -3
18 The Boulevard
Westway Office Park
WESTVILLE
Durban
7700

Telephone Number : 010 596 3502
Cellphone Number : 065 666 0066
Email Address : stephanie.gopaul@erm.com / erm.arcusamsterdam@erm.com

PER E-MAIL

Dear Ms Gopaul

COMMENTS ON THE DRAFT SCOPING REPORT FOR THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF THE EMVELO WIND ENERGY FACILITY AND AUXILIARY INFRASTRUCTURE, NEAR ERMELO, WITHIN THE MSUKALIGWA LOCAL MUNICIPALITY, MPUMALANGA PROVINCE

The Application for Environmental Authorisation and Draft Scoping Report (SR) dated August 2024 and received by the Department on 22 August 2024, refer.

This letter serves to inform you that the following information must be included to the Final Scoping Report:

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1. Please confirm that the postal code for the EAP's address is correct.
2. The screening tool report attached as Appendix 14 of the application form must be signed by the compiler.
3. Please ensure that all relevant listed activities are applied for, are specific and that it can be linked to the development activity or infrastructure as described in the project description. The onus is on the applicant and the environmental assessment practitioner (EAP) to ensure that all the applicable



Batho pele- putting people first



The processing of personal information by the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment is done lawfully and not excessive to the purpose of processing in compliance with the POPI Act, any codes of conduct issued by the Information Regulator in terms of the POPI Act and / or relevant legislation providing appropriate security safeguards for the processing of personal information of others.

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4. If the activities applied for in the application form differ from those mentioned in the final SR, an amended application form must be submitted with the final SR.
 5. Please take note of GNR 4143, which was gazetted on the 04 December 2023, which requires a letter of consent from Eskom Holdings SOC Ltd if the proposed development is within a specific radius of a main electricity transmission or distribution substation. Should this gazette apply to the proposed development, please ensure the necessary documents are included.

Specialist Assessments

6. Page 4 of the meeting minutes of the pre-application meeting held on 26 April 2023 refers to the applicant undertaking a Geotechnical Assessment; however, this study is not included in the Specialist Plan of Study (PoS). All required specialist studies must be conducted as part of the EIA process. If there are development design constraints, a desktop Geotechnical Assessment must be included as part of the Specialist PoS.
7. The Civil Aviation Theme has a "Medium sensitivity" rating, as per the outcome of the screening tool provided. According to the protocols, a Civil Aviation Compliance Statement must be included in the PoS. Should a compliance statement not be included as part of the PoS, a motivation/explanation for its exclusion, must be provided [including proof of request for comments from the Air Traffic and Navigation Services (ATNS)].
8. You are requested to submit copies of signed Specialist Declaration of Interest forms (witnessed and signed by a Commissioner of Oaths) for all specialist studies conducted. The forms are available on Department's website (please use the Department template).
9. Please note that in terms of Government Notice No. 320 of 20 March 2020 (i.e. "the Protocols"), and Government Notice No. 1150 of 30 October 2020 (i.e. protocols for terrestrial plant and animal species), it is a requirement for specialists to be registered with the South African Council for Natural Scientific Professions (SACNASP) in their respective fields.
10. The Heritage Survey, which has been included as part of this SR, must be submitted to the South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA) for comments, via the South African Heritage Resources Information System (SAHRIS).

Public Participation Process

11. The Public Participation Process must be conducted in terms of Regulation 39, 40 41, 42, 43 & 44 of the EIA Regulations 2014, as amended.
12. The proposed development site is within a Critical Biodiversity Area (CBA) and National Protected Areas Expansion Strategy (NPAES). Comments must be obtained from this Department's Biodiversity Conservation Section. The contact details are as follows:
 - i. Biodiversity Conservation Directorate
Attention: Mr. Seoka Lekota
Email: BCAdmin@dfpe.gov.za
 - ii. Protected Areas Planning and Management Effectiveness Directorate
Attention: Mr. Thivhulawi Nethononda
Email: TNethononda@dfpe.gov.za
13. Please ensure that all issues raised and comments received during the circulation of the draft SR from registered Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) and organs of state which have jurisdiction in respect of the proposed activity are adequately addressed and included in the final SR.

14. Copies of original comments received from I&APs and organs of state, which have jurisdiction in respect of the proposed activity are submitted to the Department with the final SR.
15. Proof of correspondence with the various stakeholders must be included in the final SR. This must indicate that this draft SR has been subjected to 30 days public participation process, stating the start and end date of the PPP. Should you be unable to obtain comments, proof must be submitted to the Department of the attempts that were made to obtain comments.
16. All issues raised and comments received during the circulation of the draft SR from I&APs and organs of state which have jurisdiction in respect of the proposed activity are adequately addressed in the final SR, including comments from this Department, and must be incorporated into the Comments and Response Report (CRR).
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18. Comments from I&APs must not be split and arranged into categories. Comments from each submission must be responded to individually.
19. Please refrain from summarising comments made by I&APs. All comments from I&APs must be copied *verbatim* and responded to clearly. Please note that a response such as “noted” is not regarded as an adequate response to an I&AP’s comments.
20. The attendance register and minutes of any meetings held by the Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP) with Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) and other role players must be included in the final SR.
21. Provide photo evidence of on-site notices, including the names of landmarks and/or GPS coordinates (in degrees, minutes, and seconds) of their placements.
22. Please submit a full page of the newspaper(s) containing the advertisement, ensuring that the information in the advert is legible and that the name of the newspaper and date are visible.

General

You are further reminded to comply with Regulation 21(1) of the NEMA EIA Regulations 2014, as amended, which states that:

“If S&EIR must be applied to an application, the applicant must, within 44 days of receipt of the application by the competent authority, submit to the competent authority a scoping report which has been subjected to a public participation process of at least 30 days and which reflects the incorporation of comments received, including any comments of the competent authority”

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Further note that in terms of Regulation 45 of the EIA Regulations 2014, as amended, this application will lapse if the applicant fails to meet any of the timeframes prescribed in terms of these Regulations, unless an extension has been granted in terms of Regulation 3(7).

You are hereby reminded of Section 24F of the National Environmental Management Act, Act No. 107 of 1998, as amended, that no activity may commence prior to an Environmental Authorisation being granted by the Department.

Yours sincerely



Dr Sabelo Malaza

Chief Director: Integrated Environmental Authorisations

Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment

Signed by: Ms Bathandwa Ncube

Designation: Control Environmental Officer: National Integrated Authorisation

Date: 24/09/2024

cc:	Mr Andrew Pearson	Emvelo Wind Energy Facility (Pty) Ltd	Email: Andrew@mulilo.com
	Mr G.O Xaba	Mpumalanga DARDLEA	Email: goxaba@mpg.gov.za / rluyt@mpg.gov.za / mbuyanesb@mpg.gov.za
	Mr Mervyn Lotter	MTPA	Email: mervyn.lotter@gmail.com
	Ms Mapulane Nkosi	Msukaligwa Local Municipality	Email: complaints@msukaligwa.gov.za

Annexure 1

1. Format for Comments and Response Report:

Date of comment, format of comment name of organisation/I&AP,	Comment	Response from EAP/Applicant/Specialist
27/03/2021 Email Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment: National Infrastructure Projects (Joe Soap)	Please record C&R trail report in this format Please update the contact details of the provincial environmental authority	EAP: (Noted) The C&R trail report has been updated into the desired format, see Appendix K EAP: Details of provincial authority have been updated, see page 16 of the Application form



forestry, fisheries & the environment

Department:
Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Private Bag X447, Pretoria, 0001, Environment House, 473 Steve Biko Road, Pretoria, 0002 Tel: +27 12 399 9000, Fax: +27 86 625 1042

DFFE Reference: 14/12/16/3/3/2/2612

Enquiries: Ms Bathandwa Ncube

Telephone: 012 399 9368 **E-mail:** BNcube@dff.gov.za

Ms Stephanie Gopaul
Environmental Resource Management Southern Africa (Pty) Ltd
Regus, Floor -3
18 The Boulevard
Westway Office Park
WESTVILLE
Durban
7700

Telephone Number : 010 596 3502
Cellphone Number : 065 666 0066
Email Address : stephanie.gopaul@erm.com / erm.arcusamsterdam@erm.com

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Batho pele- putting people first



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Attention: Mr. Thivhulawi Nethononda
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Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment

Signed by: Ms Bathandwa Ncube

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Date: 24/09/2024

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	Mr G.O Xaba	Mpumalanga DARDLEA	Email: goxaba@mpg.gov.za / rluyt@mpg.gov.za / mbuyanesb@mpg.gov.za
	Mr Mervyn Lotter	MTPA	Email: mervyn.lotter@gmail.com
	Ms Mapulane Nkosi	Msukaligwa Local Municipality	Email: complaints@msukaligwa.gov.za

Annexure 1

1. Format for Comments and Response Report:

Date of comment, format of comment name of organisation/I&AP,	Comment	Response from EAP/Applicant/Specialist
27/03/2021 Email Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment: National Infrastructure Projects (Joe Soap)	Please record C&R trail report in this format Please update the contact details of the provincial environmental authority	EAP: (Noted) The C&R trail report has been updated into the desired format, see Appendix K EAP: Details of provincial authority have been updated, see page 16 of the Application form



forestry, fisheries & the environment

Department:
Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Private Bag X447, Pretoria, 0001, Environment House, 473 Steve Biko Road, Pretoria, 0002 Tel: +27 12 399 9000, Fax: +27 86 625 1042

DFFE Reference: 14/12/16/3/3/2/2613

Enquiries: Ms Bathandwa Ncube

Telephone: 012 399 9368 **E-mail:** BNcube@dff.gov.za

Ms Stephanie Gopaul
Environmental Resource Management Southern Africa (Pty) Ltd
Regus, Floor -3
18 The Boulevard
Westway Office Park
WESTVILLE
Durban
7700

Telephone Number : 010 596 3502

Cellphone Number : [REDACTED]

Email Address : stephanie.gopaul@erm.com / erm.arcusamsterdam@erm.com

PER E-MAIL

Dear Ms Gopaul

COMMENTS ON THE DRAFT SCOPING REPORT FOR THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF THE SHEEPMOOR WIND ENERGY FACILITY AND AUXILIARY INFRASTRUCTURE, NEAR ERMELO, WITHIN THE MSUKALIGWA LOCAL MUNICIPALITY, MPUMALANGA PROVINCE

The Application for Environmental Authorisation and Draft Scoping Report (SR) dated August 2024 and received by the Department on 22 August 2024, refer.

This letter serves to inform you that the following information must be included to the Final Scoping Report:

Application form

1. Please confirm that the postal code for the EAP's address is correct.
2. The screening tool report attached as Appendix 14 of the application form must be signed by the compiler.
3. Please ensure that all relevant listed activities are applied for, are specific and that it can be linked to the development activity or infrastructure as described in the project description. The onus is on the applicant and the environmental assessment practitioner (EAP) to ensure that all the applicable



Batho pele- putting people first



The processing of personal information by the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment is done lawfully and not excessive to the purpose of processing in compliance with the POPI Act, any codes of conduct issued by the Information Regulator in terms of the POPI Act and / or relevant legislation providing appropriate security safeguards for the processing of personal information of others.

- listed activities are included in the application form. Failure to do so may result in unnecessary delays in the processing of the application.
4. If the activities applied for in the application form differ from those mentioned in the final SR, an amended application form must be submitted with the final SR.
 5. Please take note of GNR 4143, which was gazetted on the 04 December 2023, which requires a letter of consent from Eskom Holdings SOC Ltd if the proposed development is within a specific radius of a main electricity transmission or distribution substation. Should this gazette apply to the proposed development, please ensure the necessary documents are included.

Specialist Assessments

6. Page 4 of the meeting minutes of the pre-application meeting held on 26 April 2023 refers to the applicant undertaking a Geotechnical Assessment; however, this study is not included in the Specialist Plan of Study (PoS). All required specialist studies must be conducted as part of the EIA process. If there are development design constraints, a desktop Geotechnical Assessment must be included as part of the Specialist PoS.
7. The Civil Aviation Theme has a "Medium sensitivity" rating, as per the outcome of the screening tool provided. According to the protocols, a Civil Aviation Compliance Statement must be included in the PoS. Should a compliance statement not be included as part of the PoS, a motivation/explanation for its exclusion, must be provided [including proof of request for comments from the Air Traffic and Navigation Services (ATNS)].
8. You are requested to submit copies of signed Specialist Declaration of Interest forms (witnessed and signed by a Commissioner of Oaths) for all specialist studies conducted. The forms are available on Department's website (please use the Department template).
9. Please note that in terms of Government Notice No. 320 of 20 March 2020 (i.e. "the Protocols"), and Government Notice No. 1150 of 30 October 2020 (i.e. protocols for terrestrial plant and animal species), it is a requirement for specialists to be registered with the South African Council for Natural Scientific Professions (SACNASP) in their respective fields.
10. The Heritage Survey, which has been included as part of this SR, must be submitted to the South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA) for comments, via the South African Heritage Resources Information System (SAHRIS).

Public Participation Process

11. The Public Participation Process must be conducted in terms of Regulation 39, 40 41, 42, 43 & 44 of the EIA Regulations 2014, as amended.
12. The proposed development site is within a Critical Biodiversity Area (CBA) and National Protected Areas Expansion Strategy (NPAES). Comments must be obtained from this Department's Biodiversity Conservation Section. The contact details are as follows:
 - i. Biodiversity Conservation Directorate
Attention: Mr. Seoka Lekota
Email: BCAdmin@dfre.gov.za
 - ii. Protected Areas Planning and Management Effectiveness Directorate
Attention: Mr. Thivhulawi Nethononda
Email: TNethononda@dfre.gov.za
13. Please ensure that all issues raised and comments received during the circulation of the draft SR from registered Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) and organs of state which have jurisdiction in respect of the proposed activity are adequately addressed and included in the final SR.

14. Copies of original comments received from I&APs and organs of state, which have jurisdiction in respect of the proposed activity are submitted to the Department with the final SR.
15. Proof of correspondence with the various stakeholders must be included in the final SR. This must indicate that this draft SR has been subjected to 30 days public participation process, stating the start and end date of the PPP. Should you be unable to obtain comments, proof must be submitted to the Department of the attempts that were made to obtain comments.
16. All issues raised and comments received during the circulation of the draft SR from I&APs and organs of state which have jurisdiction in respect of the proposed activity are adequately addressed in the final SR, including comments from this Department, and must be incorporated into the Comments and Response Report (CRR).
17. The CRR report must be a separate document from the main report and the format must be in the table format as indicated in *Annexure 1* of this comments letter.
18. Comments from I&APs must not be split and arranged into categories. Comments from each submission must be responded to individually.
19. Please refrain from summarising comments made by I&APs. All comments from I&APs must be copied *verbatim* and responded to clearly. Please note that a response such as “noted” is not regarded as an adequate response to an I&AP’s comments.
20. The attendance register and minutes of any meetings held by the Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP) with Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) and other role players must be included in the final SR.
21. Provide photo evidence of on-site notices, including the names of landmarks and/or GPS coordinates (in degrees, minutes, and seconds) of their placements.
22. Please submit a full page of the newspaper(s) containing the advertisement, ensuring that the information in the advert is legible and that the name of the newspaper and date are visible.

General

You are further reminded to comply with Regulation 21(1) of the NEMA EIA Regulations 2014, as amended, which states that:

“If S&EIR must be applied to an application, the applicant must, within 44 days of receipt of the application by the competent authority, submit to the competent authority a scoping report which has been subjected to a public participation process of at least 30 days and which reflects the incorporation of comments received, including any comments of the competent authority”

You are further reminded that the final SR to be submitted to this Department must comply with all the requirements in terms of the scope of assessment and content of Scoping reports in accordance with Appendix 2 and Regulation 21(1) of the EIA Regulations 2014, as amended.

Further note that in terms of Regulation 45 of the EIA Regulations 2014, as amended, this application will lapse if the applicant fails to meet any of the timeframes prescribed in terms of these Regulations, unless an extension has been granted in terms of Regulation 3(7).

You are hereby reminded of Section 24F of the National Environmental Management Act, Act No. 107 of 1998, as amended, that no activity may commence prior to an Environmental Authorisation being granted by the Department.

Yours sincerely



Dr Sabelo Malaza

Chief Director: Integrated Environmental Authorisations

Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment

Signed by: Ms Bathandwa Ncube

Designation: Control Environmental Officer: National Integrated Authorisation

Date: 24/09/2024

cc:	Mr Andrew Pearson	Sheepmoor Wind Energy Facility (Pty) Ltd	Email: Andrew@mulilo.com
	Mr G.O Xaba	Mpumalanga DARDLEA	Email: goxaba@mpg.gov.za / rluyt@mpg.gov.za / mbuyanesb@mpg.gov.za
	Mr Mervyn Lotter	MTPA	Email: mervyn.lotter@gmail.com
	Ms Mapulane Nkosi	Msukaligwa Local Municipality	Email: complaints@msukaligwa.gov.za

Annexure 1

1. Format for Comments and Response Report:

Date of comment, format of comment name of organisation/I&AP,	Comment	Response from EAP/Applicant/Specialist
27/03/2021 Email Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment: National Infrastructure Projects (Joe Soap)	Please record C&R trail report in this format Please update the contact details of the provincial environmental authority	EAP: (Noted) The C&R trail report has been updated into the desired format, see Appendix K EAP: Details of provincial authority have been updated, see page 16 of the Application form

Cc: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Subject: RE: MTPA's comments LUA 24/3967 - Draft EIA Scoping Report for the proposed development of the Sheepmoor Wind Energy facility.

You don't often get email from celia@mtpa.co.za. [Learn why this is important](#)

WARNING: The sender of this email could not be validated and may not match the person in the "From" field.

EXTERNAL MESSAGE

Good morning

Regarding your enquiry below, the following:

- The comments for the Emvelo project (our ref: LUA 24/3966) is currently at the Acting Manager: Scientific Service for review). The signed copy might be released today, which will be send to you as soon as I receive it.
- The commenting scientist is currently still busy commenting on the Rochdale project (LUA 24/3965).

Kind regards

Celia

From: ERM Arcus Amsterdam <ERM.ArcusAmsterdam@erm.com>

Sent: Thursday, 19 September 2024 09:54

To: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Subject: RE: MTPA's comments LUA 24/3967 - Draft EIA Scoping Report for the proposed development of the Sheepmoor Wind Energy facility.

Hi Celia,

Thank you for providing comment on the Sheepmoor WEF facility. Are you able to please indicate when we can expect comment on the remaining 2 facilities, namely Rochdale and Emvelo.

Kind regards

Lucien



Sustainability is our business

From: Celia de Waal <celia@mtpa.co.za>

Sent: Wednesday, September 18, 2024 2:36 PM

To: ERM Arcus Amsterdam <ERM.ArcusAmsterdam@erm.com>

Cc: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Subject: MTPA's comments LUA 24/3967 - Draft EIA Scoping Report for the proposed development of the Sheepmoor Wind Energy facility.

You don't often get email from celia@mtpa.co.za. [Learn why this is important](#)

WARNING: The sender of this email could not be validated and may not match the person in the "From" field.

EXTERNAL MESSAGE

Dear Ms. Gopaul

Kindly receive the attached comments from the MTPA regarding a Draft EIA Report for the proposed development of the Sheepmoore Wind Energy facility (WEF) with 23 wind turbines and Auxiliary infrastructure.

Your reference number: **Project 0684401** (DFFE: 14/12/16/3/3/2/2593)

Our EIA registration/reference number is **LUA 24/3967** (kindly use this number in any further correspondence to us regarding this project)

Kind regards

Celia de Waal



Cecilia de Waal

Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Data Capturer

Land Use Advisory (LUA)

Biodiversity Conservation: Scientific Services

Landline: 013 065 0062



From: [ERM Arcus Amsterdam](#)
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Sheepmoor, Rochdale and Emvelo WEFs - Registration as I&AP
Date: Monday, 30 September 2024 12:43:53
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)

Hi Kristen,

That is correct.

Kind Regards



ERM

Sustainability is our business

Lucien Barbeau
Consultant

Cape Town
+27105963488

erm.com

From: kirsten@red-cap.co.za <kirsten@red-cap.co.za>
Sent: Friday, September 20, 2024 9:56 AM
To: ERM Arcus Amsterdam <ERM.ArcusAmsterdam@erm.com>
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Sheepmoor, Rochdale and Emvelo WEFs - Registration as I&AP

You don't often get email from kirsten@red-cap.co.za. [Learn why this is important](#)

EXTERNAL MESSAGE

Thanks Lucien,

Will you be uploading the FSR onto the website (and notifying I&APs) once it has been submitted to DFFE?

Kind regards
Kirsten

From: ERM Arcus Amsterdam <ERM.ArcusAmsterdam@erm.com>
Sent: Thursday, 19 September 2024 20:13
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Sheepmoor, Rochdale and Emvelo WEFs - Registration as I&AP

Good day,

Thank you for your email, you will now be added as an I&AP to the proposed Sheepmoor,

Rochdale and Emvelo WEFs.

Kind Regards



Sustainability is our business

Lucien Barbeau
Consultant

Cape Town
+27105963488

erm.com

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 19, 2024 4:17 PM
To: ERM Arcus Amsterdam <ERM.ArcusAmsterdam@erm.com>
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Sheepmoor, Rochdale and Emvelo WEFs - Registration as I&AP

You don't often get email from kirsten@red-cap.co.za. [Learn why this is important](#)

EXTERNAL MESSAGE

Hi there,

Please could you register myself and colleague Francois le Roex (copied) as I&APs on these projects,

Kind regards



KIRSTEN JONES | SENIOR PROJECT MANAGER
[REDACTED]

From: [Lucien Barbeau](#)
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [Stephanie Gopaul](#); [Andrew Pearson](#); [Stephen Burton](#)
Subject: RE: Terrestrial Biodiversity + Faunal Specialist - Mulilo Amsterdam CA Commenting Responses required
Date: Monday, 30 September 2024 13:00:00
Attachments: [image002.png](#)
[image004.png](#)

Good day Lloyd,

At the moment we are still awaiting comment on Rochdale and Emvelo from MTPA, we have followed up and will update with any new development.

I am also following up with remaining specialists that have not provided feedback on departmental comments. I will aim to have the CRR and FSR's to you on Wednesday.

Thank you,



ERM

Sustainability is our business

Lucien Barbeau
Consultant

Cape Town
+27105963488

erm.com

From: Lloyd Barnes <Lloyd@mulilo.com>
Sent: Monday, September 30, 2024 11:11 AM
To: Lucien Barbeau <Lucien.Barbeau@erm.com>
Cc: [Stephanie Gopaul](mailto:Stephanie.Gopaul@erm.com) <Stephanie.Gopaul@erm.com>; [REDACTED]
[Stephen Burton](mailto:Stephen.Burton@erm.com) <Stephen.Burton@erm.com>
Subject: RE: Terrestrial Biodiversity + Faunal Specialist - Mulilo Amsterdam CA Commenting Responses required
Importance: High

EXTERNAL MESSAGE

Good day Lucien,

Do you perhaps have an update on the responses to the Provincial department's comments?

May we please have the CRR's and Final Scoping reports for review before COB on Wednesday?

Kind Regards,

Lloyd Barnes
Project Manager: Environmental

www.mulilo.com

From: [REDACTED]
To: [ERM Arcus Amsterdam](#)
Cc: [REDACTED]
Date: Tuesday, 01 October 2024 10:35:09
Attachments: [LUA24-3966 obi. Emvelo WEF infrastructure Draft SR ERM.pdf](#)
[LUA 24-3967 MTPA objection DSR SHEEPMOOR WEF ERM.pdf](#)

WARNING: The sender of this email could not be validated and may not match the person in the "From" field.

EXTERNAL MESSAGE

Good day

Kindly receive two of the letters as requested

I will follow up with Frans Krige on LUA 24/3965, Rochdale, as soon as he is done with his meeting.

Regards

Celia

From: Celia de Waal
Sent: 20 September 2024 09:56
To: stephanie.gopaul@erm.com
Cc: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Subject: MTPA's comments LUA 24/3966 - Draft Scoping for 45 wind turbines (Emvelo Wind Energy)

Dear Ms. Gopaul

Kindly receive the attached comments from the MTPA regarding a Draft Scoping report for 45 wind turbines for Emvelo Wind Energy Facility & auxiliary infrastructure.

Your project no: **0684401**

Our EIA reference number is **LUA 24/3966**

Kind regards

Celia de Waal



Cecilia de Waal

Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Data Capturer

Land Use Advisory (LUA)

Biodiversity Conservation: Scientific Services



OFFICE OF BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION

Ref: LUA 24/3967
Unit: LUA/SS
Inquiries: F.N. Krige & F.N. Lekaka
Email: frans@mtpa.co.za
Tel: 013- 0650286

Ms. Stephanie Gopaul

ERM Southern Africa (Pty) Ltd
240 Main Road
Great Westerford Building, 1st Floor
Rondebosch
CAPE TOWN
7700

Email: ERM.ArcusAmsterdam@erm.com

Dear Ms., Gopaul

SUBJECT: THE MTPA COMMENTS ON THE DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL SCOPING REPORT FOR THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF THE SHEEPMOOR WIND ENERGY FACILITY (WEF) (23 WIND TURBINES) AND AUXILIARY INFRASTRUCTURE (1 ON-SITE SUBSTATION WITH A CAPACITY OF 132Kv, AND 1 OVER-HEAD POWERLINE OF APPROXIMATELY 22.3 KM) ON SEVERAL PORTIONS OF FARMS COVERING AN AREA OF 5 918 HA EAST OF ERMELO FOR SHEEPMOOR WIND ENERGY FACILITY (PTY) LTD, MSUKALIGWA LOCAL MUNICIPALITY, MPUMALANGA PROVINCE. DFFE REFERENCE NUMBER TO BE PROVIDED.

With reference to your correspondence reference **Project no: 0684401** of August 2024, herewith the MTPA comments.

The application has been assessed by using the following tools: Mpumalanga Biodiversity Sector Plan (2014 as updated 2022) land use guidelines, the DFFE web-based sensitivity screening tool, Environmental legislation NEMA and EIA regulations 2014 as amended, Department of Water and Sanitation and Water Research Commission Guidelines on wetlands, the South African Heritage Resources Act and knowledge to assess Development Applications.

The sensitivity of the area, in which the prospecting activity is proposed and is likely to occur was assessed according to the Mpumalanga Biodiversity Sector plan (MBSP; MTPA, 2014). The sensitivity is assessed in terms of terrestrial and freshwater assessments. In the MBSP, sensitivity areas are identified in terms of *Critical Biodiversity Areas* (CBAs) and *Ecological Support Areas* (ESAs). CBAs and ESAs are deemed to be

necessary to ensure the protection of biodiversity, environmental sustainability and sustainable living and are to remain unaltered.

Comments with regards to the terms of reference for studies needed:

With reference to the assessment of your Draft Scoping Report the MTPA is concerned about the following issues raised with regards to the terms of reference for specialist studies to be done.

1. The alternative sites, although less sensitive to the preferred site, are still located in sensitive areas.
2. Ground truthing and on-site studying of areas regarded as degraded or sensitive and suitable for potential wind turbines must be done considering that cultivated/vegetated lands might be feeding areas for many Species of Conservation Concern. The Site sensitivity verification report must include the feeding areas for SCC.
3. The avoidance of large areas of critical biodiversity terrestrial and freshwater sensitivity areas and the preliminary project layout overlain area is a large concern especially in the southeastern part of the study area.
4. The threat of this WEF to the Important Bird Area and the status of globally threatened bird species such as the Southern Bald Ibis and Secretary bird is of concern. The onsite avifaunal study must include local knowledge of the distribution of large birds especially the Blue crane that is a local migrant during the wintertime.
5. Included in the MTPA's comments are the following discussion that illustrates the **need and desirability** of this proposal:

Renewable energy applications

- Given the energy needs of the country, significant emphasis is being placed on the need to transition away from coal towards renewable energy. However, the urgency and desire to approve nearly all renewable energy applications needs to be put into perspective considering the incredible investment and proliferation of new renewable energy projects within Mpumalanga.
- The MTPA and DARDLEA are maintaining a database of renewable energy projects, which include those in the pre-application phase. We can confirm that 61 renewable energy projects have now been submitted within Mpumalanga. Just over 50% of these have been approved to date. 18 of these are for Wind Energy Farms, which together make up for over 233 000 ha, and this amount is growing as the province is being inundated with renewable energy applications.
- The explosion of renewable energy applications does require careful consideration as to the likely impacts. There is no shortage of renewable energy projects within the Province and the Province has room to apply its mind and navigate this space carefully. The province has now over 300 000 ha of renewable energy applications, and the many more than are still to be submitted.

Mpumalanga Biodiversity Sector Plan (MBSP), Intact Grassland Patches and Important Bird Areas (IBAs)

- The project **footprint overlaps with a significant amount of Critical Biodiversity Areas (CBA)**. 1 488.9 ha (over 28%) of the footprint area is identified as a CBA. Wind farms are not appropriate land uses within CBA areas. Two proposed wind turbines are placed in CBA Irreplaceable areas.
- The MBSP Terrestrial assessment indicates that the project footprint is within CBA: Irreplaceable, CBA: Optimal, ESA: Local Corridor, ESA: Landscape Corridor, ESA: Species Specific, Other Natural Areas, Moderately Modified, and Heavily Modified Areas.
- The MBSP Freshwater Assessment indicates that the project footprint is within ESA: Strategic Water Source Areas, and has CBA: Aquatic River, ESA: Wetland Clusters, ESA: Wetlands, ESA: Important Sub-catchments, Other Natural and Heavily Modified Areas.
- ESA: Strategic Water Source Area (SWSAs) maintain ecological integrity across the entire sub-catchment, paying particular attention to maintaining water quality, water quantity, and habitat integrity. They represent 10% of the surface area producing approximately 50% of Mpumalanga's water. The proposed WEF activity in the area might compromise the quality and quantity of the surface water resources through siltation.
- The whole of the proposed Sheepmoor wind farm falls within an Important Bird Area (IBA), which underscores the need to consider its implications on metapopulation dynamics and the need to avoid wind farms in "source" areas.
- The project area mainly falls within the Mesic Eastern Highveld Grassland (Endangered). A high proportion of this vegetation type is threatened and is generally poorly protected. Hence, it should be carefully managed for the persistence of biodiversity; large areas of natural habitat are needed for many bird species, plants, and numerous wetlands that the Mesic Highveld Grassland supports.
- The proposed project area has a portion of Wakkerstroom Montane Grassland (Least Concern). A variety of land-uses are supported by this area and the conservation and good management of this area depends on the continued land-uses practices that have been able to support this biodiversity. The importance of sustainable development is crucial to the long-term maintenance of the biodiversity and ecosystem services in this area.
- 2 143.6 ha (36 %) of the proposed wind farm is comprised of intact grassland patches. With only 51% of the grasslands remaining in a natural state, very little intact natural grasslands still occur in Mpumalanga. Three proposed wind turbines are placed in intact grassland patches.
- Intact grassland patches are areas larger than 100ha, with little or no gaps or edge effects. They were then prioritised according to their connectivity importance. These intact grasslands are "source" areas for avifaunal species where birth rates are expected to exceed death rates, and no wind farms should be placed anywhere near these intact grassland patches.
- The identification of actual avifaunal source areas may be difficult, but as these intact grassland patches occur within an Important Bird Area (IBA) where there are several nesting and roosting avifaunal species of conservation concern, it highlights their significance and our confidence in confirming these as "source" areas. The presence of these intact grassland patches, CBAs, and the IBAs, is probably the biggest concern that the MTPA may have about the proposed wind farm.

- 84 % of the proposed study area is Important Bird Area and 9.3% of the proposed study area is a Key Biodiversity Area.
- Wind farms are not to be placed in IBAs or intact grassland areas as these are important areas where avifauna should be allowed to thrive and then disperse to other areas.
- Approval of the project in such a location could have far-reaching consequences for threatened bird species, potentially disrupting vital source areas critical for population sustainability.
- The south of the project area falls within the National Protected Areas Expansion Strategy (NPAES) Focus Area (Moist Escarpment Grasslands). The Chrissiesmeer Protected Environment overlaps the north of the project area and Jericho Dam Nature Reserve overlaps the eastern part of the project area.
- It is imperative to adopt a precautionary approach and prioritize the conservation of these essential habitats.

Avifaunal concerns

- **Thirteen out of the 23 proposed wind turbines are placed within the 5 km buffer of a Martial Eagles' recommended buffer these should be removed.**
- 26% of the proposed wind turbines are not covered by vantage points.
- The presence of priority bird species for wind energy developments were recorded within the footprint area.
- Two Southern Bald Ibis colonies (Vulnerable) occur within footprint area.
- A Secretary bird nest (Endangered) was found within this area.
- Birds are very mobile and with the proposed turbine height and blade lengths, the current proposed buffers seem inadequate.
- This raises particular concern as these birds may continuously collide with the blades of the wind turbines and the continuous loss of several of these long-lived birds every year may have a significant impact on population status.
- The artificial water bodies within the footprint area may be important for flamingos and other water-dependent birds.

Site Sensitivity Verification

- The results of the Site Sensitivity Verification confirmed that:
 - The sensitivity for the Terrestrial biodiversity impact assessment as Very High in grassland and wetland habitat.
 - Aquatic Biodiversity Impact Assessment as Very High Sensitivity
 - Plant Species Assessment as Medium Sensitivity
 - Animal Species Assessment as High Sensitivity
 - Bat Assessment Very High/High Sensitivity
 - Avifaunal Assessment as Very High/High Sensitivity.

Additional concerns

- Not all the infrastructure has been included on the map or addressed in terms of likely impact, in this case, roads.

Recommendations:

- There should be a thorough Oribi census plan in place, and it should be included in the final EIA report as the project area is home to many Oribi antelope. (Red data species dependant on healthy highveld grasslands).
- Species 23 must be accounted for, and a management plan drawn up for it since the project area is a potential site for its occurrence.
- The EWT's recommended 5 km buffer for the Martial Eagle's nest is non-negotiable and should be adhered to throughout the project lifecycle.
- The current identified Avifaunal Sensitivities map of all 'no-go' areas (Figure (I)) indicates little area for available for the wind farm. With more appropriate buffers, more field work, and all the associated infrastructure (such as roads), we cannot see how it would be possible to establish a wind farm within the footprint area.
- Increase buffer zones for endangered bird nesting sites to reflect their wider flight ranges relative to the height of the turbines.
- Consider alternative locations with less ecological sensitivity, especially considering the numerous renewable energy projects already approved in Mpumalanga.

Conclusion:

The proposed Sheepmoor Wind Energy Facility poses a significant threat to a Critical Biodiversity Areas, intact grassland patches, Important Bird areas, and the habitat of numerous threatened bird species. Relying on the information presented to date, and the desktop assessments, **it is in the MTPA's opinion that this project is fatally flawed.** The anticipated impacts on biodiversity, particularly the avifauna, is too great to support this project. More ecological assessments and exploration of alternative locations are crucial before proceeding with this project.

Please do not hesitate to contact this office if there are any inquiries.

Kind Regards



MS. NOMCEBO KUNENE
EXECUTIVE MANAGER BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION
DATE: 18 / 09 / 2024

OFFICE OF BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION

Ref: LUA 24/3966

Unit : LUA/SS

Enquiries: F.N. Krige/ Mr. R.L Nkosi

E-mail: frans@mtpa.co.za

Tel: 013 0650286

Ms. S. Gopaul

Environmental Resource Management Southern Africa (Pty) Ltd.

The Great Westerford

240 Main Road

Rondebosch

Cape Town

7700

Tel: 010 596 3506

E-mail: stephanie.gopaul@erm.com

Dear Ms., Gopaul

SUBJECT: MTPA'S COMMENTS REGARDING THE DRAFT SCOPING FOR THE 45 WIND TURBINES EMVELO WIND ENERGY FACILITY AND AUXILIARY INFRASTRUCTURE,) AND AUXILIARY INFRASTRUCTURE (1 ON-SITE SUBSTATION WITH A CAPACITY OF 200MW, AND 1 OVER-HEAD 132 kV POWERLINE OF APPROXIMATELY 30 KM) ON 18 PORTIONS OF FARMS COVERING AN AREA OF 6 964 HA EAST OF ERMELO FOR EMVELO WIND ENERGY FACILITY (PTY) LTD, MSUKALIGWA LOCAL MUNICIPALITY, MPUMALANGA PROVINCE. DFFE REFERENCE NUMBER TO BE PROVIDED. MPUMALANGA PROVINCE.

Your correspondence with the project ref no. 0684401 of date 28/08/2024.

COMMENTS AND CONCERNS:

The sensitivity of the above farm on which the proposed activity is likely to occur was assessed according to the Mpumalanga Biodiversity Sector Plan (MBSP; MTPA, 2014). This sensitivity is assessed in terms of terrestrial and freshwater assessments. In the MBSP, priority sensitive areas are identified in terms of Critical Biodiversity Areas (CBAs) and Ecological Support Areas (ESAs). CBAs and ESAs are deemed to be necessary to ensure protection of biodiversity, environmental sustainability, and human well-being, and are to remain unaltered.

According to the MBSP terrestrial assessment map (figure 1) the proposed development will occur within CBA Irreplaceable, CBA Optimal, ESA Landscape corridor, ESA Ecological Corridor, Important Bird Areas (IBA), other natural areas, moderately modified- old lands and heavily modified area (Degraded). According to the freshwater assessments map (figure 2), the proposed development will occur within a CBA Aquatic River, CBA wetlands, ESA wetlands, ESA Strategic water source, ESA Important sub-catchments other natural areas and heavily modified area (Degraded).

The MTPA have the following concerns:

The MTPA is concerned with the proposed project area for the Emvelo Wind Energy Facility (WEF) and its associated Auxiliary infrastructure which is within Important Bird Areas (IBA), CBA Irreplaceable, CBA optimal, CBA aquatic rivers, ESA wetland clusters, ESA wetlands and intact grasslands. These areas are of biodiversity importance and the proposed Emvelo WEF and associated infrastructure will compromise the primary biodiversity objectives of these areas.

The MTPA is concerned with a number of turbines that are in no-go areas or highly sensitive areas. There are ten (10) turbines that are located within the intact grasslands which are turbines 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 9, 13 and 15 (refer to Figure 3), intact grasslands are crucial for supporting threatened avifauna and these turbines will compromise that biodiversity objective. The MBSP specifically incorporated climate change into spatial priorities through the prioritisation of the connectivity of remaining intact grassland patches in the province, as they provide habitat for species to thrive, and allow for their dispersal.

Turbines 12, 14, 16, 17, 29, 32 and 33 are within CBA irreplaceable, which is to be maintained in a natural state with no loss of ecosystems, functionality or species with no flexibility in land-use options. Turbines 8, 18 and 19 are within CBA optimal which is to be maintained in a natural state with no loss of ecosystems, functionality or species with some flexibility in land-use options.

Turbines 1,2,3,5, 9, 11, 13, 15, 18, 19, 22, 24, 26, 31, and 35 are located within Important Bird Area (IBA). The Important Bird Area (IBA) as established by the Birdlife SA are areas that has the richness of conservation important bird species and care should be taken not to lose their breeding and feeding habitats. Wind turbines increase the risk of bird's collision. Surface water (Wetlands, drainage lines and dams) is crucially important for priority Avifauna, wind turbines and powerlines that that are placed near surface water pose a collision risk (as mentioned by the Avifaunal specialist). The most preferred sites are Moderately and Heavily modified areas; other natural areas are also preferred but under certain conditions.

The proposed Emvelo WEF and its associated grid connection is located in an area comprising a high diversity of threatened bird species, including the following confirmed on site: African Marsh Harrier (Regionally Endangered); Martial Eagle (Globally and Regionally Endangered); Denham's Bustard (Globally Near Threatened, Regionally Vulnerable); Secretary bird (Globally Endangered, Regionally Vulnerable); White-bellied Bustard (Regionally Vulnerable), Blue Crane (Globally Vulnerable, Regionally Near Threatened); Grey Crowned Crane (Globally and Regionally Endangered); Lanner Falcon (Regionally Vulnerable); Greater Flamingo (Regionally Near Threatened); Southern Bald Ibis (Regionally and Globally Vulnerable); Cape

Vulture (Globally Vulnerable and Regionally Endangered); and Yellow-breasted Pipit (Regionally and Globally Vulnerable).

Turbines 1, 2, 3, 5, 7, 9, 13 and 15 are within the 5km Martial Eagle Buffer, Birdlife South Africa currently recommends 5-6 km buffer for Martial Eagles, this 5km no-go buffer must be adhered to by the Applicant.

The MTPA would like to recommend the following:

- Key biodiversity areas should be avoided, and Wind turbines removed from such.
- A 100m buffer around wetlands and other waterbodies must be implemented and adhered to throughout the lifecycle of the proposed development.
- 5km radius Martial Eagle Buffer (as recommended by BirdLifeSA) must be implemented and avoided throughout the lifecycle of the proposed development.
- A Thorough Terrestrial Biodiversity assessment which also includes Intact grasslands patches.
- A thorough Avifaunal study must be done with all the best practices to avoid the bird collision risks.
- Proper mitigation strategies of the wind turbines to avoid collisions and mortalities must be included in the EIAR.
- The roads, temporary site camps and all the other associated infrastructure must be included on the site layout of the Emvelo WEF in the EIAR.
- The Applicant must find a more suitable alternative site for this development with less risk to biodiversity.
- The clearance or removal of vegetation must be restricted to the project footprint.
- Moderately modified- old lands and heavily modified areas (Degraded) are the most preferred sites for the Emvelo WEF, other natural areas are also preferred but under certain conditions.
- The applicant must apply duty of care to ensure that there is no significant pollution or degradation of the environment.

The MTPA does not support the Environmental Authorisation of the proposed Emvelo Wind Energy Facility (Pty) Ltd for proposed Wind Energy Facility and Auxiliary infrastructure operation within the application area with up to 45 proposed wind turbines. The sensitive areas cover most of the proposed Emvelo WEF project area, Important Birds Area (IBA) covers 43% of the project area; Key Biodiversity Areas (KBA) Covers 21.4% of the project area; Critical Biodiversity Areas (CBA) covers 1,302.2 ha of the project area; and 2,272.5 ha of intact grassland patches within the project area.

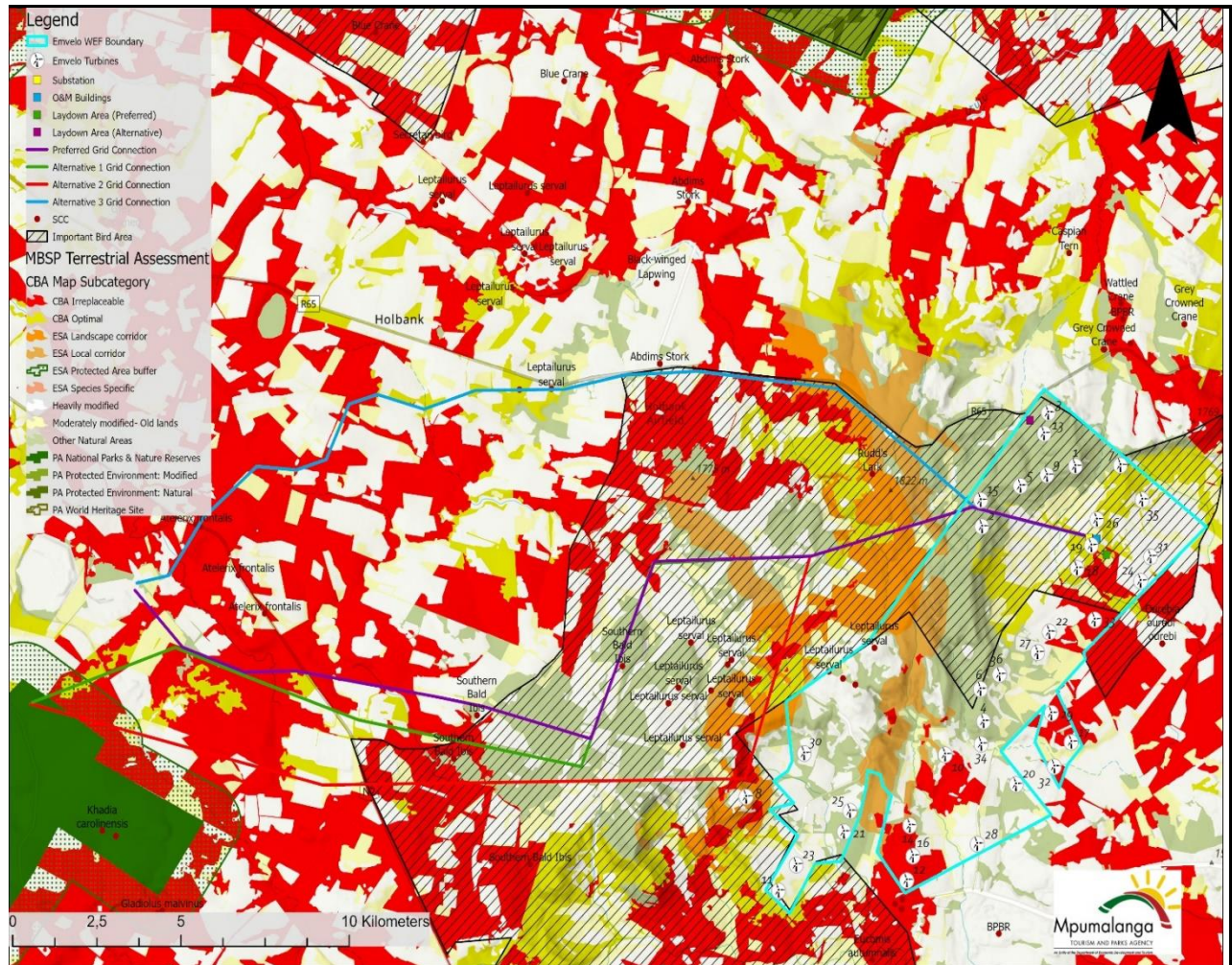
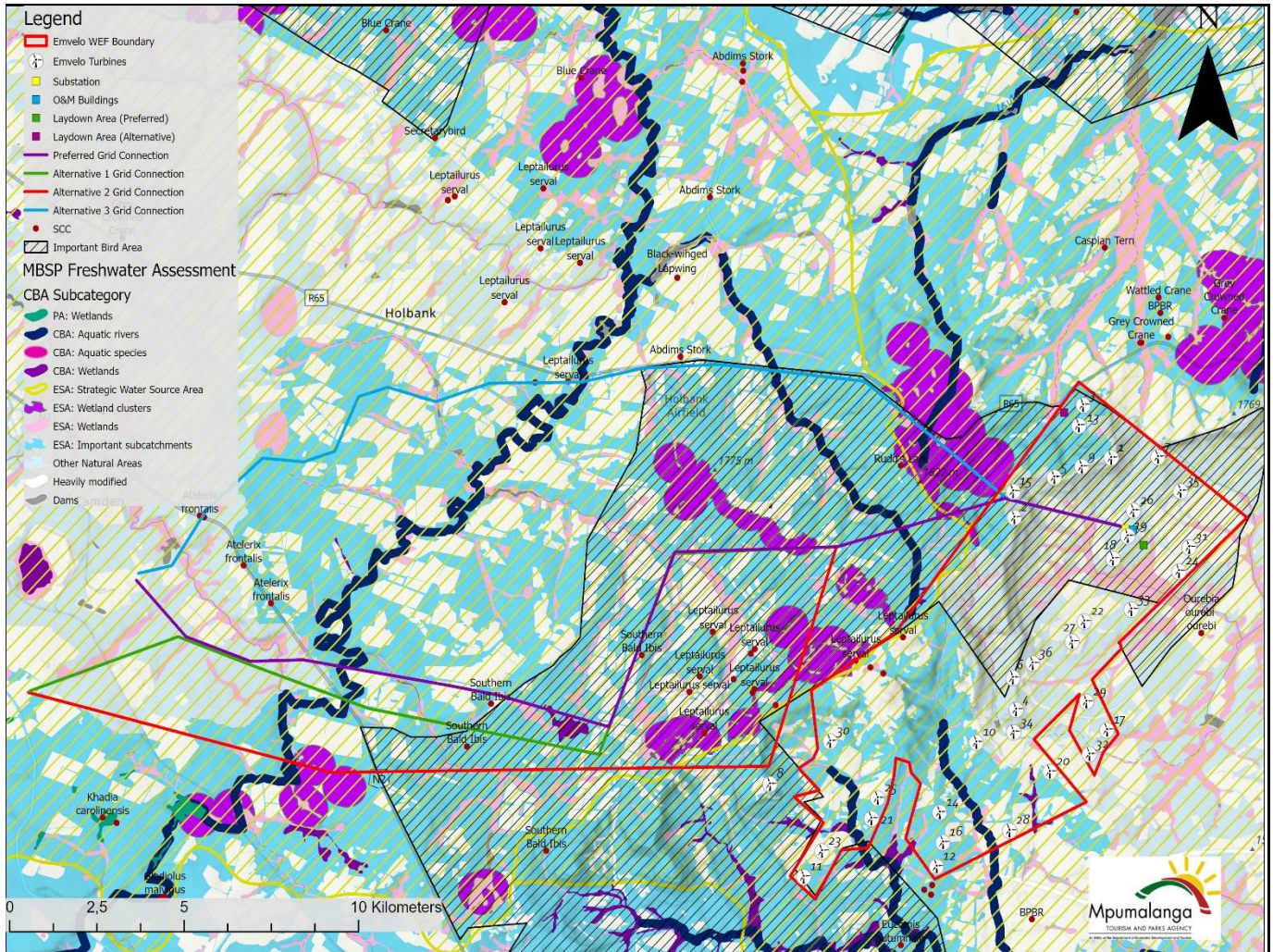


Figure 1. MBSP based terrestrial biodiversity assessment for the Emvelo Wind Energy Facility.



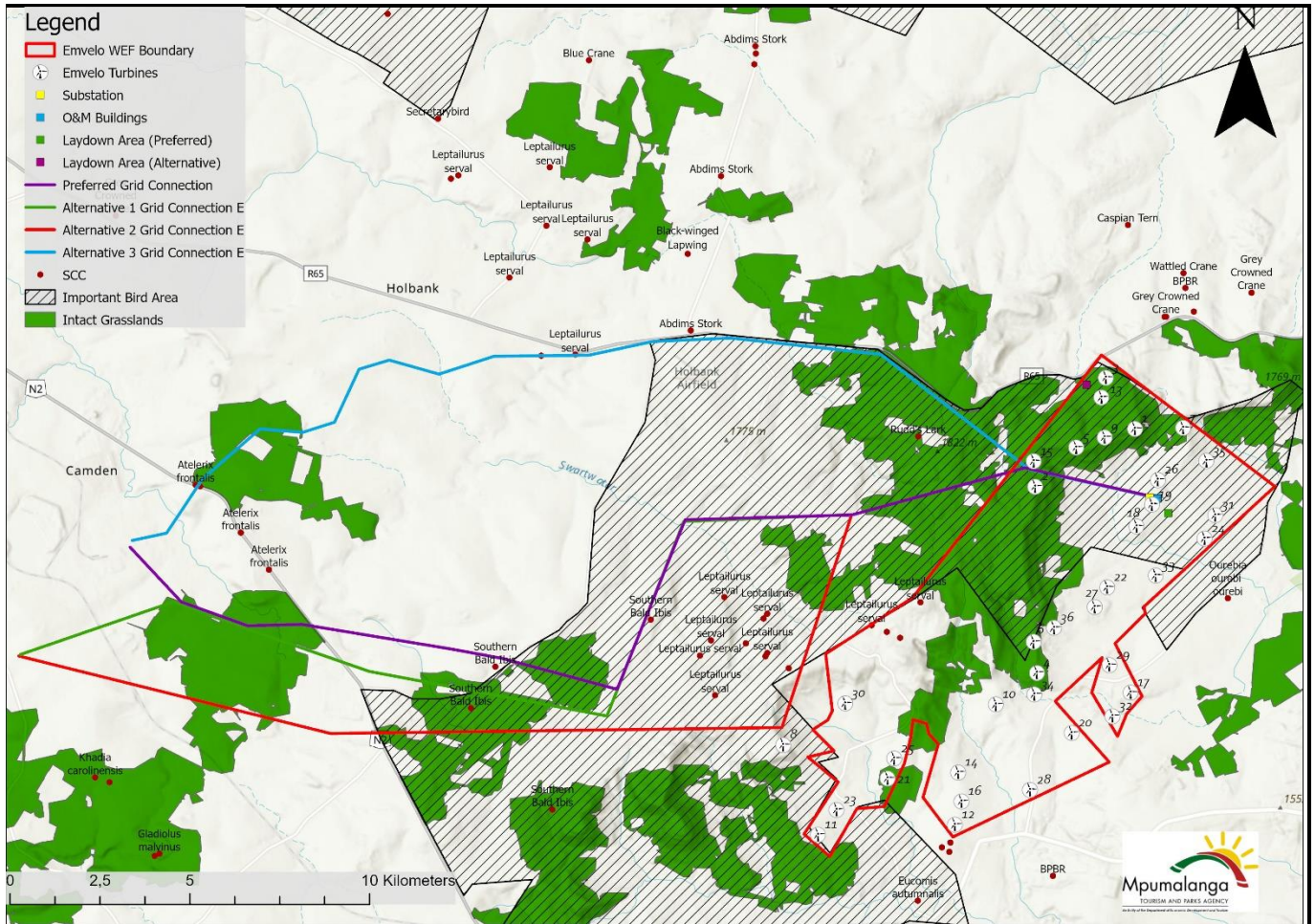


Figure 3. MBSP based Intact Grasslands map for the Emvelo Wind Energy Facility.

Please do not hesitate to contact this office if there are any enquiries.

Kind Regards



MS. NOMCEBO KUNENE
EXECUTIVE MANAGER BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION
DATE: 20 / 09 / 2024.

From: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: DRaft Comments LUA 24-3965 Rochdale Wind Energy Facility
Date: Tuesday, 01 October 2024 11:14:57
Attachments: [LUA24-3965 Rochdale Wind Energy \(DRaft Comments\).pdf](#)

WARNING: The sender of this email could not be validated and may not match the person in the "From" field.

EXTERNAL MESSAGE

Good day

Kindly receive the draft comments from Mr. Krige of LUA 24-3965. As soon as we have a signed copy, I will forward it to you.

Kind regards

Celia

From: Celia de Waal
Sent: 01 October 2024 10:35
To: Erm.arcusamsterdam@erm.com
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: FW: MTPA's comments LUA 24/3966 - Draft Scoping for 45 wind turbines (Emvelo Wind Energy)

Good day

Kindly receive two of the letters as requested

I will follow up with Frans Krige on LUA 24/3965, Rochdale, as soon as he is done with his meeting.

Regards

Celia

From: Celia de Waal
Sent: 20 September 2024 09:56
To: stephanie.gopaul@erm.com

Cc: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Subject: MTPA's comments LUA 24/3966 - Draft Scoping for 45 wind turbines (Emvelo Wind

Energy)

Dear Ms. Gopaul

Kindly receive the attached comments from the MTPA regarding a Draft Scoping report for 45 wind turbines for Emvelo Wind Energy Facility & auxiliary infrastructure.

Your project no: **0684401**

Our EIA reference number is **LUA 24/3966**

Kind regards

Celia de Waal



Cecilia de Waal

Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Data Capturer

Land Use Advisory (LUA)

Biodiversity Conservation: Scientific Services



OFFICE OF BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION

Ref : LUA 24/3965

Unit : LUA/SS

Enquiries: F.N. Krige ;M.E Hlatshwayo

E-mail : frans@mtpa.co.za

Tel/Fax: 013 - 0650286

Stephanie Gopaul

Environmental Resource Management Southern Africa (Pty) Ltd

240 Main Road

Great Westerford Building, 1st Floor

Rondebosch

CAPE TOWN

7700

Email: ERM.ArcusAmsterdam@erm.com

Dear Ms., Gopaul

SUBJECT: THE MTPA REVIEW AND COMMENTS ON THE DRAFT SCOPING REPORTIT, ONVERWACHTOSED 240 MW ROCHDALE WIND ENERGY FACILITY (30 TURBINES) ON PORTIONS 1,2 AND 5 OF THE FARM SCHIMMELHOEK 272 IT AND ASSOCIATED 132 Kv GRID INFRASTRUCTURE TRANSVERSING OVER SEVERAL PORTIONS OF THE FARMS SCHIMMELHOEK 272 IT, ONVERWACHT 273, ZWARTWATER 288, WELTERVREDEN 289 AND WITPUNT 267 APPROXIMATELY 31.5 KM BY ROCHDALE WIND ENERGY FACILITY (PTY) LTD NEAR ERMELO, MSUKALIGWA LOCAL MUNICIPALITY, MPUMALANGA PROVINCE.

With reference to your correspondence reference 0684401 of date 28/08/2024 our comments:

The application has been assessed by using the following tools: Mpumalanga Biodiversity Sector Plan (2014 as updated 2022) land use guidelines, the DFFE web-based sensitivity screening tool, Environmental legislation NEMA and EIA regulations 2014 as amended, Department of Water and Sanitation and Water Research Commission Guidelines on wetlands, the South African Heritage Resources Act and knowledge to assess Development Applications.

The sensitivity of the area, in which the prospecting activity is proposed and is likely to occur was assessed according to the Mpumalanga Biodiversity Sector plan (MBSP; MTPA, 2014). The sensitivity is assessed in terms of terrestrial and freshwater assessments. In the MBSP, sensitivity areas are identified in terms of *Critical Biodiversity Areas* (CBAs) and *Ecological Support Areas* (ESAs). CBAs and ESAs are deemed to be necessary to ensure the protection of biodiversity, environmental sustainability and sustainable living and are to remain unaltered.

With reference to the assessment of your Draft Scoping Report the MTPA is concerned about the following issues raised with regards to the terms of reference for specialist studies.

1. The applicant needs to look for an alternative less sensitive development site to develop the wind energy facility.
2. The avoidance of large areas of critical biodiversity terrestrial and freshwater sensitivity areas and the preliminary project layout overlain area is a large concern especially in the southeastern part of the study area.
3. The threat of this WEF to the Important Bird Area (IBA) and the status of globally Endangered bird species such as the Martial Eagle is of a concern.
4. Road network and its impact must be indicated and must be placed away from the sensitive zones.
5. A 1 km buffer from the CBA Rivers must be applied. Wherever wetland and river crossings are needed, the EIA regulations must be followed.
6. The potential risk and threat of infrastructure-induced fires occurring on grasslands and impacting Species of Conservation Concern (SCC) must be incorporated into the risk assessments.

Proliferation of renewable energy applications

- While South Africa's energy needs highlight the urgency of shifting from coal to renewable energy, it is crucial to consider the scale of investments and the rapid growth of renewable energy projects, especially in Mpumalanga. The drive to approve nearly all renewable applications must be carefully balanced with proper planning and sustainability, ensuring that the transition aligns with environmental, economic, and social factors specific to the region.
- The explosion of renewable energy applications does require careful consideration as to the likely impacts. There is no shortage of renewable energy projects within the Province and the Province has room to apply its mind and navigate this space carefully, especially on areas that are not part of the Renewable Energy Development Zones (REDZs) The province has now over 300 000 ha of renewable energy applications, and the many more than are still to be submitted.

Mpumalanga Biodiversity Sector Plan (MBSP), Intact Grassland Patches and Important Bird Areas (IBAs)

- Majority of the proposed turbines and associated infrastructure such as the laydown structure and grid connections are in environmental sensitive areas (CBA Irreplaceable 1,399.9, CBA Optimal, Intact grassland areas, Priority Focus Area and Key Biodiversity Areas). The MTPA is also not satisfied with the alternative proposed development sites as they are still placed within the environmental sensitive areas, with the grid connections traversing over the Important Bird Areas (IBA) and the buffer of the Martial Eagle Nest.
- The proposed Rochdale Wind Energy Facility is less than 1 km from an Important Bird Area (IBA), and it is important to note that Birds of SCC were recorded in the broader area, therefore the proposed project might impact these Birds of SCC.

- With the vantage points provided, some of the proposed wind turbines are not visible from the vantage point and, although additional vantage points and transect count monitoring was conducted near the Martial Eagle nest. However, with the possibility of the presence of species 23, and a high diversity of threatened bird species, including the threatened birds confirmed on site: African Marsh Harrier Denham's Bustard, Secretary bird, White-bellied Bustard, Blue Crane, Grey Crowned Crane, Lanner Falcon Greater Flamingo, Southern Bald Ibis, Cape Vulture, and Yellow-breasted Pipit. The MTPA is concerned that the survey effort is not sufficient to adequately find possible breeding and nest sites of species 23 and to assess cumulative impacts and identify appropriate avoidance and mitigation measures for the threatened and vulnerable species. Therefore, the MTPA requests the applicant, to do additional vantage point monitoring not only for the martial eagle, but to ascertain if species 23 is present or not this must be done to satisfy and honour the African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbird Agreement.
- Intact grassland patches are areas larger than 100ha, with little or no gaps or edge effects. They were then prioritised according to their connectivity importance. These intact grasslands are "source" areas for avifaunal species where birth rates are expected to exceed death rates, and no wind farms should be placed anywhere near these intact grassland patches. Proposed Turbine 8 falls within the intact grassland patches, 140 Ha is identified as an area with intact grassland. With only 51% of the grasslands remaining in a natural state, very little intact natural grasslands still occur in Mpumalanga. Therefore, the MTPA sees the need to protect the little intact grassland still occurring, therefore turbine 8 should be excluded.
- Majority of proposed project area mainly falls within the Eastern Highveld Grassland (Endangered). A high proportion of this vegetation type is threatened and is generally poorly protected. Hence, it should be carefully managed for the persistence of biodiversity; large areas of natural habitat are needed for many bird species, plants, and numerous wetlands that the Mesic Highveld Grassland supports.
- The proposed project area has a portion of Wakkerstroom Montane Grassland (Least Concern). A variety of land-uses are supported by this area and the conservation and good management of this area depends on the continued land-uses practices that have been able to support this biodiversity. The importance of sustainable development is crucial to the long-term maintenance of the biodiversity and ecosystem services in this area.
- Wind farms should not be placed in intact grassland areas as these are important areas where avifauna should be allowed to thrive and then disperse to other areas.
- Approval of the project in such a location could have far-reaching consequences for threatened bird species, potentially disrupting vital source areas critical for population sustainability.
- It is imperative to adopt a precautionary approach and prioritize the conservation of these essential habitats.

Avifaunal concerns

- The presence of 32 priority bird species for wind energy developments and of the 32,12 priority bird species for wind energy developments were recorded within the footprint area and 19 priority species were also recorded, of which the Southern Bald Ibis were nesting with chicks.

- A Martial Eagle nest (Endangered) occurs within the footprint area. These are South Africa's largest eagles and travel over vast areas. They are also susceptible to collision with turbines and wind farms are of serious concern, therefore according to the Endangered Wildlife Trust a 5km buffer must be applied and adhered to throughout the wind facility life cycle. Four of the proposed turbines (3, 4, 13 and 14) are within the buffer of the Martial Eagle therefore these turbines need to be excluded.
- Southern Bald Ibis colonies, Yellow-breasted Pipit, Secretary bird nest occur within footprint area. Therefore, the applicant needs to consider that birds are very mobile and with the proposed turbine height and blade lengths adequate buffers must be assigned.
- This raises particular concern as these birds may continuously collide with the blades of the wind turbines and the continuous loss of several of these long-lived birds every year may have a significant impact on population status.
- The water bodies in the area are important for migrating birds such as flamingos for bathing and drinking, therefore they need to be buffered on either site for the entire duration of the project life cycle.

Site Sensitivity Verification

- The results of the Site Sensitivity Verification confirmed that:
 - The sensitivity for the Terrestrial biodiversity impact assessment as Very High/High in grassland and wetland habitat
 - Aquatic Biodiversity Impact Assessment as High Sensitivity
 - Plant Species Assessment as Medium Sensitivity
 - Animal Species Assessment as High Sensitivity
 - Bat Assessment as Very High Sensitivity/High Sensitivity
 - Avifaunal Assessment as Very High Sensitivity/High Sensitivity

Additional concerns

- Not all the infrastructure has been included on the map or addressed in terms of likely impact. The length of internal roads must be included, and the impact be declared.

Recommendations

- Additional Vantage points must be conducted to establish if species 23 (Critically endangered) is present or not to provide more details regarding the potential impacts on the critical species.
- There should be an Oribi management plan in place. The plan should include how this area can be utilized as a sanctuary for the Oribi.
- The EWT's recommended 5 km buffer for the Martial Eagle's nest is non-negotiable and should be adhered to throughout the project lifecycle.
- The location of all but 3 turbines is in avifaunal exclusion zones. However, according to the MBSP proposed turbine 5 is in an CBA Irreplaceable area. Therefore only two proposed turbines, turbine 15 and 14 are in Heavily Modified or Moderately Modified Areas, however with some of the SCC

roosting and nesting in trees of alien invasive species ,and cultivated/vegetated lands which might be utilized for feeding areas for many Species of Conservation Concern such as white bellied bustard(Vulnerable)recorded on the broader area, therefore even the Heavily Modified or moderately Modified Areas might not be suitable for the placement of the proposed turbines as they might also be utilized by the birds.

- The current identified Avifaunal Sensitivities map of all 'no-go' areas (Figure (i)) indicates little area for available for the wind farm. With additional monitoring done appropriate buffers must be applied, and all the associated infrastructure such as roads and lay down structures removed from the sensitive areas, the MTPA cannot see how it would be possible to establish a wind farm within the proposed footprint area.
- Increase buffer zones for endangered bird nesting sites to reflect their wider flight ranges relative to the height of the turbines.
- Consider alternative locations with less ecological sensitivity, especially considering the numerous renewable energy projects already approved in Mpumalanga.

Conclusion:

The proposed Rochdale Wind Energy Facility and associated infrastructure poses a significant threat to the Critical Biodiversity Areas, intact grassland patches, Important Bird areas, Key Biodiversity Areas and the habitat of numerous threatened bird species. If we need to rely on the information presented to date, and the desktop assessments, then it is in our opinion that this project is fatally flawed. When considering the cumulative impact of the entire Rochdale Wind Energy Facility the anticipated environmental impacts on biodiversity, particularly on the avifauna, this project becomes a significant concern. The MTPA suggests that the applicant explores alternative locations, that are less environmental sensitive as it crucial before proceeding with this project.



Figure 1. MBSP terrestrial biodiversity map of the proposed wind turbines on portions 1,2 and 5 of the farm Schimmelhoek 272 IT and grid connection on various affected farm portions

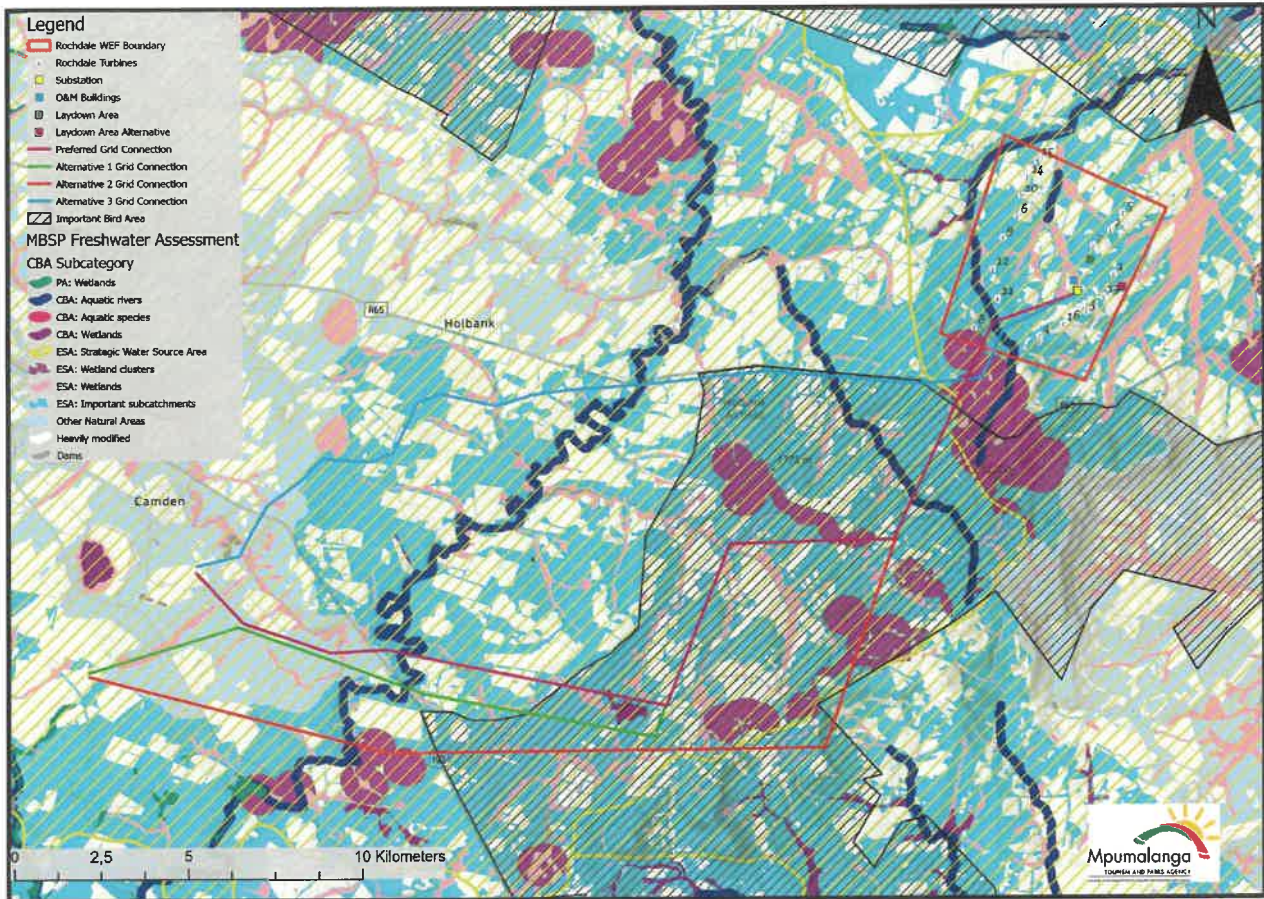


Figure 2: MBSP freshwater biodiversity map of the proposed wind turbines on portions 1,2 and 5 of the farm Schimmelhoek 272 IT and grid connection on various affected farm portions

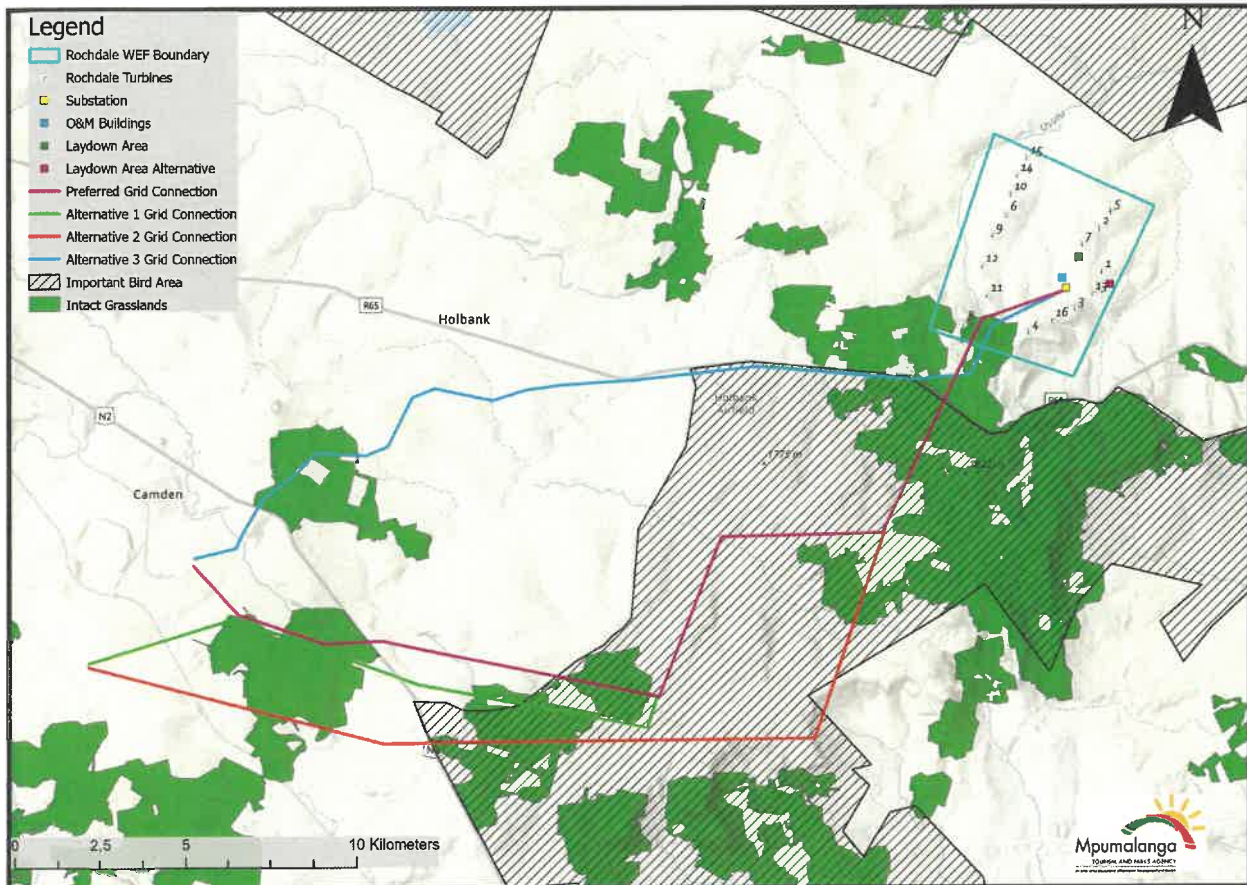


Figure 3: MBSP intact grassland map of the proposed wind turbines portions 1,2 and 5 of the farm Schimmelhoek 272 IT and grid connection on various affected farm portions

Please do not hesitate to contact this office if there are any enquiries.

Kind Regards

MS. NOMCEBO KUNENE
EXECUTIVE MANAGER BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION
 DATE: _____ / _____ / 2024

From: [ERM Arcus Amsterdam](#)
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: DRaft Comments LUA 24-3965 Rochdale Wind Energy Facility
Date: Tuesday, 01 October 2024 12:46:32
Attachments: [image002.png](#)

Thanks Celia!



ERM

Sustainability is our business

Lucien Barbeau
Consultant

Cape Town
+27105963488

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From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, October 1, 2024 11:15 AM
To: ERM Arcus Amsterdam <ERM.ArcusAmsterdam@erm.com>
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: DRaft Comments LUA 24-3965 Rochdale Wind Energy Facility

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EXTERNAL MESSAGE

Good day

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Celia

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 01 October 2024 10:35
To: Erm.arcusamsterdam@erm.com
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: FW: MTPA's comments LUA 24/3966 - Draft Scoping for 45 wind turbines (Emvelo Wind Energy)

Good day

Kindly receive two of the letters as requested

I will follow up with Frans Krige on LUA 24/3965, Rochdale, as soon as he is done with his meeting.

Regards

Celia

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: 20 September 2024 09:56

To: stephanie.gopaul@erm.com

Cc: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Subject: MTPA's comments LUA 24/3966 - Draft Scoping for 45 wind turbines (Emvelo Wind Energy)

Dear Ms. Gopaul

Kindly receive the attached comments from the MTPA regarding a Draft Scoping report for 45 wind turbines for Emvelo Wind Energy Facility & auxiliary infrastructure.

Your project no: **0684401**

Our EIA reference number is **LUA 24/3966**

Kind regards

Celia de Waal



Cecilia de Waal

Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Data Capturer

Land Use Advisory (LUA)

Biodiversity Conservation: Scientific Services



From:

[REDACTED]

Cc:

[REDACTED]

Date:

MTPA's comments: LUA 24/3965 - Draft Scoping report for the Rochdale Wind Energy Facility near ERMelo
Wednesday, 02 October 2024 11:15:01

Attachments:

[LUA 24-3965 OBJ D.Scoping.Rochdale.WEF_GridInfrastr_Msukaliwa.LM.pdf](#)

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EXTERNAL MESSAGE

Good day

Kindly receive the attached comments from the MTPA regarding a Draft Scoping Report for the 240 MW Rochdale Wind Energy Facility near Ermelo.

Your reference number is: **0684401**

Our EIA registration/reference number is: **LUA 24/3965**

Kind regards

Celia de Waal



Cecilia de Waal

Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Data Capturer

Land Use Advisory (LUA)

Biodiversity Conservation: Scientific Services

[REDACTED]

OFFICE OF BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION

Ref : LUA 24/3965
Unit : LUA/SS
Enquiries: F.N. Krige ;M.E Hlatshwayo
E-mail : frans@mtpa.co.za
Tel/Fax: 013 - 0650286

Stephanie Gopaul
Environmental Resource Management Southern Africa (Pty) Ltd
240 Main Road
Great Westerford Building, 1st Floor
Rondebosch
CAPE TOWN
7700

E-mail: ERM.ArcusAmsterdam@erm.com

Dear Ms., Gopaul

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- The proposed project area has a portion of Wakkerstroom Montane Grassland (Least Concern). A variety of land-uses are supported by this area and the conservation and good management of this area depends on the continued land-uses practices that have been able to support this biodiversity. The importance of sustainable development is crucial to the long-term maintenance of the biodiversity and ecosystem services in this area.
- Wind farms should not be placed in intact grassland areas as these are important areas where avifauna should be allowed to thrive and then disperse to other areas.
- Approval of the project in such a location could have far-reaching consequences for threatened bird species, potentially disrupting vital source areas critical for population sustainability.
- It is imperative to adopt a precautionary approach and prioritize the conservation of these essential habitats.

Avifaunal concerns

- The presence of 32 priority bird species for wind energy developments and of the 32,12 priority bird species for wind energy developments were recorded within the footprint area and 19 priority species were also recorded, of which the Southern Bald Ibis were nesting with chicks.
- A Martial Eagle nest (Endangered) occurs within the footprint area. These are South Africa's largest eagles and travel over vast areas. They are also susceptible to collision with turbines and wind farms are of serious concern, therefore according to the Endangered Wildlife Trust a 5km buffer must be applied and adhered to throughout the wind facility life cycle. Four of the proposed turbines (3, 4, 13 and 14) are within the buffer of the Martial Eagle therefore these turbines need to be excluded.

- Southern Bald Ibis colonies, Yellow-breasted Pipit, Secretary bird nest occur within footprint area. Therefore, the applicant needs to consider that birds are very mobile and with the proposed turbine height and blade lengths adequate buffers must be assigned.
- This raises particular concern as these birds may continuously collide with the blades of the wind turbines and the continuous loss of several of these long-lived birds every year may have a significant impact on population status.
- The water bodies in the area are important for migrating birds such as flamingos for bathing and drinking, therefore they need to be buffered on either site for the entire duration of the project life cycle.

Site Sensitivity Verification

- The results of the Site Sensitivity Verification confirmed that:
 - The sensitivity for the Terrestrial biodiversity impact assessment as Very High/High in grassland and wetland habitat
 - Aquatic Biodiversity Impact Assessment as High Sensitivity
 - Plant Species Assessment as Medium Sensitivity
 - Animal Species Assessment as High Sensitivity
 - Bat Assessment as Very High Sensitivity/High Sensitivity
 - Avifaunal Assessment as Very High Sensitivity/High Sensitivity

Additional concerns

- Not all the infrastructure has been included on the map or addressed in terms of likely impact. The length of internal roads must be included, and the impact be declared.

Recommendations

- Additional Vantage points must be conducted to establish if 23 species (Critically endangered) are present or not to provide more details regarding the potential impacts on the critical species.
- An Oribi management plan should be in place. The plan should include how this area can be utilized as a sanctuary for the Oribi.
- The Endangered Wildlife Trust's (EWT) recommended 5 km buffer for the Martial Eagle's nest is non-negotiable and should be adhered to throughout the project lifecycle.
- The location of all but 3 turbines is in avifaunal exclusion zones. However, according to the MBSP proposed turbine 5 is in an CBA Irreplaceable area. Therefore only two proposed turbines ,turbine 15 and 14 are in Heavily Modified or Moderately Modified Areas, however with some of the SCC roosting and nesting in trees of alien invasive species ,and cultivated/vegetated lands which might be utilized for feeding areas for many Species of Conservation Concern such as white bellied bustard(Vulnerable)recorded on the broader area, therefore even the Heavily Modified or moderately Modified Areas might not be suitable for the placement of the proposed turbines as they might also be utilized by the birds.
- The current identified Avifaunal Sensitivities map of all 'no-go' areas (Figure (i)) indicates little area for available for the wind farm. With additional monitoring done appropriate buffers must be applied, and all the associated infrastructure such as roads and lay down structures removed from the

sensitive areas, the MTPA cannot see how it would be possible to establish a wind farm within the proposed footprint area.

- Increase buffer zones for endangered bird nesting sites to reflect their wider flight ranges relative to the height of the turbines.
- Consider alternative locations with less ecological sensitivity, especially considering the numerous renewable energy projects already approved in Mpumalanga.

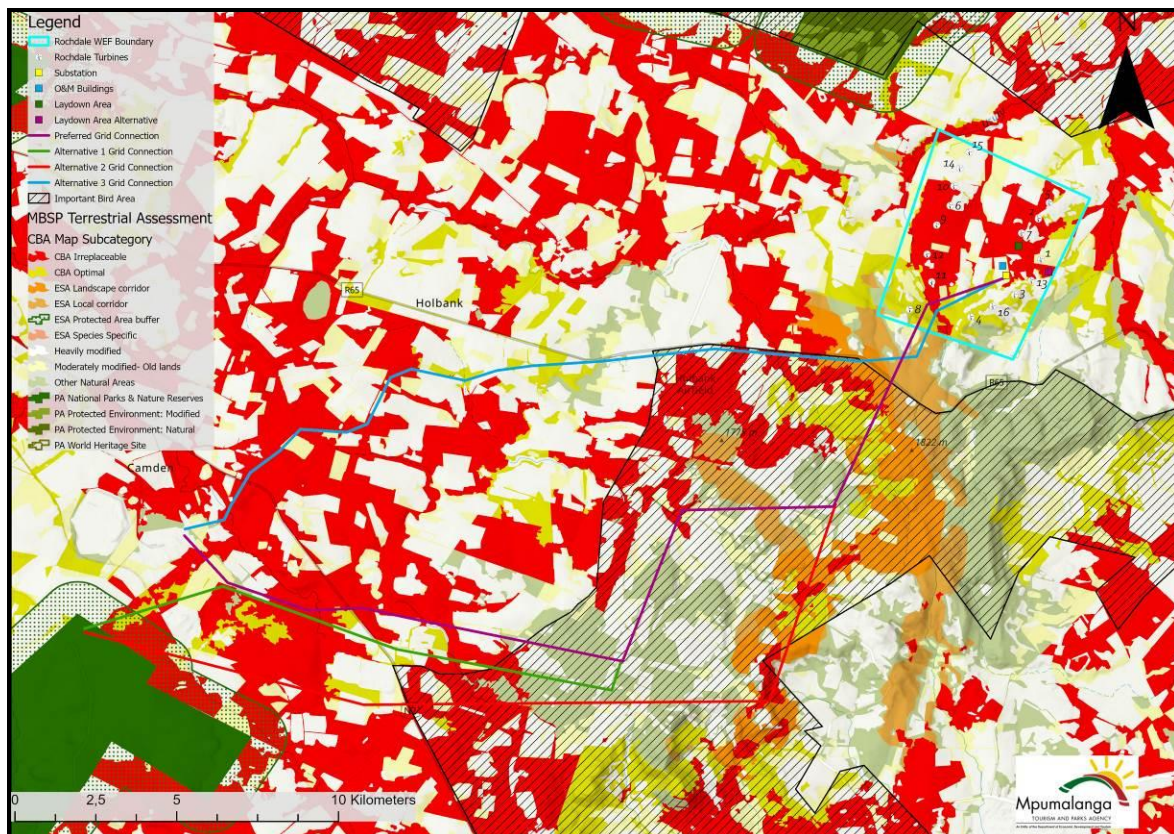


Figure 1. MBSP terrestrial biodiversity map of the proposed wind turbines on portions 1,2 and 5 of the farm Schimmelhoek 272 IT and grid connection on various affected farm portions

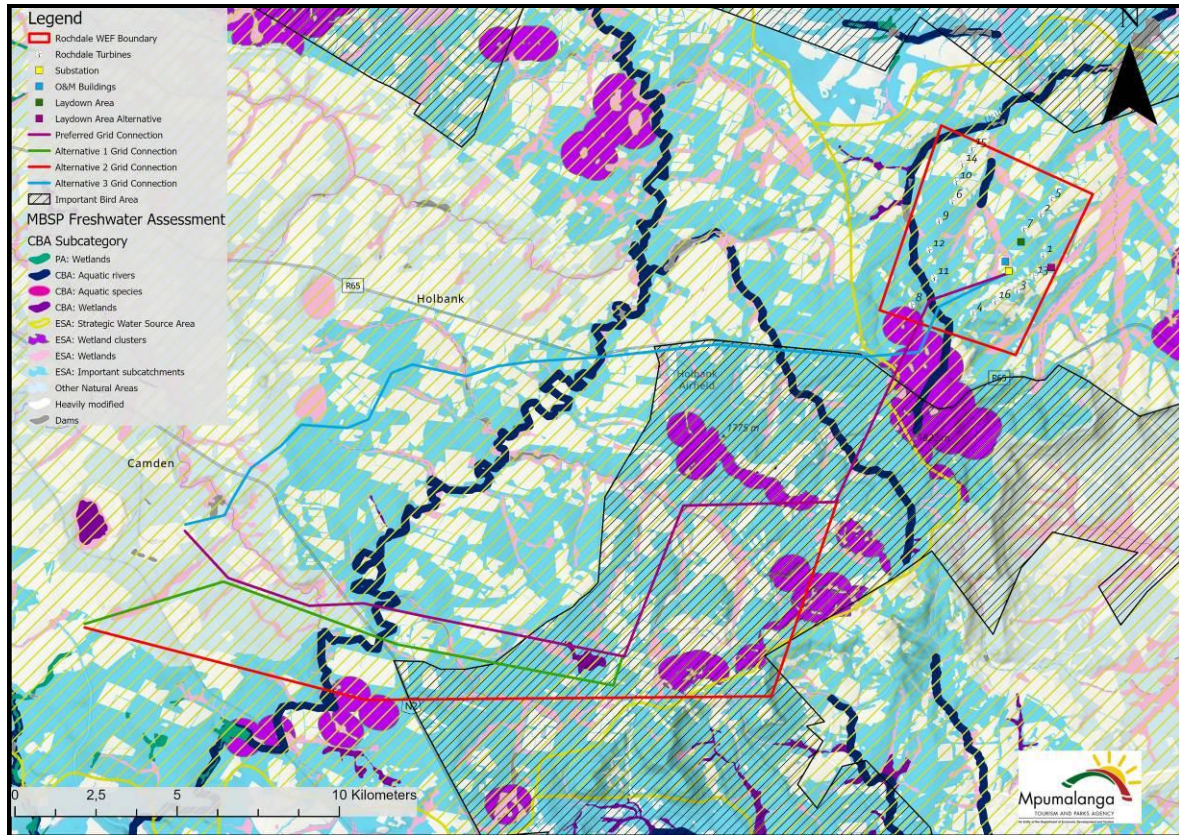


Figure 2: MBSP freshwater biodiversity map of the proposed wind turbines on portions 1,2 and 5 of the farm Schimmelhoek 272 IT and grid connection on various affected farm portions

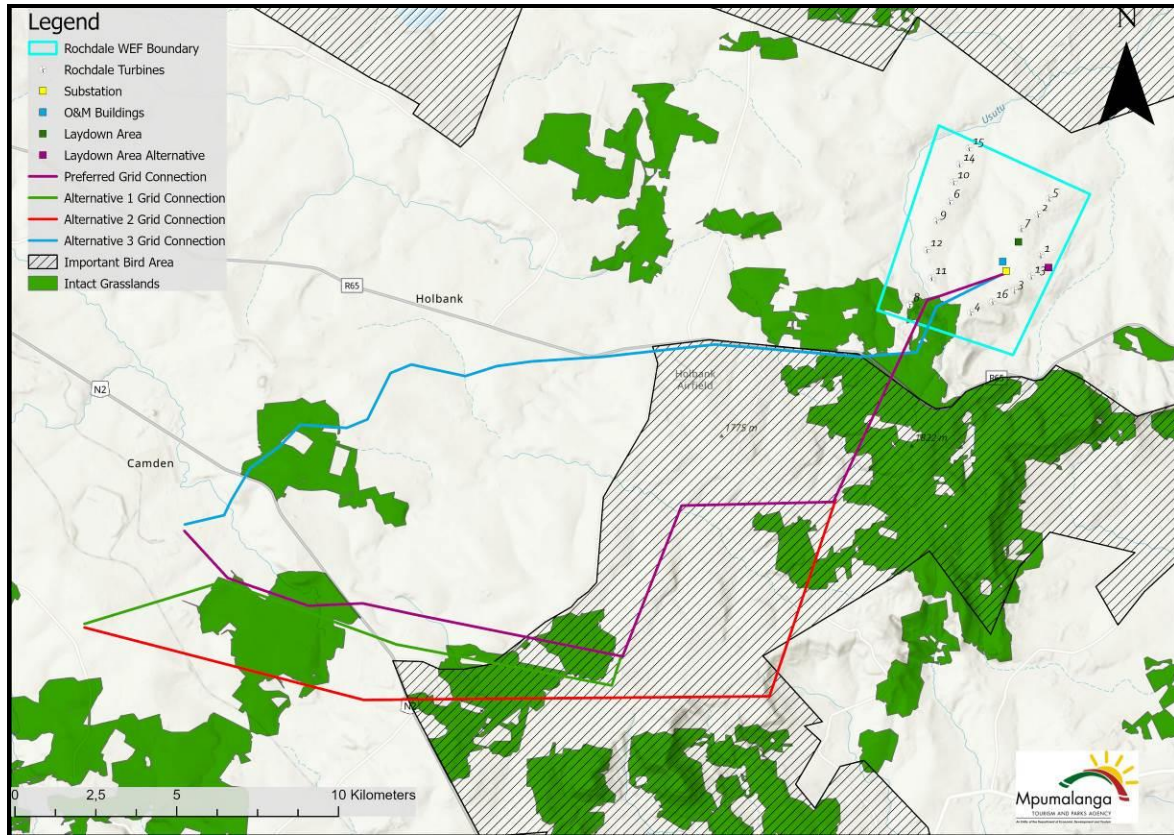


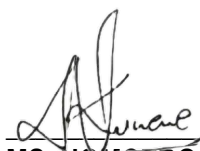
Figure 3: MBSP intact grassland map of the proposed wind turbine portions 1,2 and 5 of Schimmelhoek 272 IT and grid connection on various affected farm portions

Conclusion:

The proposed Rochdale Wind Energy Facility and associated infrastructure pose a significant threat to the Critical Biodiversity Areas, intact grassland patches, Important Bird areas, Key Biodiversity Areas and the habitat of numerous threatened bird species. If we rely on the information presented to date, and desktop assessments, then, in our opinion that this project is fatally flawed. When considering the cumulative impact of the entire Rochdale Wind Energy Facility the anticipated environmental impacts on biodiversity, this project becomes a significant concern, particularly on the avifauna. The MTPA suggests that the applicant explores alternative locations, that are less environmental sensitive as it crucial before proceeding with this project.

Please do not hesitate to contact this office if there are any enquiries.

Kind Regards



MS. NOMCEBO KUNENE
EXECUTIVE MANAGER BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION

DATE: 02 / 10 / 2024

From: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE:
Date: Wednesday, 02 October 2024 13:16:36
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

Hi Josua,

Thank you for sharing your concerns about the proposed WEF cluster. We appreciate your input. Your comments will be considered during the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) phase.

As part of the process, we will assess potential changes to the wind turbine layout and work to avoid sensitive areas to minimize any negative impacts. Your feedback appreciated and we will keep you updated as the EIA progresses.

Kind regards,



ERM

Sustainability is our business

Lucien Barbeau
Consultant

Cape Town
+27105963488

erm.com

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 19, 2024 1:21 PM
To: ERM Arcus Amsterdam <ERM.ArcusAmsterdam@erm.com>
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject:

You don't often get email from ermelo.postnet@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

EXTERNAL MESSAGE

Good day.

Thank you for your comment. Your comments will be taken into consideration during the EIA phase of the proposed WTF Cluster.

Kind Regards

Lucien Barbours
Consultant Case Team

Consultant Cape Town
ernb.com

+27105963488
www.OriginalM...

-----Original Message-----
From: aklafoern@aklafoe

Sent: Saturday, September 21, 2024 8:09 PM
To: ERM Access Amsterdam erm-access@sterdam.erm.com

Subject: New Response for "Stakeholder Eng..."

[You don't often get email from sidaforn@sidaforn.com, but

© 2006 Blackwell Publishing Ltd, *Journal of Internal Medicine* 260: 103–110

EXTERNAL MESSAGE

These LifeForms were:

Dear AidaForm user,

Your form "Stakeholder Engagement Form" has a new response.

Table 1

1. What's your name?
[REDACTED]

15. *How do you feel about the way the company is run?*

2. Who do you represent?
Individual Affected parties

3. Your Email

3. Your Total

4. Your Phone Number

4. Value of the Number

114

1

6. Your Address

11

7. What is your interest?

Strongly oppose

8. Please visit the IRI

 \mathbb{Z}_2

9. What are your comments on the negative impact on the

From: [ERM Arcus Amsterdam](#)
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Date: Wednesday, 02 October 2024 13:38:43
Attachments: [image002.png](#)

Hi Celia

Signed copy well received

Kind Regards



ERM

Sustainability is our business

Lucien Barbeau
Consultant

Cape Town
+27105963488

erm.com

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, October 2, 2024 11:14 AM
To: ERM Arcus Amsterdam <ERM.ArcusAmsterdam@erm.com>
Cc: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Subject: MTPA's comments: LUA 24/3965 - Draft Scoping report for the Rochdale Wind Energy Facility near ERMelo

WARNING: The sender of this email could not be validated and may not match the person in the "From" field.

EXTERNAL MESSAGE

Good day

Kindly receive the attached comments from the MTPA regarding a Draft Scoping Report for the 240 MW Rochdale Wind Energy Facility near Ermelo.

Your reference number is: **0684401**

Our EIA registration/reference number is: **LUA 24/3965**

Kind regards

Celia de Waal



Cecilia de Waal

Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Data Capturer

Land Use Advisory (LUA)

Biodiversity Conservation: Scientific Services



OFFICE OF BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION

Ref: LUA 24/3967
Unit: LUA/SS
Inquiries: F.N. Krige & F.N. Lekaka
Email: frans@mtpa.co.za
Tel: 013- 0650286

Ms. Stephanie Gopaul

ERM Southern Africa (Pty) Ltd
240 Main Road
Great Westerford Building, 1st Floor
Rondebosch
CAPE TOWN
7700

Email: ERM.ArcusAmsterdam@erm.com

Dear Ms., Gopaul

SUBJECT: THE MTPA COMMENTS ON THE DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL SCOPING REPORT FOR THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF THE SHEEPMOOR WIND ENERGY FACILITY (WEF) (23 WIND TURBINES) AND AUXILIARY INFRASTRUCTURE (1 ON-SITE SUBSTATION WITH A CAPACITY OF 132Kv, AND 1 OVER-HEAD POWERLINE OF APPROXIMATELY 22.3 KM) ON SEVERAL PORTIONS OF FARMS COVERING AN AREA OF 5 918 HA EAST OF ERMELO FOR SHEEPMOOR WIND ENERGY FACILITY (PTY) LTD, MSUKALIGWA LOCAL MUNICIPALITY, MPUMALANGA PROVINCE. DFFE REFERENCE NUMBER TO BE PROVIDED.

With reference to your correspondence reference **Project no: 0684401** of August 2024, herewith the MTPA comments.

The application has been assessed by using the following tools: Mpumalanga Biodiversity Sector Plan (2014 as updated 2022) land use guidelines, the DFFE web-based sensitivity screening tool, Environmental legislation NEMA and EIA regulations 2014 as amended, Department of Water and Sanitation and Water Research Commission Guidelines on wetlands, the South African Heritage Resources Act and knowledge to assess Development Applications.

The sensitivity of the area, in which the prospecting activity is proposed and is likely to occur was assessed according to the Mpumalanga Biodiversity Sector plan (MBSP; MTPA, 2014). The sensitivity is assessed in terms of terrestrial and freshwater assessments. In the MBSP, sensitivity areas are identified in terms of *Critical Biodiversity Areas* (CBAs) and *Ecological Support Areas* (ESAs). CBAs and ESAs are deemed to be

necessary to ensure the protection of biodiversity, environmental sustainability and sustainable living and are to remain unaltered.

Comments with regards to the terms of reference for studies needed:

With reference to the assessment of your Draft Scoping Report the MTPA is concerned about the following issues raised with regards to the terms of reference for specialist studies to be done.

1. The alternative sites, although less sensitive to the preferred site, are still located in sensitive areas.
2. Ground truthing and on-site studying of areas regarded as degraded or sensitive and suitable for potential wind turbines must be done considering that cultivated/vegetated lands might be feeding areas for many Species of Conservation Concern. The Site sensitivity verification report must include the feeding areas for SCC.
3. The avoidance of large areas of critical biodiversity terrestrial and freshwater sensitivity areas and the preliminary project layout overlain area is a large concern especially in the southeastern part of the study area.
4. The threat of this WEF to the Important Bird Area and the status of globally threatened bird species such as the Southern Bald Ibis and Secretary bird is of concern. The onsite avifaunal study must include local knowledge of the distribution of large birds especially the Blue crane that is a local migrant during the wintertime.
5. Included in the MTPA's comments are the following discussion that illustrates the **need and desirability** of this proposal:

Renewable energy applications

- Given the energy needs of the country, significant emphasis is being placed on the need to transition away from coal towards renewable energy. However, the urgency and desire to approve nearly all renewable energy applications needs to be put into perspective considering the incredible investment and proliferation of new renewable energy projects within Mpumalanga.
- The MTPA and DARDLEA are maintaining a database of renewable energy projects, which include those in the pre-application phase. We can confirm that 61 renewable energy projects have now been submitted within Mpumalanga. Just over 50% of these have been approved to date. 18 of these are for Wind Energy Farms, which together make up for over 233 000 ha, and this amount is growing as the province is being inundated with renewable energy applications.
- The explosion of renewable energy applications does require careful consideration as to the likely impacts. There is no shortage of renewable energy projects within the Province and the Province has room to apply its mind and navigate this space carefully. The province has now over 300 000 ha of renewable energy applications, and the many more than are still to be submitted.

Mpumalanga Biodiversity Sector Plan (MBSP), Intact Grassland Patches and Important Bird Areas (IBAs)

- The project **footprint overlaps with a significant amount of Critical Biodiversity Areas (CBA)**. 1 488.9 ha (over 28%) of the footprint area is identified as a CBA. Wind farms are not appropriate land uses within CBA areas. Two proposed wind turbines are placed in CBA Irreplaceable areas.
- The MBSP Terrestrial assessment indicates that the project footprint is within CBA: Irreplaceable, CBA: Optimal, ESA: Local Corridor, ESA: Landscape Corridor, ESA: Species Specific, Other Natural Areas, Moderately Modified, and Heavily Modified Areas.
- The MBSP Freshwater Assessment indicates that the project footprint is within ESA: Strategic Water Source Areas, and has CBA: Aquatic River, ESA: Wetland Clusters, ESA: Wetlands, ESA: Important Sub-catchments, Other Natural and Heavily Modified Areas.
- ESA: Strategic Water Source Area (SWSAs) maintain ecological integrity across the entire sub-catchment, paying particular attention to maintaining water quality, water quantity, and habitat integrity. They represent 10% of the surface area producing approximately 50% of Mpumalanga's water. The proposed WEF activity in the area might compromise the quality and quantity of the surface water resources through siltation.
- The whole of the proposed Sheepmoor wind farm falls within an Important Bird Area (IBA), which underscores the need to consider its implications on metapopulation dynamics and the need to avoid wind farms in "source" areas.
- The project area mainly falls within the Mesic Eastern Highveld Grassland (Endangered). A high proportion of this vegetation type is threatened and is generally poorly protected. Hence, it should be carefully managed for the persistence of biodiversity; large areas of natural habitat are needed for many bird species, plants, and numerous wetlands that the Mesic Highveld Grassland supports.
- The proposed project area has a portion of Wakkerstroom Montane Grassland (Least Concern). A variety of land-uses are supported by this area and the conservation and good management of this area depends on the continued land-uses practices that have been able to support this biodiversity. The importance of sustainable development is crucial to the long-term maintenance of the biodiversity and ecosystem services in this area.
- 2 143.6 ha (36 %) of the proposed wind farm is comprised of intact grassland patches. With only 51% of the grasslands remaining in a natural state, very little intact natural grasslands still occur in Mpumalanga. Three proposed wind turbines are placed in intact grassland patches.
- Intact grassland patches are areas larger than 100ha, with little or no gaps or edge effects. They were then prioritised according to their connectivity importance. These intact grasslands are "source" areas for avifaunal species where birth rates are expected to exceed death rates, and no wind farms should be placed anywhere near these intact grassland patches.
- The identification of actual avifaunal source areas may be difficult, but as these intact grassland patches occur within an Important Bird Area (IBA) where there are several nesting and roosting avifaunal species of conservation concern, it highlights their significance and our confidence in confirming these as "source" areas. The presence of these intact grassland patches, CBAs, and the IBAs, is probably the biggest concern that the MTPA may have about the proposed wind farm.

- 84 % of the proposed study area is Important Bird Area and 9.3% of the proposed study area is a Key Biodiversity Area.
- Wind farms are not to be placed in IBAs or intact grassland areas as these are important areas where avifauna should be allowed to thrive and then disperse to other areas.
- Approval of the project in such a location could have far-reaching consequences for threatened bird species, potentially disrupting vital source areas critical for population sustainability.
- The south of the project area falls within the National Protected Areas Expansion Strategy (NPAES) Focus Area (Moist Escarpment Grasslands). The Chrissiesmeer Protected Environment overlaps the north of the project area and Jericho Dam Nature Reserve overlaps the eastern part of the project area.
- It is imperative to adopt a precautionary approach and prioritize the conservation of these essential habitats.

Avifaunal concerns

- **Thirteen out of the 23 proposed wind turbines are placed within the 5 km buffer of a Martial Eagles' recommended buffer these should be removed.**
- 26% of the proposed wind turbines are not covered by vantage points.
- The presence of priority bird species for wind energy developments were recorded within the footprint area.
- Two Southern Bald Ibis colonies (Vulnerable) occur within footprint area.
- A Secretary bird nest (Endangered) was found within this area.
- Birds are very mobile and with the proposed turbine height and blade lengths, the current proposed buffers seem inadequate.
- This raises particular concern as these birds may continuously collide with the blades of the wind turbines and the continuous loss of several of these long-lived birds every year may have a significant impact on population status.
- The artificial water bodies within the footprint area may be important for flamingos and other water-dependent birds.

Site Sensitivity Verification

- The results of the Site Sensitivity Verification confirmed that:
 - The sensitivity for the Terrestrial biodiversity impact assessment as Very High in grassland and wetland habitat.
 - Aquatic Biodiversity Impact Assessment as Very High Sensitivity
 - Plant Species Assessment as Medium Sensitivity
 - Animal Species Assessment as High Sensitivity
 - Bat Assessment Very High/High Sensitivity
 - Avifaunal Assessment as Very High/High Sensitivity.

Additional concerns

- Not all the infrastructure has been included on the map or addressed in terms of likely impact, in this case, roads.

Recommendations:

- There should be a thorough Oribi census plan in place, and it should be included in the final EIA report as the project area is home to many Oribi antelope. (Red data species dependant on healthy highveld grasslands).
- Species 23 must be accounted for, and a management plan drawn up for it since the project area is a potential site for its occurrence.
- The EWT's recommended 5 km buffer for the Martial Eagle's nest is non-negotiable and should be adhered to throughout the project lifecycle.
- The current identified Avifaunal Sensitivities map of all 'no-go' areas (Figure (I)) indicates little area for available for the wind farm. With more appropriate buffers, more field work, and all the associated infrastructure (such as roads), we cannot see how it would be possible to establish a wind farm within the footprint area.
- Increase buffer zones for endangered bird nesting sites to reflect their wider flight ranges relative to the height of the turbines.
- Consider alternative locations with less ecological sensitivity, especially considering the numerous renewable energy projects already approved in Mpumalanga.

Conclusion:

The proposed Sheepmoor Wind Energy Facility poses a significant threat to a Critical Biodiversity Areas, intact grassland patches, Important Bird areas, and the habitat of numerous threatened bird species. Relying on the information presented to date, and the desktop assessments, **it is in the MTPA's opinion that this project is fatally flawed.** The anticipated impacts on biodiversity, particularly the avifauna, is too great to support this project. More ecological assessments and exploration of alternative locations are crucial before proceeding with this project.

Please do not hesitate to contact this office if there are any inquiries.

Kind Regards



MS. NOMCEBO KUNENE
EXECUTIVE MANAGER BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION
DATE: 18 / 09 / 2024

OFFICE OF BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION

Ref : LUA 24/3965

Unit : LUA/SS

Enquiries: F.N. Krige ;M.E Hlatshwayo

E-mail : frans@mtpa.co.za

Tel/Fax: 013 - 0650286

Stephanie Gopaul

Environmental Resource Management Southern Africa (Pty) Ltd

240 Main Road

Great Westerford Building, 1st Floor

Rondebosch

CAPE TOWN

7700

Email: ERM.ArcusAmsterdam@erm.com

Dear Ms., Gopaul

SUBJECT: THE MTPA REVIEW AND COMMENTS ON THE DRAFT SCOPING REPORTIT, ONVERWACHTOSED 240 MW ROCHDALE WIND ENERGY FACILITY (30 TURBINES) ON PORTIONS 1,2 AND 5 OF THE FARM SCHIMMELHOEK 272 IT AND ASSOCIATED 132 Kv GRID INFRASTRUCTURE TRANSVERSING OVER SEVERAL PORTIONS OF THE FARMS SCHIMMELHOEK 272 IT, ONVERWACHT 273, ZWARTWATER 288, WELTERVREDEN 289 AND WITPUNT 267 APPROXIMATELY 31.5 KM BY ROCHDALE WIND ENERGY FACILITY (PTY) LTD NEAR ERMELO, MSUKALIGWA LOCAL MUNICIPALITY, MPUMALANGA PROVINCE.

With reference to your correspondence reference 0684401 of date 28/08/2024 our comments:

The application has been assessed by using the following tools: Mpumalanga Biodiversity Sector Plan (2014 as updated 2022) land use guidelines, the DFFE web-based sensitivity screening tool, Environmental legislation NEMA and EIA regulations 2014 as amended, Department of Water and Sanitation and Water Research Commission Guidelines on wetlands, the South African Heritage Resources Act and knowledge to assess Development Applications.

The sensitivity of the area, in which the prospecting activity is proposed and is likely to occur was assessed according to the Mpumalanga Biodiversity Sector plan (MBSP; MTPA, 2014). The sensitivity is assessed in terms of terrestrial and freshwater assessments. In the MBSP, sensitivity areas are identified in terms of *Critical Biodiversity Areas* (CBAs) and *Ecological Support Areas* (ESAs). CBAs and ESAs are deemed to be necessary to ensure the protection of biodiversity, environmental sustainability and sustainable living and are to remain unaltered.

With reference to the assessment of your Draft Scoping Report the MTPA is concerned about the following issues raised with regards to the terms of reference for specialist studies.

1. The applicant needs to look for an alternative less sensitive development site to develop the wind energy facility.
2. The avoidance of large areas of critical biodiversity terrestrial and freshwater sensitivity areas and the preliminary project layout overlain area is a large concern especially in the southeastern part of the study area.
3. The threat of this WEF to the Important Bird Area (IBA) and the status of globally Endangered bird species such as the Martial Eagle is of a concern.
4. Road network and its impact must be indicated and must be placed away from the sensitive zones.
5. A 1 km buffer from the CBA Rivers must be applied. Wherever wetland and river crossings are needed, the EIA regulations must be followed.
6. The potential risk and threat of infrastructure-induced fires occurring on grasslands and impacting Species of Conservation Concern (SCC) must be incorporated into the risk assessments.

Proliferation of renewable energy applications

- While South Africa's energy needs highlight the urgency of shifting from coal to renewable energy, it is crucial to consider the scale of investments and the rapid growth of renewable energy projects, especially in Mpumalanga. The drive to approve nearly all renewable applications must be carefully balanced with proper planning and sustainability, ensuring that the transition aligns with environmental, economic, and social factors specific to the region.
- The explosion of renewable energy applications does require careful consideration as to the likely impacts. There is no shortage of renewable energy projects within the Province and the Province has room to apply its mind and navigate this space carefully, especially on areas that are not part of the Renewable Energy Development Zones (REDZs) The province has now over 300 000 ha of renewable energy applications, and the many more than are still to be submitted.

Mpumalanga Biodiversity Sector Plan (MBSP), Intact Grassland Patches and Important Bird Areas (IBAs)

- Majority of the proposed turbines and associated infrastructure such as the laydown structure and grid connections are in environmental sensitive areas (CBA Irreplaceable 1,399.9, CBA Optimal, Intact grassland areas, Priority Focus Area and Key Biodiversity Areas). The MTPA is also not satisfied with the alternative proposed development sites as they are still placed within the environmental sensitive areas, with the grid connections traversing over the Important Bird Areas (IBA) and the buffer of the Martial Eagle Nest.
- The proposed Rochdale Wind Energy Facility is less than 1 km from an Important Bird Area (IBA), and it is important to note that Birds of SCC were recorded in the broader area, therefore the proposed project might impact these Birds of SCC.

- With the vantage points provided, some of the proposed wind turbines are not visible from the vantage point and, although additional vantage points and transect count monitoring was conducted near the Martial Eagle nest. However, with the possibility of the presence of species 23, and a high diversity of threatened bird species, including the threatened birds confirmed on site: African Marsh Harrier Denham's Bustard, Secretary bird, White-bellied Bustard, Blue Crane, Grey Crowned Crane, Lanner Falcon Greater Flamingo, Southern Bald Ibis, Cape Vulture, and Yellow-breasted Pipit. The MTPA is concerned that the survey effort is not sufficient to adequately find possible breeding and nest sites of species 23 and to assess cumulative impacts and identify appropriate avoidance and mitigation measures for the threatened and vulnerable species. Therefore, the MTPA requests the applicant, to do additional vantage point monitoring not only for the martial eagle, but to ascertain if species 23 is present or not this must be done to satisfy and honour the African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbird Agreement.
- Intact grassland patches are areas larger than 100ha, with little or no gaps or edge effects. They were then prioritised according to their connectivity importance. These intact grasslands are "source" areas for avifaunal species where birth rates are expected to exceed death rates, and no wind farms should be placed anywhere near these intact grassland patches. Proposed Turbine 8 falls within the intact grassland patches, 140 Ha is identified as an area with intact grassland. With only 51% of the grasslands remaining in a natural state, very little intact natural grasslands still occur in Mpumalanga. Therefore, the MTPA sees the need to protect the little intact grassland still occurring, therefore turbine 8 should be excluded.
- Majority of proposed project area mainly falls within the Eastern Highveld Grassland (Endangered). A high proportion of this vegetation type is threatened and is generally poorly protected. Hence, it should be carefully managed for the persistence of biodiversity; large areas of natural habitat are needed for many bird species, plants, and numerous wetlands that the Mesic Highveld Grassland supports.
- The proposed project area has a portion of Wakkerstroom Montane Grassland (Least Concern). A variety of land-uses are supported by this area and the conservation and good management of this area depends on the continued land-uses practices that have been able to support this biodiversity. The importance of sustainable development is crucial to the long-term maintenance of the biodiversity and ecosystem services in this area.
- Wind farms should not be placed in intact grassland areas as these are important areas where avifauna should be allowed to thrive and then disperse to other areas.
- Approval of the project in such a location could have far-reaching consequences for threatened bird species, potentially disrupting vital source areas critical for population sustainability.
- It is imperative to adopt a precautionary approach and prioritize the conservation of these essential habitats.

Avifaunal concerns

- The presence of 32 priority bird species for wind energy developments and of the 32,12 priority bird species for wind energy developments were recorded within the footprint area and 19 priority species were also recorded, of which the Southern Bald Ibis were nesting with chicks.

- A Martial Eagle nest (Endangered) occurs within the footprint area. These are South Africa's largest eagles and travel over vast areas. They are also susceptible to collision with turbines and wind farms are of serious concern, therefore according to the Endangered Wildlife Trust a 5km buffer must be applied and adhered to throughout the wind facility life cycle. Four of the proposed turbines (3, 4, 13 and 14) are within the buffer of the Martial Eagle therefore these turbines need to be excluded.
- Southern Bald Ibis colonies, Yellow-breasted Pipit, Secretary bird nest occur within footprint area. Therefore, the applicant needs to consider that birds are very mobile and with the proposed turbine height and blade lengths adequate buffers must be assigned.
- This raises particular concern as these birds may continuously collide with the blades of the wind turbines and the continuous loss of several of these long-lived birds every year may have a significant impact on population status.
- The water bodies in the area are important for migrating birds such as flamingos for bathing and drinking, therefore they need to be buffered on either site for the entire duration of the project life cycle.

Site Sensitivity Verification

- The results of the Site Sensitivity Verification confirmed that:
 - The sensitivity for the Terrestrial biodiversity impact assessment as Very High/High in grassland and wetland habitat
 - Aquatic Biodiversity Impact Assessment as High Sensitivity
 - Plant Species Assessment as Medium Sensitivity
 - Animal Species Assessment as High Sensitivity
 - Bat Assessment as Very High Sensitivity/High Sensitivity
 - Avifaunal Assessment as Very High Sensitivity/High Sensitivity

Additional concerns

- Not all the infrastructure has been included on the map or addressed in terms of likely impact. The length of internal roads must be included, and the impact be declared.

Recommendations

- Additional Vantage points must be conducted to establish if species 23 (Critically endangered) is present or not to provide more details regarding the potential impacts on the critical species.
- There should be an Oribi management plan in place. The plan should include how this area can be utilized as a sanctuary for the Oribi.
- The EWT's recommended 5 km buffer for the Martial Eagle's nest is non-negotiable and should be adhered to throughout the project lifecycle.
- The location of all but 3 turbines is in avifaunal exclusion zones. However, according to the MBSP proposed turbine 5 is in an CBA Irreplaceable area. Therefore only two proposed turbines, turbine 15 and 14 are in Heavily Modified or Moderately Modified Areas, however with some of the SCC

roosting and nesting in trees of alien invasive species ,and cultivated/vegetated lands which might be utilized for feeding areas for many Species of Conservation Concern such as white bellied bustard(Vulnerable)recorded on the broader area, therefore even the Heavily Modified or moderately Modified Areas might not be suitable for the placement of the proposed turbines as they might also be utilized by the birds.

- The current identified Avifaunal Sensitivities map of all 'no-go' areas (Figure (i)) indicates little area for available for the wind farm. With additional monitoring done appropriate buffers must be applied, and all the associated infrastructure such as roads and lay down structures removed from the sensitive areas, the MTPA cannot see how it would be possible to establish a wind farm within the proposed footprint area.
- Increase buffer zones for endangered bird nesting sites to reflect their wider flight ranges relative to the height of the turbines.
- Consider alternative locations with less ecological sensitivity, especially considering the numerous renewable energy projects already approved in Mpumalanga.

Conclusion:

The proposed Rochdale Wind Energy Facility and associated infrastructure poses a significant threat to the Critical Biodiversity Areas, intact grassland patches, Important Bird areas, Key Biodiversity Areas and the habitat of numerous threatened bird species. If we need to rely on the information presented to date, and the desktop assessments, then it is in our opinion that this project is fatally flawed. When considering the cumulative impact of the entire Rochdale Wind Energy Facility the anticipated environmental impacts on biodiversity, particularly on the avifauna, this project becomes a significant concern. The MTPA suggests that the applicant explores alternative locations, that are less environmental sensitive as it crucial before proceeding with this project.



Figure 1. MBSP terrestrial biodiversity map of the proposed wind turbines on portions 1,2 and 5 of the farm Schimmelhoek 272 IT and grid connection on various affected farm portions

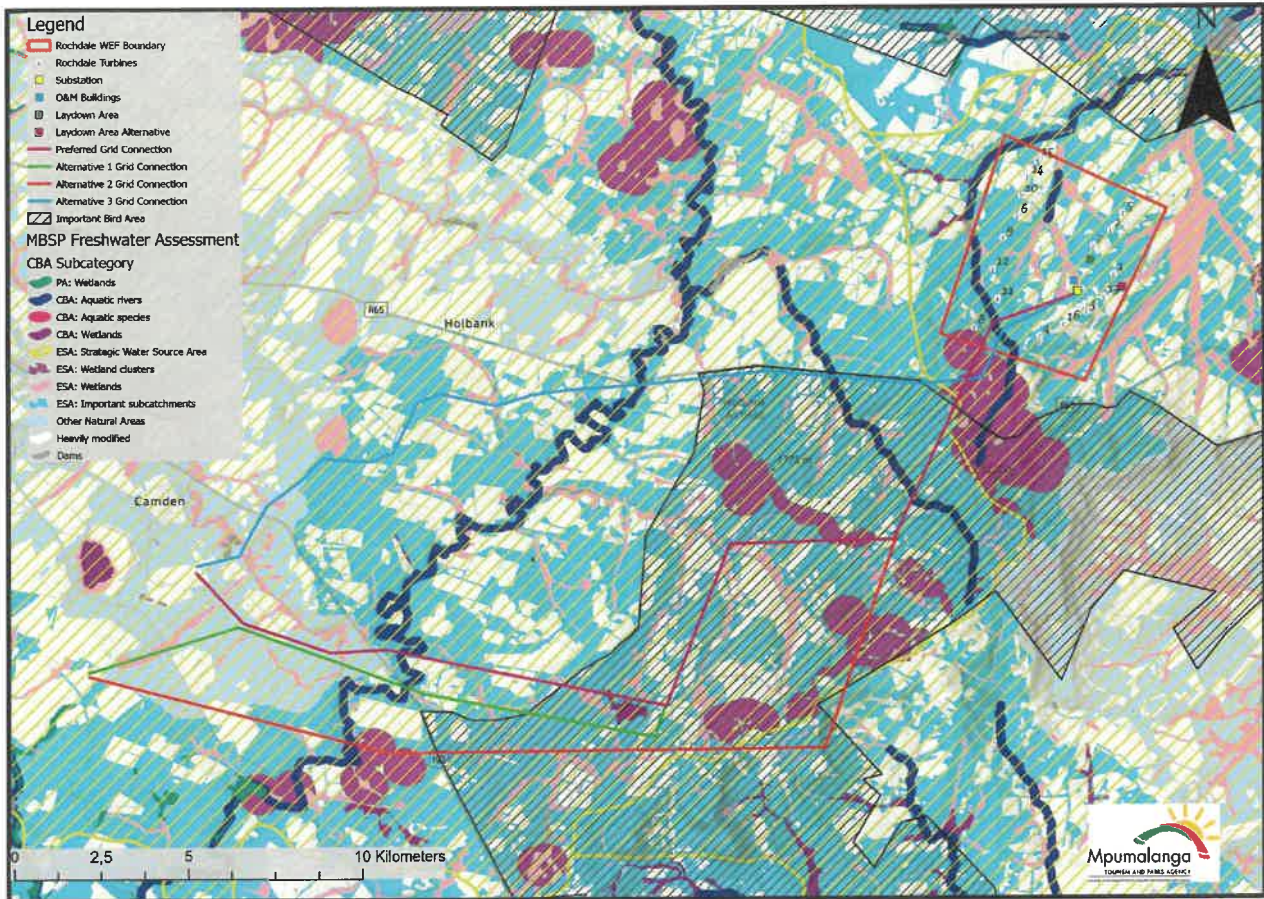


Figure 2: MBSP freshwater biodiversity map of the proposed wind turbines on portions 1,2 and 5 of the farm Schimmelhoek 272 IT and grid connection on various affected farm portions

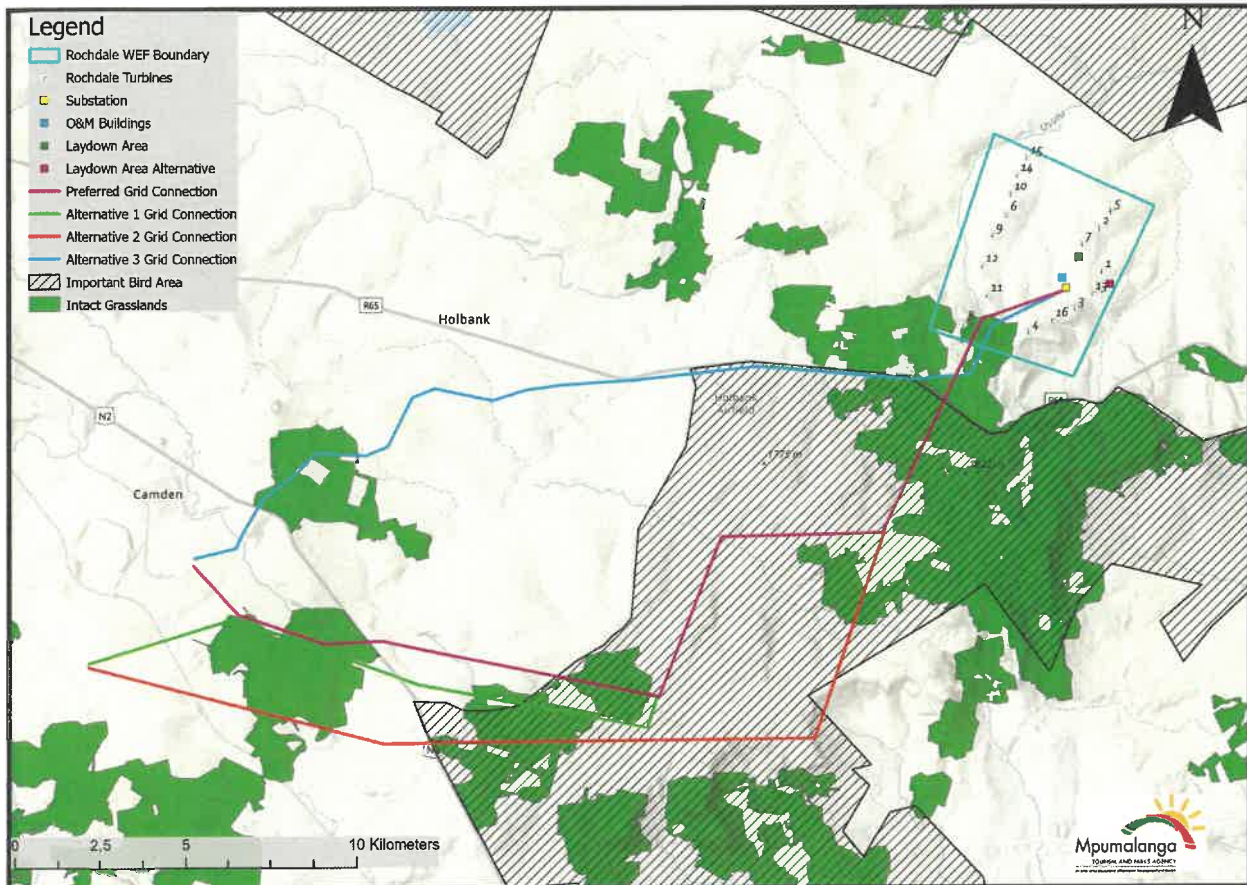


Figure 3: MBSP intact grassland map of the proposed wind turbines portions 1,2 and 5 of the farm Schimmelhoek 272 IT and grid connection on various affected farm portions

Please do not hesitate to contact this office if there are any enquiries.

Kind Regards

MS. NOMCEBO KUNENE
EXECUTIVE MANAGER BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION
 DATE: ____ / ____ / 2024

OFFICE OF BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION

Ref: LUA 24/3966

Unit : LUA/SS

Enquiries: F.N. Krige/ Mr. R.L Nkosi

E-mail: frans@mtpa.co.za

Tel: 013 0650286

Ms. S. Gopaul

Environmental Resource Management Southern Africa (Pty) Ltd.

The Great Westerford

240 Main Road

Rondebosch

Cape Town

7700

Tel: 010 596 3506

E-mail: stephanie.gopaul@erm.com

Dear Ms., Gopaul

SUBJECT: MTPA'S COMMENTS REGARDING THE DRAFT SCOPING FOR THE 45 WIND TURBINES EMVELO WIND ENERGY FACILITY AND AUXILIARY INFRASTRUCTURE,) AND AUXILIARY INFRASTRUCTURE (1 ON-SITE SUBSTATION WITH A CAPACITY OF 200MW, AND 1 OVER-HEAD 132 kV POWERLINE OF APPROXIMATELY 30 KM) ON 18 PORTIONS OF FARMS COVERING AN AREA OF 6 964 HA EAST OF ERMELO FOR EMVELO WIND ENERGY FACILITY (PTY) LTD, MSUKALIGWA LOCAL MUNICIPALITY, MPUMALANGA PROVINCE. DFFE REFERENCE NUMBER TO BE PROVIDED. MPUMALANGA PROVINCE.

Your correspondence with the project ref no. 0684401 of date 28/08/2024.

COMMENTS AND CONCERNS:

The sensitivity of the above farm on which the proposed activity is likely to occur was assessed according to the Mpumalanga Biodiversity Sector Plan (MBSP; MTPA, 2014). This sensitivity is assessed in terms of terrestrial and freshwater assessments. In the MBSP, priority sensitive areas are identified in terms of Critical Biodiversity Areas (CBAs) and Ecological Support Areas (ESAs). CBAs and ESAs are deemed to be necessary to ensure protection of biodiversity, environmental sustainability, and human well-being, and are to remain unaltered.

According to the MBSP terrestrial assessment map (figure 1) the proposed development will occur within CBA Irreplaceable, CBA Optimal, ESA Landscape corridor, ESA Ecological Corridor, Important Bird Areas (IBA), other natural areas, moderately modified- old lands and heavily modified area (Degraded). According to the freshwater assessments map (figure 2), the proposed development will occur within a CBA Aquatic River, CBA wetlands, ESA wetlands, ESA Strategic water source, ESA Important sub-catchments other natural areas and heavily modified area (Degraded).

The MTPA have the following concerns:

The MTPA is concerned with the proposed project area for the Emvelo Wind Energy Facility (WEF) and its associated Auxiliary infrastructure which is within Important Bird Areas (IBA), CBA Irreplaceable, CBA optimal, CBA aquatic rivers, ESA wetland clusters, ESA wetlands and intact grasslands. These areas are of biodiversity importance and the proposed Emvelo WEF and associated infrastructure will compromise the primary biodiversity objectives of these areas.

The MTPA is concerned with a number of turbines that are in no-go areas or highly sensitive areas. There are ten (10) turbines that are located within the intact grasslands which are turbines 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 9, 13 and 15 (refer to Figure 3), intact grasslands are crucial for supporting threatened avifauna and these turbines will compromise that biodiversity objective. The MBSP specifically incorporated climate change into spatial priorities through the prioritisation of the connectivity of remaining intact grassland patches in the province, as they provide habitat for species to thrive, and allow for their dispersal.

Turbines 12, 14, 16, 17, 29, 32 and 33 are within CBA irreplaceable, which is to be maintained in a natural state with no loss of ecosystems, functionality or species with no flexibility in land-use options. Turbines 8, 18 and 19 are within CBA optimal which is to be maintained in a natural state with no loss of ecosystems, functionality or species with some flexibility in land-use options.

Turbines 1,2,3,5, 9, 11, 13, 15, 18, 19, 22, 24, 26, 31, and 35 are located within Important Bird Area (IBA). The Important Bird Area (IBA) as established by the Birdlife SA are areas that has the richness of conservation important bird species and care should be taken not to lose their breeding and feeding habitats. Wind turbines increase the risk of bird's collision. Surface water (Wetlands, drainage lines and dams) is crucially important for priority Avifauna, wind turbines and powerlines that that are placed near surface water pose a collision risk (as mentioned by the Avifaunal specialist). The most preferred sites are Moderately and Heavily modified areas; other natural areas are also preferred but under certain conditions.

The proposed Emvelo WEF and its associated grid connection is located in an area comprising a high diversity of threatened bird species, including the following confirmed on site: African Marsh Harrier (Regionally Endangered); Martial Eagle (Globally and Regionally Endangered); Denham's Bustard (Globally Near Threatened, Regionally Vulnerable); Secretary bird (Globally Endangered, Regionally Vulnerable); White-bellied Bustard (Regionally Vulnerable), Blue Crane (Globally Vulnerable, Regionally Near Threatened); Grey Crowned Crane (Globally and Regionally Endangered); Lanner Falcon (Regionally Vulnerable); Greater Flamingo (Regionally Near Threatened); Southern Bald Ibis (Regionally and Globally Vulnerable); Cape

Vulture (Globally Vulnerable and Regionally Endangered); and Yellow-breasted Pipit (Regionally and Globally Vulnerable).

Turbines 1, 2, 3, 5, 7, 9, 13 and 15 are within the 5km Martial Eagle Buffer, Birdlife South Africa currently recommends 5-6 km buffer for Martial Eagles, this 5km no-go buffer must be adhered to by the Applicant.

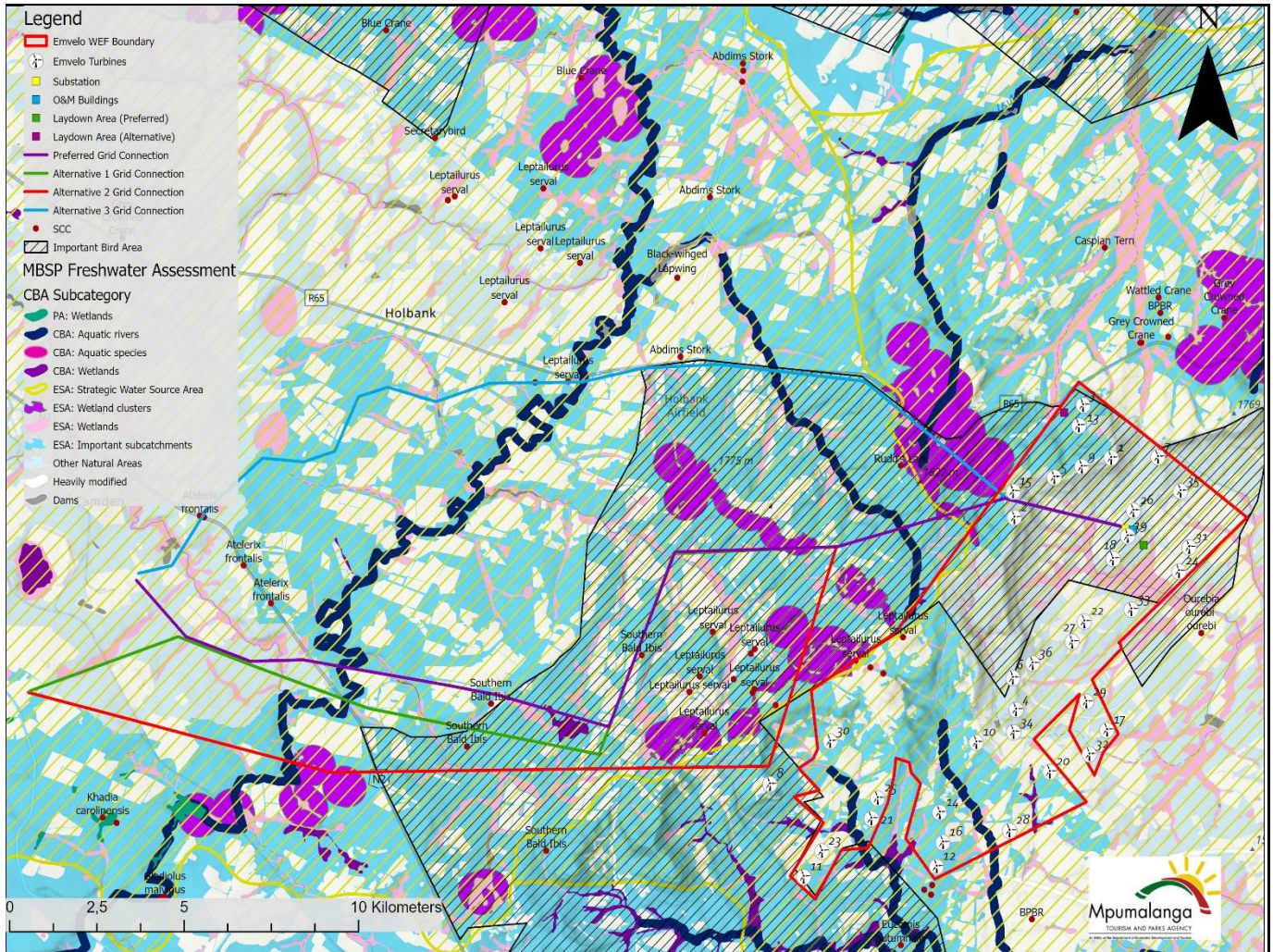
The MTPA would like to recommend the following:

- Key biodiversity areas should be avoided, and Wind turbines removed from such.
- A 100m buffer around wetlands and other waterbodies must be implemented and adhered to throughout the lifecycle of the proposed development.
- 5km radius Martial Eagle Buffer (as recommended by BirdLifeSA) must be implemented and avoided throughout the lifecycle of the proposed development.
- A Thorough Terrestrial Biodiversity assessment which also includes Intact grasslands patches.
- A thorough Avifaunal study must be done with all the best practices to avoid the bird collision risks.
- Proper mitigation strategies of the wind turbines to avoid collisions and mortalities must be included in the EIAR.
- The roads, temporary site camps and all the other associated infrastructure must be included on the site layout of the Emvelo WEF in the EIAR.
- The Applicant must find a more suitable alternative site for this development with less risk to biodiversity.
- The clearance or removal of vegetation must be restricted to the project footprint.
- Moderately modified- old lands and heavily modified areas (Degraded) are the most preferred sites for the Emvelo WEF, other natural areas are also preferred but under certain conditions.
- The applicant must apply duty of care to ensure that there is no significant pollution or degradation of the environment.

The MTPA does not support the Environmental Authorisation of the proposed Emvelo Wind Energy Facility (Pty) Ltd for proposed Wind Energy Facility and Auxiliary infrastructure operation within the application area with up to 45 proposed wind turbines. The sensitive areas cover most of the proposed Emvelo WEF project area, Important Birds Area (IBA) covers 43% of the project area; Key Biodiversity Areas (KBA) Covers 21.4% of the project area; Critical Biodiversity Areas (CBA) covers 1,302.2 ha of the project area; and 2,272.5 ha of intact grassland patches within the project area.



Figure 1. MBSP based terrestrial biodiversity assessment for the Emvelo Wind Energy Facility.



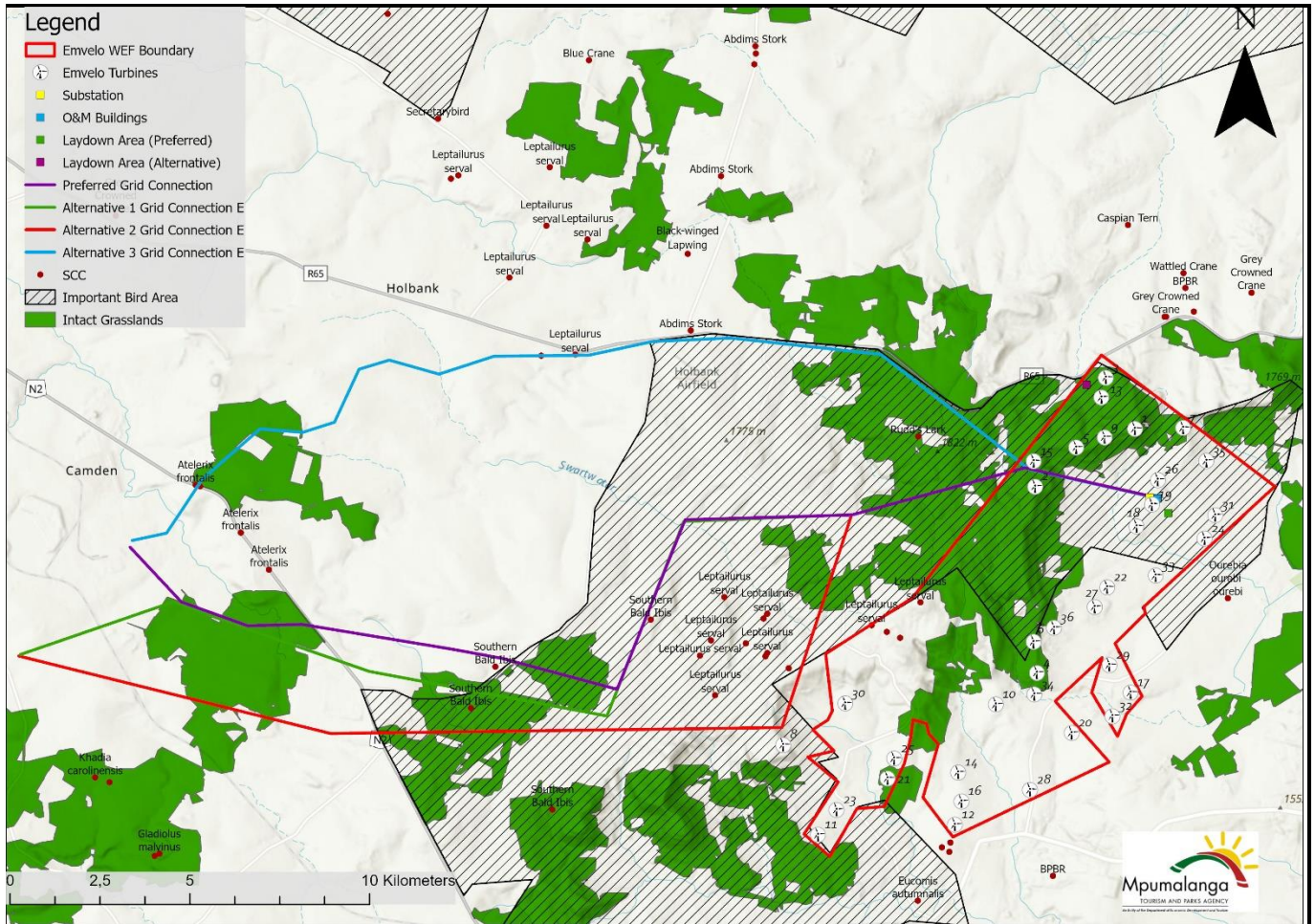


Figure 3. MBSP based Intact Grasslands map for the Emvelo Wind Energy Facility.

Please do not hesitate to contact this office if there are any enquiries.

Kind Regards



MS. NOMCEBO KUNENE
EXECUTIVE MANAGER BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION
DATE: 20 / 09 / 2024.



forestry, fisheries & the environment

Department:
Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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DFFE Reference: 14/12/16/3/3/2/2611

Enquiries: Ms Bathandwa Ncube

Telephone: 012 399 9368 **E-mail:** BNcube@dfre.gov.za

Ms Stephanie Gopaul
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Telephone Number : 010 596 3502

Cellphone Number : 065 666 0066

Email Address : stephanie.gopaul@erm.com / erm.arcusamsterdam@erm.com

PER E-MAIL

Dear Ms Gopaul

ACCEPTANCE OF THE SCOPING REPORT FOR THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF THE EMVELO WIND ENERGY FACILITY AND AUXILIARY INFRASTRUCTURE, NEAR ERMELO, WITHIN THE MSUKALIGWA LOCAL MUNICIPALITY, MPUMALANGA PROVINCE

The final Scoping Report (SR) and the Plan of Study for Environmental Impact Assessment (PoSEIA) dated October 2024 and received by the Department on 07 October 2024, refers.

The Department has evaluated the submitted final SR and the Plan of Study for Environmental Impact Assessment dated July 2024 and is satisfied that the documents comply with the minimum requirements of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations, 2014, as amended. The FSR is hereby accepted by the Department in terms of Regulation 22(a) of the EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended.

You may proceed with the environmental impact assessment process in accordance with the tasks contemplated in the PoSEIA as required in terms of the EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended. The Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) must comply with the requirements of Appendix 3 of the EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended.

In addition, the following amendments and additional information are required for the EIAR:



Batho pele- putting people first



The processing of personal information by the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment is done lawfully and not excessive to the purpose of processing in compliance with the POPI Act, any codes of conduct issued by the Information Regulator in terms of the POPI Act and / or relevant legislation providing appropriate security safeguards for the processing of personal information of others.

MEM 1

General Comments

1. The meeting minutes in Appendix F of the Public Participation Report refers. The discussions during the meeting with the Mpumalanga Department of Agriculture, Rural Development, Land and Environmental Affairs (DARDLEA) and the Mpumalanga Tourism & Parks Agency (MTPA) on 11 September 2024 are noted.
2. The table of coordinates on page x of the SR is noted. The EIAr must include:
 - a. The corner coordinates for the Battery Energy Storage System.
 - b. Bend point coordinates for the 132kV powerline alternatives; and the main access roads.
3. The EIAr must include the approximate length of each grid connection alternative route, and these grid connection routes must be discussed in the “*Alternatives*” section of the EIAr.
4. You are requested to provide the estimated operational lifespan of the proposed Emvelo WEF and details of future plans for the site and infrastructure after decommissioning, as well as the possibility of upgrading the proposed infrastructure to more advanced technologies.
5. The EIAr must confirm the availability of services identified on pages 124 to 126 of the final SR.
6. If the EIAr contains listed activities and/or other information that differs from the application form, the application form must be amended accordingly and submitted to the Department with the EIAr.

Battery Energy Storage System (BESS)

7. Applicable BESS technologies must be included under the Technology Alternatives section of the EIAr.
8. A risk assessment study is not required for the Battery Energy Storage System (BESS), however, impacts associated with the risks must be identified, considered, and assessed as part of the EIAr.

Public Participation

9. Comments on the draft EIAR must be obtained from this Department’s Biodiversity Conservation Directorate at BCAdmin@dfre.gov.za and Protected Areas section (regarding the NPAES) at Tnethononda@dfre.gov.za. Further to that, these comments must be addressed and incorporated in the final EIAr.
10. Proof of correspondence with the various stakeholders must be included in the EIAr. This must indicate that this draft EIAr has been subjected to 30 days public participation process, stating the start and end date of the PPP.
11. Please ensure that comments from all relevant stakeholders are submitted to the Department with the EIAr.
12. Should you be unable to obtain comments, proof should be submitted to the Department of the attempts that were made to obtain comments. Please provide proof of written notice for the availability of the draft EIAr for comment.
13. All issues raised and comments received must be incorporated into the Comments and Response Report (CRR).
14. Comments from I&APs must not be split and arranged into categories. Comments from each submission must be responded to individually.
15. Please refrain from summarising comments made by I&APs. All comments from I&APs must be copied verbatim and responded to clearly. Please note that a response such as “noted” is not regarded as an adequate response to an I&AP’s comments.
16. The CRR addresses comments on the draft SR, which have been received from organs of state, however, copies of these comments are not included in the report. Copies of original comments

received from I&APs and organs of state, which have jurisdiction in respect of the proposed activity must be submitted to the Department with the EIAR.

17. If applicable, the attendance registers and minutes of any meetings held by the Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP) with Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) and other role players must be included in the EIAR.
18. The newspaper advert proof in Appendix C of the Public Participation Report refers. Please submit a full page of the newspaper(s) containing the advertisement, ensuring that the name of the newspaper and date are visible.

Specialist assessments

19. Interim and final comments from the South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA) must be addressed and incorporated in the EIAR.
20. Specialist assessments must be conducted in accordance with the Government Notice No. 320 of 20 March 2020 (i.e. "the Protocols"), and Government Notice No. 1150 of 30 October 2020 (i.e. protocols for terrestrial plant and animal species).
21. The following specialist studies will form part of the EIAR as indicated in Section 12.6 of the FSR:
 - a. Soil and Agriculture Potential Impact Assessment;
 - b. Freshwater and Wetlands (Aquatics) Impact Assessment;
 - c. Terrestrial Biodiversity (Flora and Fauna) Impact Assessment;
 - d. Avifauna Impact Assessment;
 - e. Bat Impact Assessment;
 - f. Visual / Landscape and Flicker Impact Assessment;
 - g. Heritage, Archaeology and Palaeontology Impact Assessment;
 - h. Noise Impact Assessment;
 - i. Socio-economic Impact Assessment; and
 - j. Traffic and Transportation Impact Assessment.
22. Please note that the Department considers a 'no-go' area, as an area where no development of any infrastructure is allowed; therefore, no development of associated infrastructure including access roads is allowed in the 'no-go' areas.
23. Should the specialist definition of 'no-go' area differ from the Departments definition; this must be clearly indicated. The specialist must also indicate the 'no-go' area's buffer if applicable.
24. Should the specialist studies provide more detail regarding any of the project activity thresholds, please ensure that the project activity descriptions are amended accordingly in the application form and EIAR.
25. All specialist studies must be final, and provide detailed/practical mitigation measures for the preferred alternative and recommendations, and must not recommend further studies to be completed post EA.
26. Should a specialist recommend specific mitigation measures, these must be clearly indicated.
27. Should the appointed specialists specify contradicting recommendations, the EAP must clearly indicate the most reasonable recommendation and substantiate this with defensible reasons; and where necessary, include further expertise advice.
28. Where applicable, each specialist study must provide a preferred grid connection alternative.

Layout & Sensitivity Maps

29. Please provide a layout map which indicates the following:
 - a. Wind turbine positions (numbered) and its associated infrastructure;
 - b. Permanent laydown area footprint;

- c. Internal roads indicating width (construction period width and operation period width) and with numbered sections between the other site elements which they serve (to make commenting on sections possible);
- d. Wetlands, drainage lines, rivers, stream and water crossing of roads and cables indicating the type of bridging structures that will be used;
- e. The location of sensitive environmental features on site e.g. CBAs, heritage sites, wetlands, drainage lines etc. that will be affected by the facility and its associated infrastructure;
- f. Substation(s) and/or transformer(s) sites including their entire footprint;
- g. All existing infrastructure on the site, especially roads;
- h. Buildings proposed within the substation footprint;
- i. Buffer areas; and
- j. All “no-go” areas.

Cumulative Assessments

30. Regarding the identified similar projects within a 30km radius of the proposed development site, the cumulative impact assessment for all identified and assessed impacts must indicate the following:
 - a. Identified cumulative impacts must be clearly defined, and where possible the size of the identified impact must be quantified and indicated, i.e., hectares of cumulatively transformed land.
 - b. Identified cumulative impacts associated with the proposed development must be rated with the significance rating methodology used in the process.
 - c. Detailed process flow and proof must be provided, to indicate how the specialist's recommendations, mitigation measures and conclusions from the various similar developments in the area were taken into consideration in the assessment of cumulative impacts and when the conclusion and mitigation measures were drafted for this project.
 - d. The cumulative impacts significance rating must also inform the need and desirability of the proposed development.
 - e. A cumulative impact environmental statement on whether the proposed development must proceed.

WEF Environmental Management Programme (EMPr)

31. A construction and operational phase EMPr for the WEF, which includes mitigation and monitoring measures must be submitted with the EIAR.
32. The EMPr must be developed in terms of Appendix 4 of the EIA Regulations, 2014 as amended and must include (but not limited to) the following plans and measures:
 - a. A Re-vegetation and habitat rehabilitation plan to be implemented during the construction and operation of the facility. Restoration must be undertaken as soon as possible after completion of construction activities to reduce the amount of habitat converted at any one time and to speed up the recovery to natural habitats;
 - b. A Weed and invader plant management plan, to be implemented during construction and operation of the facility. The plan must include mitigation measures to reduce the invasion of alien species and ensure that the continuous monitoring and removal of alien species is undertaken;
 - c. A Plant rescue and protection plan, which allows for the maximum transplant of conservation important species from areas to be transformed. This plan must be compiled by a vegetation specialist familiar with the site and be implemented prior to commencement of the construction phase;

- d. An Open space management plan, to be implemented during the construction and operation of the facility;
 - e. A Traffic management plan for the site access roads to ensure that no hazards would result from the increased truck traffic and that traffic flow would not be adversely impacted. This plan must include measures to minimize impacts on local commuters e.g. limiting construction vehicles travelling on public roadways during the morning and late afternoon commute time and avoid using roads through densely populated built-up areas so as not to disturb existing retail and commercial operations;
 - f. A Transportation plan for the transport of components, main assembly cranes and other large pieces of equipment;
 - g. A Stormwater management plan, to be implemented during the construction and operation of the facility. The plan must ensure compliance with applicable regulations and prevent off-site migration of contaminated storm water or increased soil erosion. The plan must include the construction of appropriate design measures that allow surface and subsurface movement of water along drainage lines so as not to impede natural surface and subsurface flows. Drainage measures must promote the dissipation of storm water run-off;
 - h. A Fire management plan to be implemented during the construction and operation of the facility;
 - i. An Erosion management plan for monitoring and rehabilitating erosion events associated with the facility. Appropriate erosion mitigation must form part of this plan to prevent and reduce the risk of any potential erosion;
 - j. An effective monitoring system to detect any leakage or spillage of all hazardous substances during their transportation, handling, use and storage. This must include precautionary measures to limit the possibility of oil and other toxic liquids from entering the soil or storm water systems;
 - k. Measures to protect hydrological features such as streams, rivers, pans, wetlands, dams and their catchments, and other environmental sensitive areas from construction impacts including the direct or indirect spillage of pollutants;
 - l. Dust management measures;
 - m. Waste management measures;
 - n. Emergency response; and,
 - o. All recommendations and mitigation measures recorded in the EIAR and the specialist studies conducted. This includes the management and monitoring plans and procedures appended in the specialist studies.
33. The decommissioning chapter of the EMPr for the facility must contain information relating to the handling, repurposing or disposal of dysfunctional, severely damaged batteries, module and containers.
34. The EMPr must distinguish between impact management actions and impact management outcomes.
35. The EMPr must not contain any ambiguity. Where applicable, statements containing the word "should" or "may" are to be amended to "must".

Generic Environmental Management Programme (EMPr)

36. The proposed development triggers Activity 11 of Listing Notice 1 (as amended). The relevant generic EMPr(s) must be included in the EIAR, over and above the EMPr for the WEF.
37. Part B: Section 2 of the generic EMPr(s) must be completed, and a copy of the signed EMPr(s) must be submitted with the EIAR. Please note that Point 7.1.1 in Part B: Section 2 needs to match the

details of the applicant as contained in the application form. The generic EMP(s) must be signed by the applicant and submitted with the EIAR. An unsigned Generic EMP is regarded as incomplete.

38. If any specific environmental sensitivities/attributes are present on the site which require more specific impact management outcomes and impact management actions, not included in the pre-approved generic EMP template, to manage impacts, those impact management outcomes and actions must be included in Part C of the generic EMP.

General

The EAP must provide detailed motivation if any of the above requirements are not required by the proposed development and will not be included in the EMP.

The applicant is hereby reminded to comply with the requirements of Regulation 45 of GN R982 of 04 December 2014, as amendment, with regard to the time period allowed for complying with the requirements of the Regulations.

You are hereby reminded of Section 24F of the National Environmental Management Act, Act No. 107 of 1998, as amended, that no activity may commence prior to an environmental authorisation being granted by the Department.

Yours faithfully



Dr Sabelo Malaza

Chief Director: Integrated Environmental Authorisations

Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment

Signed by: Ms Masina Morudu

Designation: Control Environmental Officer: National Integrated Authorisation Projects

Date: 19/11/2024.

cc:	Mr Andrew Pearson	Emvelo Wind Energy Facility (Pty) Ltd	Email: Andrew@mulilo.com
	Mr G.O Xaba	Mpumalanga DARDLEA	Email: goxaba@mpg.gov.za / rluyt@mpg.gov.za / mbuyanesb@mpg.gov.za
	Mr Mervyn Lotter	MTPA	Email: mervyn.lotter@gmail.com
	Ms Mapulane Nkosi	Msukaligwa Local Municipality	Email: complaints@msukaligwa.gov.za



forestry, fisheries & the environment

Department:
Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Private Bag X447, Pretoria, 0001, Environment House, 473 Steve Biko Road, Pretoria, 0002 Tel: +27 12 399 9000, Fax: +27 86 625 1042

DFFE Reference: 14/12/16/3/3/2/2612

Enquiries: Ms Bathandwa Ncube

Telephone: 012 399 9368 **E-mail:** BNcube@dff.gov.za

Ms Stephanie Gopaul
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Ridgeside Drive
UMHLANGA RIDGE
Durban
4320

Telephone Number : 010 596 3502

Cellphone Number : 065 666 0066

Email Address : stephanie.gopaul@erm.com / erm.arcusamsterdam@erm.com

PER E-MAIL

Dear Ms Gopaul

ACCEPTANCE OF THE SCOPING REPORT FOR THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF THE ROCHDALE WIND ENERGY FACILITY AND AUXILIARY INFRASTRUCTURE, NEAR ERMELO, WITHIN THE MSUKALIGWA LOCAL MUNICIPALITY, MPUMALANGA PROVINCE

The final Scoping Report (SR) and the Plan of Study for Environmental Impact Assessment (PoSEIA) dated October 2024 and received by the Department on 07 October 2024, refers.

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2. The table of coordinates on page x of the SR is noted. The EIAr must include:
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4. You are requested to provide the estimated operational lifespan of the proposed Rochdale WEF and details of future plans for the site and infrastructure after decommissioning, as well as the possibility of upgrading the proposed infrastructure to more advanced technologies.
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Public Participation

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19. Interim and final comments from the South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA) must be addressed and incorporated in the EIAR.
20. Specialist assessments must be conducted in accordance with the Government Notice No. 320 of 20 March 2020 (i.e. "the Protocols"), and Government Notice No. 1150 of 30 October 2020 (i.e. protocols for terrestrial plant and animal species).
21. The following specialist studies will form part of the EIAR as indicated in Section 12.6 of the FSR:
 - a. Soil and Agriculture Potential Impact Assessment;
 - b. Noise Impact Assessment;
 - c. Freshwater and Wetlands (Aquatics) Impact Assessment;
 - d. Terrestrial Biodiversity (Flora and Fauna) Impact Assessment;
 - e. Avifauna Impact Assessment;
 - f. Bat Impact Assessment;
 - g. Socio-economic Impact Assessment;
 - h. Heritage, Archaeology and Palaeontology Impact Assessment;
 - i. Visual / Landscape and Flicker Impact Assessment; and
 - j. Traffic and Transportation Impact Assessment.
22. Please note that the Department considers a 'no-go' area, as an area where no development of any infrastructure is allowed; therefore, no development of associated infrastructure including access roads is allowed in the 'no-go' areas.
23. Should the specialist definition of 'no-go' area differ from the Departments definition; this must be clearly indicated. The specialist must also indicate the 'no-go' area's buffer if applicable.
24. Should the specialist studies provide more detail regarding any of the project activity thresholds, please ensure that the project activity descriptions are amended accordingly in the application form and EIAR.
25. All specialist studies must be final, and provide detailed/practical mitigation measures for the preferred alternative and recommendations, and must not recommend further studies to be completed post EA.
26. Should a specialist recommend specific mitigation measures, these must be clearly indicated.
27. Should the appointed specialists specify contradicting recommendations, the EAP must clearly indicate the most reasonable recommendation and substantiate this with defensible reasons; and where necessary, include further expertise advice.
28. Where applicable, each specialist study must provide a preferred grid connection alternative.

Layout & Sensitivity Maps

29. Please provide a layout map which indicates the following:
 - a. Wind turbine positions (numbered) and its associated infrastructure;

- b. Permanent laydown area footprint;
- c. Internal roads indicating width (construction period width and operation period width) and with numbered sections between the other site elements which they serve (to make commenting on sections possible);
- d. Wetlands, drainage lines, rivers, stream and water crossing of roads and cables indicating the type of bridging structures that will be used;
- e. The location of sensitive environmental features on site e.g. CBAs, heritage sites, wetlands, drainage lines etc. that will be affected by the facility and its associated infrastructure;
- f. Substation(s) and/or transformer(s) sites including their entire footprint;
- g. All existing infrastructure on the site, especially roads;
- h. Buildings proposed within the substation footprint;
- i. Buffer areas; and
- j. All "no-go" areas.

Cumulative Assessments

- 30. Regarding the identified similar projects within a 30km radius of the proposed development site, the cumulative impact assessment for all identified and assessed impacts must indicate the following:
 - a. Identified cumulative impacts must be clearly defined, and where possible the size of the identified impact must be quantified and indicated, i.e., hectares of cumulatively transformed land.
 - b. Identified cumulative impacts associated with the proposed development must be rated with the significance rating methodology used in the process.
 - c. Detailed process flow and proof must be provided, to indicate how the specialist's recommendations, mitigation measures and conclusions from the various similar developments in the area were taken into consideration in the assessment of cumulative impacts and when the conclusion and mitigation measures were drafted for this project.
 - d. The cumulative impacts significance rating must also inform the need and desirability of the proposed development.
 - e. A cumulative impact environmental statement on whether the proposed development must proceed.

WEF Environmental Management Programme (EMPr)

- 31. A construction and operational phase EMPr for the WEF, which includes mitigation and monitoring measures must be submitted with the EIAR.
- 32. The EMPr must be developed in terms of Appendix 4 of the EIA Regulations, 2014 as amended and must include (but not limited to) the following plans and measures:
 - a. A Re-vegetation and habitat rehabilitation plan to be implemented during the construction and operation of the facility. Restoration must be undertaken as soon as possible after completion of construction activities to reduce the amount of habitat converted at any one time and to speed up the recovery to natural habitats;
 - b. A Weed and invader plant management plan, to be implemented during construction and operation of the facility. The plan must include mitigation measures to reduce the invasion of alien species and ensure that the continuous monitoring and removal of alien species is undertaken;
 - c. A Plant rescue and protection plan, which allows for the maximum transplant of conservation important species from areas to be transformed. This plan must be compiled by a vegetation

- specialist familiar with the site and be implemented prior to commencement of the construction phase;
- d. An Open space management plan, to be implemented during the construction and operation of the facility;
 - e. A Traffic management plan for the site access roads to ensure that no hazards would result from the increased truck traffic and that traffic flow would not be adversely impacted. This plan must include measures to minimize impacts on local commuters e.g. limiting construction vehicles travelling on public roadways during the morning and late afternoon commute time and avoid using roads through densely populated built-up areas so as not to disturb existing retail and commercial operations;
 - f. A Transportation plan for the transport of components, main assembly cranes and other large pieces of equipment;
 - g. A Stormwater management plan, to be implemented during the construction and operation of the facility. The plan must ensure compliance with applicable regulations and prevent off-site migration of contaminated storm water or increased soil erosion. The plan must include the construction of appropriate design measures that allow surface and subsurface movement of water along drainage lines so as not to impede natural surface and subsurface flows. Drainage measures must promote the dissipation of storm water run-off;
 - h. A Fire management plan to be implemented during the construction and operation of the facility;
 - i. An Erosion management plan for monitoring and rehabilitating erosion events associated with the facility. Appropriate erosion mitigation must form part of this plan to prevent and reduce the risk of any potential erosion;
 - j. An effective monitoring system to detect any leakage or spillage of all hazardous substances during their transportation, handling, use and storage. This must include precautionary measures to limit the possibility of oil and other toxic liquids from entering the soil or storm water systems;
 - k. Measures to protect hydrological features such as streams, rivers, pans, wetlands, dams and their catchments, and other environmental sensitive areas from construction impacts including the direct or indirect spillage of pollutants;
 - l. Dust management measures;
 - m. Waste management measures;
 - n. Emergency response; and,
 - o. All recommendations and mitigation measures recorded in the EIAR and the specialist studies conducted. This includes the management and monitoring plans and procedures appended in the specialist studies.
33. The decommissioning chapter of the EMPr for the facility must contain information relating to the handling, repurposing or disposal of dysfunctional, severely damaged batteries, module and containers.
 34. The EMPr must distinguish between impact management actions and impact management outcomes.
 35. The EMPr must not contain any ambiguity. Where applicable, statements containing the word "should" or "may" are to be amended to "must".

Generic Environmental Management Programme (EMPr)

36. The proposed development triggers Activity 11 of Listing Notice 1 (as amended). The relevant generic EMPr(s) must be included in the EIAR, over and above the EMPr for the WEF.

37. Part B: Section 2 of the generic EMPr(s) must be completed, and a copy of the signed EMPr(s) must be submitted with the EIAr. Please note that Point 7.1.1 in Part B: Section 2 needs to match the details of the applicant as contained in the application form. The generic EMPr(s) must be signed by the applicant and submitted with the EIAr. An unsigned Generic EMPr is regarded as incomplete.
38. If any specific environmental sensitivities/attributes are present on the site which require more specific impact management outcomes and impact management actions, not included in the pre-approved generic EMPr template, to manage impacts, those impact management outcomes and actions must be included in Part C of the generic EMPr.

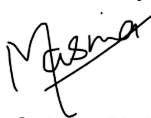
General

The EAP must provide detailed motivation if any of the above requirements are not required by the proposed development and will not be included in the EMPr.

The applicant is hereby reminded to comply with the requirements of Regulation 45 of GN R982 of 04 December 2014, as amendment, with regard to the time period allowed for complying with the requirements of the Regulations.

You are hereby reminded of Section 24F of the National Environmental Management Act, Act No. 107 of 1998, as amended, that no activity may commence prior to an environmental authorisation being granted by the Department.

Yours faithfully



Dr Sabelo Malaza

Chief Director: Integrated Environmental Authorisations

Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment

Signed by: Ms Masina Morudu

Designation: Control Environmental Officer: National Integrated Authorisation Projects

Date: 19/11/2024.

cc:	Mr Andrew Pearson	Rochdale Wind Energy Facility (Pty) Ltd	Email: Andrew@mulilo.com
	Mr G.O Xaba	Mpumalanga DARDLEA	Email: goxaba@mpg.gov.za / rluyt@mpg.gov.za / mbuyanesb@mpg.gov.za
	Mr Mervyn Lotter	MTPA	Email: mervyn.lotter@gmail.com
	Ms Mapulane Nkosi	Msukaligwa Local Municipality	Email: complaints@msukaligwa.gov.za



forestry, fisheries & the environment

Department:
Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Private Bag X447, Pretoria, 0001, Environment House, 473 Steve Biko Road, Pretoria, 0002 Tel: +27 12 399 9000, Fax: +27 86 625 1042

DFFE Reference: 14/12/16/3/3/2/2613

Enquiries: Ms Bathandwa Ncube

Telephone: 012 399 9368 **E-mail:** BNcube@dfpe.gov.za

Ms Stephanie Gopaul
Environmental Resource Management Southern Africa (Pty) Ltd
2 Ncondo Place
Ridgeside Drive
UMHLANGA RIDGE
Durban
4320

Telephone Number : 010 596 3502

Cellphone Number : 065 666 0066

Email Address : stephanie.gopaul@erm.com / erm.arcusamsterdam@erm.com

PER E-MAIL

Dear Ms Gopaul

ACCEPTANCE OF THE SCOPING REPORT FOR THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF THE SHEEPMOOR WIND ENERGY FACILITY AND AUXILIARY INFRASTRUCTURE, NEAR ERMELO, WITHIN THE MSUKALIGWA LOCAL MUNICIPALITY, MPUMALANGA PROVINCE

The final Scoping Report (SR) and the Plan of Study for Environmental Impact Assessment (PoSEIA) dated October 2024 and received by the Department on 07 October 2024, refers.

The Department has evaluated the submitted final SR and the Plan of Study for Environmental Impact Assessment dated July 2024 and is satisfied that the documents comply with the minimum requirements of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations, 2014, as amended. The FSR is hereby accepted by the Department in terms of Regulation 22(a) of the EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended.

You may proceed with the environmental impact assessment process in accordance with the tasks contemplated in the PoSEIA as required in terms of the EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended. The Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) must comply with the requirements of Appendix 3 of the EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended.

In addition, the following amendments and additional information are required for the EIAR:



Batho pele- putting people first



The processing of personal information by the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment is done lawfully and not excessive to the purpose of processing in compliance with the POPI Act, any codes of conduct issued by the Information Regulator in terms of the POPI Act and / or relevant legislation providing appropriate security safeguards for the processing of personal information of others.

MEM 1

General Comments

1. The meeting minutes in Appendix F of the Public Participation Report refers. The discussions during the meeting with the Mpumalanga Department of Agriculture, Rural Development, Land and Environmental Affairs (DARDLEA) and the Mpumalanga Tourism & Parks Agency (MTPA) on 11 September 2024 are noted.
2. The table of coordinates on page x of the SR is noted. The EIAr must include:
 - a. The corner coordinates for the Battery Energy Storage System.
 - b. Bend point coordinates for the 132kV powerline alternatives; and the main access roads.
3. The EIAr must include the approximate length of each grid connection alternative route, and these grid connection routes must be discussed in the “*Alternatives*” section of the EIAr.
4. You are requested to provide the estimated operational lifespan of the proposed Sheepmoor WEF and details of future plans for the site and infrastructure after decommissioning, as well as the possibility of upgrading the proposed infrastructure to more advanced technologies.
5. The EIAr must confirm the availability of services identified on pages 104 to 106 of the final SR.
6. If the EIAr contains listed activities and/or other information that differs from the application form, the application form must be amended accordingly and submitted to the Department with the EIAr.

Battery Energy Storage System (BESS)

7. Applicable BESS technologies must be included under the Technology Alternatives section of the EIAr.
8. A risk assessment study is not required for the Battery Energy Storage System (BESS), however, impacts associated with the risks must be identified, considered, and assessed as part of the EIAr.

Public Participation

9. Comments on the draft EIAr must be obtained from this Department’s Biodiversity Conservation Directorate at BCAdmin@dffe.gov.za and Protected Areas section (regarding the NPAES) at Tnethononda@dffe.gov.za. Further to that, these comments must be addressed and incorporated in the final EIAr.
10. Proof of correspondence with the various stakeholders must be included in the EIAr. This must indicate that this draft EIAr has been subjected to 30 days public participation process, stating the start and end date of the PPP.
11. Please ensure that comments from all relevant stakeholders are submitted to the Department with the EIAr.
12. Should you be unable to obtain comments, proof should be submitted to the Department of the attempts that were made to obtain comments. Please provide proof of written notice for the availability of the draft EIAr for comment.
13. All issues raised and comments received must be incorporated into the Comments and Response Report (CRR).
14. Comments from I&APs must not be split and arranged into categories. Comments from each submission must be responded to individually.
15. Please refrain from summarising comments made by I&APs. All comments from I&APs must be copied verbatim and responded to clearly. Please note that a response such as “noted” is not regarded as an adequate response to an I&AP’s comments.
16. The CRR addresses comments on the draft SR, which have been received from organs of state, however, copies of these comments are not included in the report. Copies of original comments

received from I&APs and organs of state, which have jurisdiction in respect of the proposed activity must be submitted to the Department with the EIAR.

17. If applicable, the attendance registers and minutes of any meetings held by the Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP) with Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) and other role players must be included in the EIAR.
18. The newspaper advert proof in Appendix C of the Public Participation Report refers. Please submit a full page of the newspaper(s) containing the advertisement, ensuring that the name of the newspaper and date are visible.

Specialist assessments

19. Interim and final comments from the South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA) must be addressed and incorporated in the EIAR.
20. Specialist assessments must be conducted in accordance with the Government Notice No. 320 of 20 March 2020 (i.e. "the Protocols"), and Government Notice No. 1150 of 30 October 2020 (i.e. protocols for terrestrial plant and animal species).
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 - e. Bat Impact Assessment;
 - f. Visual / Landscape and Flicker Impact Assessment;
 - g. Heritage, Archaeology and Palaeontology Impact Assessment;
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22. Please note that the Department considers a 'no-go' area, as an area where no development of any infrastructure is allowed; therefore, no development of associated infrastructure including access roads is allowed in the 'no-go' areas.
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- specialist familiar with the site and be implemented prior to commencement of the construction phase;
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 - h. A Fire management plan to be implemented during the construction and operation of the facility;
 - i. An Erosion management plan for monitoring and rehabilitating erosion events associated with the facility. Appropriate erosion mitigation must form part of this plan to prevent and reduce the risk of any potential erosion;
 - j. An effective monitoring system to detect any leakage or spillage of all hazardous substances during their transportation, handling, use and storage. This must include precautionary measures to limit the possibility of oil and other toxic liquids from entering the soil or storm water systems;
 - k. Measures to protect hydrological features such as streams, rivers, pans, wetlands, dams and their catchments, and other environmental sensitive areas from construction impacts including the direct or indirect spillage of pollutants;
 - l. Dust management measures;
 - m. Waste management measures;
 - n. Emergency response; and,
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 35. The EMPr must not contain any ambiguity. Where applicable, statements containing the word "should" or "may" are to be amended to "must".

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37. Part B: Section 2 of the generic EMP(s) must be completed, and a copy of the signed EMP(s) must be submitted with the EIAR. Please note that Point 7.1.1 in Part B: Section 2 needs to match the details of the applicant as contained in the application form. The generic EMP(s) must be signed by the applicant and submitted with the EIAR. An unsigned Generic EMP is regarded as incomplete.
38. If any specific environmental sensitivities/attributes are present on the site which require more specific impact management outcomes and impact management actions, not included in the pre-approved generic EMP template, to manage impacts, those impact management outcomes and actions must be included in Part C of the generic EMP.

General

The EAP must provide detailed motivation if any of the above requirements are not required by the proposed development and will not be included in the EMP.

The applicant is hereby reminded to comply with the requirements of Regulation 45 of GN R982 of 04 December 2014, as amendment, with regard to the time period allowed for complying with the requirements of the Regulations.

You are hereby reminded of Section 24F of the National Environmental Management Act, Act No. 107 of 1998, as amended, that no activity may commence prior to an environmental authorisation being granted by the Department.

Yours faithfully,



Dr Sabelo Malaza

Chief Director: Integrated Environmental Authorisations

Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment

Signed by: Ms Masina Morudu

Designation: Control Environmental Officer: National Integrated Authorisation

Date: 19/11/2024.

cc:	Mr Andrew Pearson	Sheepmoor Wind Energy Facility (Pty) Ltd	Email: Andrew@mulilo.com
	Mr G.O Xaba	Mpumalanga DARDLEA	Email: goxaba@mpg.gov.za / rluyt@mpg.gov.za / mbuyanesb@mpg.gov.za
	Mr Mervyn Lotter	MTPA	Email: mervyn.lotter@gmail.com
	Ms Mapulane Nkosi	Msukaligwa Local Municipality	Email: complaints@msukaligwa.gov.za

From:

To:

Subject:

Date:

14/12/16/3/3/2/2611

Monday, 17 February 2025 11:16:33

You don't often get email from smambane@dfre.gov.za. [Learn why this is important](#)

EXTERNAL MESSAGE

Dear Sir/Madam

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF RECEIPT OF THE REQUEST FOR AN EXTENSION IN TERMS OF REGULATION 3(7) OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT REGULATIONS, 2014, AS AMENDED FOR THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF THE EMVELO WIND ENERGY FACILITY AND AUXILIARY INFRASTRUCTURE, NEAR ERMELO, WITHIN THE MSUKALIGWA LOCAL MUNICIPALITY, AND GERT SIBANDE DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY, MPUMALANGA PROVINCE.

The Department confirms having received the request for extension in terms of Regulation 3(7) of Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations, 2014, as amended, for the abovementioned project on 13 February 2025.

Please note that the outcome of your request will be communicated in due course.

You are hereby reminded of Section 24F of the National Environmental Management Act 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998), as amended, that no activity may commence prior to an Environmental Authorisation being granted by the Department.

Kind Regards,

Salome Mambane

Integrated Environmental Authorisations:

Priority Infrastructure Developments

[Redacted Signature]

From:



Cc:

Subject:

14/12/16/3/3/2/2611

Date:

Wednesday, 09 October 2024 09:11:05

EXTERNAL MESSAGE

Dear Sir/Madam

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF RECEIPT OF THE FINAL SCOPING REPORT AND AMENDED APPLICATION FORM FOR THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF THE EMVELO WIND ENERGY FACILITY AND AUXILIARY INFRASTRUCTURE, NEAR ERMELO, WITHIN THE MSUKALIGWA LOCAL MUNICIPALITY, AND GERT SIBANDE DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY, MPUMALANGA PROVINCE.

The Department confirms having received the Final Scoping Report and Amended Application Form for the abovementioned project on 07 October 2024. You have submitted these documents to comply with the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998) and the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations, 2014, as amended.

You are hereby reminded of Section 24F of the National Environmental Management Act 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998), as amended, that no activity may commence prior to an Environmental Authorisation being granted by the Department.

Kind Regards,

Lydia Kutu

Integrated Environmental Authorisations:

Priority Infrastructure Developments

Tel: (012) 399 9370

Email: LKutu@dfre.gov.za

To God be the Glory!!!

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Stephanie Gopaul](#); [ERM Arcus Amsterdam](#)
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: 14/12/16/3/3/2/2611; 14/12/16/3/3/2/2612; 14/12/16/3/3/2/2613
Date: Tuesday, 24 September 2024 18:07:46
Attachments: [14-12-16-3-3-2-2611.pdf](#)
[14-12-16-3-3-2-2612.pdf](#)
[14-12-16-3-3-2-2613.pdf](#)

EXTERNAL MESSAGE

Goodday

Please find attached, DSR comments for the proposed Emvelo, Rochdale and Sheepmoor WEF developments.

Kind regards

Ms Bathandwa Ncube (EAPASA)
Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE)
Integrated Environmental Authorisations

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Stephanie Gopaul](#)
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: 14/12/16/3/3/2/2611; 2612; 2613: FSR Acceptance for the proposed Emvelo, Rochdale and Sheepmoor WEFs, MP
Date: Tuesday, 19 November 2024 21:59:46
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[01 Acceptance of SR_Emvelo_2611.pdf](#)
[01 Acceptance of SR_Rochdale_2612.pdf](#)
[01 Acceptance of SR_Sheepmoor_2613.pdf](#)

EXTERNAL MESSAGE

Dear Staphanie,

Attached please find the FSR acceptance letters for your attention.

Regards,

MASINA MORUDU

Integrated Environmental Authorisations
EAPASA Registration: 2019/1805
Tel: 012 399 9375
Cell: 066 283 0264
E-mail: MEMorudu@dfpe.gov.za

"We all have few failures in life, it's what makes us ready for the success".



**forestry, fisheries
& the environment**

Department:
Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

From: [REDACTED]
To: [ERM Arcus Amsterdam](#)
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: 14/12/16/3/3/2/2612
Date: Wednesday, 09 October 2024 09:13:18

EXTERNAL MESSAGE

Dear Sir/Madam

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF RECEIPT OF THE FINAL SCOPING REPORT AND AMENDED APPLICATION FORM FOR THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF THE ROCHDALE WIND ENERGY FACILITY AND AUXILIARY INFRASTRUCTURE, INCLUDING A GRID CONNECTION, NEAR ERMELO, WITHIN THE MSUKALIGWA LOCAL MUNICIPALITY, AND GERT SIBANDE DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY ,MPUMALANGA PROVINCE.

The Department confirms having received the Final Scoping Report and Amended Application Form for the abovementioned project on 07 October 2024. You have submitted these documents to comply with the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998) and the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations, 2014, as amended.

You are hereby reminded of Section 24F of the National Environmental Management Act 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998), as amended, that no activity may commence prior to an Environmental Authorisation being granted by the Department.

Kind Regards,
Lydia Kutu
Integrated Environmental Authorisations:
Priority Infrastructure Developments
[REDACTED]
Email: LKutu@dfre.gov.za

To God be the Glory!!!

From: [REDACTED]
To: [ERM Arcus Amsterdam](#)
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: 14/12/16/3/3/2/2612
Date: Monday, 17 February 2025 11:20:51

You don't often get email from smambane@dffe.gov.za. [Learn why this is important](#)

EXTERNAL MESSAGE

Dear Sir/Madam

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF RECEIPT OF THE REQUEST FOR AN EXTENSION IN TERMS OF REGULATION 3(7) OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT REGULATIONS, 2014, AS AMENDED FOR THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF THE ROCHDALE WIND ENERGY FACILITY AND AUXILIARY INFRASTRUCTURE, INCLUDING A GRID CONNECTION, NEAR ERMELO, WITHIN THE MSUKALIGWA LOCAL MUNICIPALITY, AND GERT SIBANDE DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY ,MPUMALANGA ROVINCE.

The Department confirms having received the request for extension in terms of Regulation 3(7) of Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations, 2014, as amended, for the abovementioned project on 13 February 2025.

Please note that the outcome of your request will be communicated in due course.

You are hereby reminded of Section 24F of the National Environmental Management Act 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998), as amended, that no activity may commence prior to an Environmental Authorisation being granted by the Department.

Kind Regards,
Salome Mambane
Integrated Environmental Authorisations:
Priority Infrastructure Developments

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED] [ERM Arcus Amsterdam](#)
Subject: 14/12/16/3/3/2/2613
Date: Wednesday, 09 October 2024 09:15:34

EXTERNAL MESSAGE

Dear Sir/Madam

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF RECEIPT OF THE FINAL SCOPING REPORT AND AMENDED APPLICATION FORM FOR THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF THE SHEEPMOOR WIND ENERGY FACILITY AND AUXILIARY INFRASTRUCTURE, NEAR ERMELO, WITHIN THE MSUKALIGWA LOCAL MUNICIPALITY, AND GERT SIBANDE DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY, MPUMALANGA PROVINCE.

The Department confirms having received the Final Scoping Report and Amended Application Form for the abovementioned project on 07 October 2024. You have submitted these documents to comply with the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998) and the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations, 2014, as amended.

You are hereby reminded of Section 24F of the National Environmental Management Act 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998), as amended, that no activity may commence prior to an Environmental Authorisation being granted by the Department.

Kind Regards,
Lydia Kutu
Integrated Environmental Authorisations:
Priority Infrastructure Developments
[REDACTED]

To God be the Glory!!!

From: [REDACTED]
To: [ERM Arcus Amsterdam](#)
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: 14/12/16/3/3/2/2613
Date: Monday, 17 February 2025 11:29:57

EXTERNAL MESSAGE

Dear Sir/Madam

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF RECEIPT OF THE REQUEST FOR AN EXTENSION IN TERMS OF REGULATION 3(7) OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT REGULATIONS, 2014, AS AMENDED FOR THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF THE SHEEPMOOR WIND ENERGY FACILITY AND AUXILIARY INFRASTRUCTURE, NEAR ERMELO, WITHIN THE MSUKALIGWA LOCAL MUNICIPALITY, AND GERT SIBANDE DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY, MPUMALANGA PROVINCE.

The Department confirms having received the request for extension in terms of Regulation 3(7) of Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations, 2014, as amended, for the abovementioned project on 13 February 2025.

Please note that the outcome of your request will be communicated in due course.

You are hereby reminded of Section 24F of the National Environmental Management Act 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998), as amended, that no activity may commence prior to an Environmental Authorisation being granted by the Department.

Kind Regards,
Salome Mambane
Integrated Environmental Authorisations:

[REDACTED]

Stakeholder Engagement Form

Monday, January 20, 2025 06:12 UTC

What's your name?

First Name

[REDACTED]

Last Name

[REDACTED]

Who do you represent?

Organisation

ABO Energy

Designation

Project Manager

Your Email

[REDACTED]

Your Phone Number

[REDACTED]

Alternative Phone Number

[REDACTED]

Your Address

[REDACTED]

City

Cape Town

State/Province

Western Cape

Zip Code

7441

Country

South Africa

What is your interest in the projects?

ABO is developing other renewable energy projects in the area

Please visit the ERM website (link below) for more info and access to the reports. Are you able to access the website?

Yes

What are your comments regarding the Rochdale, Emvelo and Sheepmoor WEF Cluster?

ABO Energy is developing other renewable energy projects in the area

Protection of Personal Information (POPI) Act, Act 4 of 2013

No (0)

From: [REDACTED]
To: [ERM Arcus Amsterdam](#)
Cc: [REDACTED] Cluster WEF - Register as I&AP
Date: Wednesday, 23 October 2024 23:04:55
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image003.png](#)
[image004.png](#)

You don't often get email from dutoit.malherbe@aboenergy.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

EXTERNAL MESSAGE

Hi Liandra,

I hope you're doing well.

Could you kindly register me as an I&AP for the Project Reference: 0684401 'Amsterdam Cluster WEF', including the proposed Rochdale , Emvelo and Sheepmoor WEFs including their associated infrastructure, since we're developing other renewable energy projects in the area.

Thank you in advance.

Kind regards,

Du Toit Malherbe

Project Manager

ABO Energy South Africa (Pty) Ltd.
Unit 2A, Quantico House, Loerie Park
Paul Kruger Street
Durbanville, Western Cape, 7550, South Africa

Visitor address:
6th Floor, Sunclare Building
21 Dreyer Street
Cape Town, Claremont, 7708, South Africa



ABO Wind is now ABO Energy. Find out more: www.aboenergy.com/newname

Company registration number 2018/062901/07 | Tax registration number 4370284061
The information contained in this message is confidential or protected by law. If you are not the intended recipient, please contact the sender and delete this message. Any unauthorised copying of this message or unauthorised distribution of the information contained herein is prohibited.

From: [REDACTED]
Subject: Stephanie Gopaul; ERM Arcus Amsterdam
Date: Amsterdam Wind Cluster
Friday, 08 November 2024 08:22:33

Algunos contactos que recibieron este mensaje no suelen recibir correos electrónicos de david.nunez@siriuspower.co.za. [Por qué es esto importante](#)

EXTERNAL MESSAGE

Dear Stephanie,

I filled in the online form - kindly confirm I am registered as an I&AP and will receive further info as the EIA process evolves.

Please note:

- There is a disconnect between the declared MW size and the number of turbines:
 - Rochdale: 240MW vs. 16 WTGs @ 8MW = 128MW
 - Emvelo: 200MW vs. 36 WTGs @ 8MW = 288MW
 - Sheepmoor: 360MW vs. 22 WTGs @ 8MW = 176W
- WTG8 of Emvelo falls outside of the declared development area

Can you kindly clarify?

Thanks and regards,

DAVID NUNEZ
executive director

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] **SOUTH AFRICA**

From: [REDACTED]
To: [ERM Arcus Amsterdam](#)
Subject: Automatic reply: Notification of Submission of Final Scoping Report for the Proposed Sheepmoor, Rochdale and Emvelo WEF Cluster, Mpumalanga Province
Date: Thursday, 10 October 2024 13:53:31

You don't often get email from thea@agrisa.org.za. [Learn why this is important](#)

EXTERNAL MESSAGE

Thank you for your email. Please expect a delayed response as I am currently attending AgriSA's Green Horizon Congress in Cape Town. [REDACTED]

For inquiries, you can also contact the [REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
To: [ERM Arcus Amsterdam](#)
Subject: Automatic reply: Notification of Submission of Final Scoping Report for the Proposed Sheepmoor, Rochdale and Emvelo WEF Cluster, Mpumalanga Province
Date: Thursday, 10 October 2024 13:52:53

You don't often get email from strohl@caa.co.za. [Learn why this is important](#)

WARNING: The sender of this email could not be validated and may not match the person in the "From" field.

EXTERNAL MESSAGE

Kindly note that im not availble,

Kindly direct all general obstacle related queries to: obstacles@caa.co.za.

Kindly forward all EIA notices to environment@caa.co.za.

Kind regards

[REDACTED]

Email disclaimer

The information contained in this email is confidential

The information contained in this email is confidential and may contain proprietary and/or personal information. It is meant solely for the intended recipient. Access to this email by anyone else is unauthorised. If you are not the intended recipient, any processing of the email or the information contained therein (including disclosure, copying, distribution, storage) or any action taken or omitted in reliance on this, is prohibited and may be unlawful. No liability or responsibility is accepted if information or data is, for whatever reason corrupted or does not reach its intended recipient. No warranty is given that this email is free of viruses. The views expressed in this email are, unless otherwise stated, those of the author and not those of the South African Civil Aviation Authority ("the SACAA") or its management.

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<https://www.caa.co.za/paia-and-privacy/>

Stakeholder Engagement Form

<https://mulilowef.aidaform.com/public-participation-form>

Friday, November 08, 2024 05:51 UTC

What's your name?

[REDACTED]

Last Name

[REDACTED]

Who do you represent?

Organisation

Sirius Power

Designation

Director

Your Email

[REDACTED]

Your Phone Number

[REDACTED]

Alternative Phone Number

[REDACTED]

Your Address

[REDACTED]

City

Cape Town

State/Province

Western Cape

Zip Code

7708

Country

South Africa

What is your interest in the projects?

Collecting information about energy projects

Please visit the ERM website (link below) for more info and access to the reports. Are you able to access the website?

Yes

What are your comments regarding the Rochdale, Emvelo and Sheepmoor WEF Cluster?

Protection of Personal Information (POPI) Act, Act 4 of 2013

No (0)

From: [REDACTED]
To: [ERM Arcus Amsterdam](#)
Subject: Delivery Status Notification (Failure)
Date: Thursday, 10 October 2024 13:53:12
Attachments: [Notification of Submission of Final Scoping Report for the Proposed Sheepmoor Rochdale and Emvelo WEF Cluster Mpumalanga Province.msg](#)

[You don't often get email from postmaster@sec-mgp-ag04.imcf.co.za. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

EXTERNAL MESSAGE

From: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: DRaft Comments LUA 24-3965 Rochdale Wind Energy Facility
Date: Tuesday, 01 October 2024 11:14:57
Attachments: [LUA24-3965 Rochdale Wind Energy \(DRaft Comments\).pdf](#)

WARNING: The sender of this email could not be validated and may not match the person in the "From" field.

EXTERNAL MESSAGE

Good day

Kindly receive the draft comments from Mr. Krige of LUA 24-3965. As soon as we have a signed copy, I will forward it to you.

Kind regards

Celia

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 01 October 2024 10:35
To: Erm.arcusamsterdam@erm.com
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: FW: MTPA's comments LUA 24/3966 - Draft Scoping for 45 wind turbines (Emvelo Wind Energy)

Good day

Kindly receive two of the letters as requested

I will follow up with Frans Krige on LUA 24/3965, Rochdale, as soon as he is done with his meeting.

Regards

Celia

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 20 September 2024 09:56
To: stephanie.gopaul@erm.com
Cc: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Subject: MTPA's comments LUA 24/3966 - Draft Scoping for 45 wind turbines (Emvelo Wind

Energy)

Dear Ms. Gopaul

Kindly receive the attached comments from the MTPA regarding a Draft Scoping report for 45 wind turbines for Emvelo Wind Energy Facility & auxiliary infrastructure.

Your project no: **0684401**

Our EIA reference number is **LUA 24/3966**

Kind regards

Celia de Waal



Cecilia de Waal

Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Data Capturer

Land Use Advisory (LUA)

Biodiversity Conservation: Scientific Services



From: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: FW: MTPA's comments LUA 24/3966 - Draft Scoping for 45 wind turbines (Emvelo Wind Energy)
Date: Tuesday, 01 October 2024 10:35:09
Attachments: [LUA24-3966 obi. Emvelo WEF infrastructure Draft SR ERM.pdf](#)
[LUA 24-3967 MTPA objection DSR SHEEPMOOR WEF ERM.pdf](#)

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EXTERNAL MESSAGE

Good day

Kindly receive two of the letters as requested

I will follow up with Frans Krige on LUA 24/3965, Rochdale, as soon as he is done with his meeting.

Regards

Celia

From: Celia de Waal
Sent: 20 September 2024 09:56
To: stephanie.gopaul@erm.com
Cc: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
<[REDACTED]>
[REDACTED] Wind Energy)

Dear Ms. Gopaul

Kindly receive the attached comments from the MTPA regarding a Draft Scoping report for 45 wind turbines for Emvelo Wind Energy Facility & auxiliary infrastructure.

Your project no: **0684401**

Our EIA reference number is **LUA 24/3966**

Kind regards

Celia de Waal



Cecilia de Waal

Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Data Capturer

Land Use Advisory (LUA)

Biodiversity Conservation: Scientific Services



e-mail: [REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: FW: Notification of Submission of Final Scoping Report for the Proposed Sheepmoor, Rochdale and Emvelo WEF Cluster, Mpumalanga Province
Date: Friday, 11 October 2024 07:55:59
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

WARNING: The sender of this email could not be validated and may not match the person in the "From" field.

EXTERNAL MESSAGE

Good morning

Kindly send us, the MTPA a hard copy of the Final Scoping Report, for our scientists to comment on, to the following physical address:

To: Cecilia de Waal (MTPA EIA Data Capturer)
MTPA Office Building (Lydenburg)
End of Morgan street
Lydenburg 1120

[REDACTED]

Kind regards

Celia de Waal



Cecilia de Waal
Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Data Capturer
Land Use Advisory (LUA)
Biodiversity Conservation: Scientific Services

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: Thursday, 10 October 2024 14:29

To: [REDACTED]

Subject: FW: Notification of Submission of Final Scoping Report for the Proposed Sheepmoor, Rochdale and Emvelo WEF Cluster, Mpumalanga Province

Middag Frans

Moet ek vir die harde kopiee van die Final Draft aanvra

Groete

Celia

From: ERM Arcus Amsterdam <ERM.ArcusAmsterdam@erm.com>

Sent: 10 October 2024 13:52

To: ERM Arcus Amsterdam <ERM.ArcusAmsterdam@erm.com>

Subject: Notification of Submission of Final Scoping Report for the Proposed Sheepmoor, Rochdale and Emvelo WEF Cluster, Mpumalanga Province

Dear Registered Interested and Affected Party,

NOTIFICATION OF SUBMISSION OF THE FINAL SCOPING REPORT(S) FOR APPROVAL TO PROCEED TO ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT PHASE FOR THE PROPOSED SHEEPMOOR, ROCHDALE AND EMVELO WIND ENERGY FACILITIES, MPUMALANGA PROVINCE

-

DFFE Reference: 14/12/16/3/3/2/2611, 14/12/16/3/3/2/2612 and 14/12/16/3/3/2/2613

This email serves to inform you about the submission of the Final Scoping Reports for the proposed Sheepmoor, Rochdale and Emvelo WEFs , in the Mpumalanga Province.

The Draft Scoping Report for the Proposed Development(s) was subjected to the required 30-day comment and review period, from the 22 August 2024 to the 21 September 2024 (both days inclusive), taking into consideration Chapter 2 Regulation 3 (1); (2) and (3) of the NEMA, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998). Comments received from the public were incorporated, addressed and responded to in the Final Scoping Report.

Following the 30-day public comment and review period, the Final Scoping Reports has been submitted to the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (competent authority) for decision and is available for the public to view and download via the ERM website.

With reference to the above, please send any queries to the below address. Please also indicate the contact details of any other potential I&APs that should be contacted and registered.

Email: <mailto:ERM.ArcusAmsterdam@erm.com>

Website: <https://www.erm.com/public-information-sites/proposed-amsterdam-wind-energy-facility-and-auxiliary-infrastructure-cluster-mpumalanga/>

Thank you for the interest in the project.

Kind Regards



ERM

Sustainability is our business

Lucien Barbeau
Consultant

Cape Town
+27105963488

[erm.com](https://www.erm.com)



From: [REDACTED]
To: [ERM Arcus Amsterdam](#)
Subject: In sake : SHEEPMOOR, EMVELO en ROCKDALE WINDPLAAS PROJEK
Date: Tuesday, 17 December 2024 11:05:20

EXTERNAL MESSAGE

Vir aandag : Mnr Lucien Barbeau

Dagse

Die volgende het onder my aandag gekom en plaas dit net op rekord

- die drie windplase is gewysig na slegs twee
- die windturbines se plasing is wesenlik gewysig
- as I&AP is geen kennis daarvan ontvang nie
- geleentheid om kommentaar op wysiging te lewer is sodoende my ontnem
- verskeie spesialiste het intussen weer area besoek om verdere verslae op te stel. afgesien van die voelkundiges het die ander twee, waarvan ek weet, my nie gekontak nie. my kontak detail is blykbaar van hul weerhou.

EAP is ook verskeie kere al versoek vir kaart wat turbines, plaas grense en distrik paaie duidelik toon. wag nou nog.

Bogemelde prosedure is totaal gebrekkig en regsadvies word in die verband ingewin.

[REDACTED]

From: [Mail Delivery System](#)
To: [ERM Arcus Amsterdam](#)
Subject: Mail delivery failed: returning message to sender
Date: Thursday, 10 October 2024 13:53:24
Attachments: [Notification of Submission of Final Scoping Report for the Proposed Sheepmoor Rochdale and Emvelo WEF Cluster Mpumalanga Province.msg](#)

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EXTERNAL MESSAGE

From: [REDACTED]
To: [ERM Arcus Amsterdam](#)
Cc: [REDACTED]
Date: Friday, 20 September 2024 11:18:42
Attachments: [SKM_C250i24092004520.pdf](#)

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EXTERNAL MESSAGE

From: [ERM Arcus Amsterdam](#)
To: [ERM Arcus Amsterdam](#)
Subject: Mpumalanga Tourism and National Parks Comments
Date: Wednesday, 02 October 2024 15:34:45
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[LUA24-3966 obj. Emvelo WEF infrastructure Draft SR ERM.pdf](#)
[LUA 24-3967 MTPA objection DSR SHEEPMOOR WEF ERM.pdf](#)
[LUA24-3965 Rochdale Wind Energy \(DRaft Comments\).pdf](#)

Good day,

Kindly see attached comments from MTPA. This is in relation to the Mulilo Amsterdam WEF cluster. Kindly read through all comments and respond to the comments directed at your speciality.

If responses could please be provided by the end of this week, it will be appreciated.

Thank you,



ERM

Sustainability is our business

Lucien Barbeau
Consultant

Cape Town
+27105963488

erm.com



From: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: MTPA's comments: LUA 24/3965 - Draft Scoping report for the Rochdale Wind Energy Facility near ERMelo
Date: Wednesday, 02 October 2024 11:15:01
Attachments: [LUA 24-3965 OBJ D.Scoping.Rochdale.WEF_GridInfrastr_Msukaliwa.LM.pdf](#)

WARNING: The sender of this email could not be validated and may not match the person in the "From" field.

EXTERNAL MESSAGE

Good day

Kindly receive the attached comments from the MTPA regarding a Draft Scoping Report for the 240 MW Rochdale Wind Energy Facility near Ermelo.

Your reference number is: **0684401**

Our EIA registration/reference number is: **LUA 24/3965**

Kind regards

Celia de Waal



Cecilia de Waal

Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Data Capturer
Land Use Advisory (LUA)



From: [redacted]
To: [redacted]
Subject: New Response for "Blackhole Engagement Form"
Date: Saturday, 23 September 2017 10:52
Attachments: [redacted]

[You don't often get email from addform@addform.com. Learn why this is important at <http://aka.ms/OutlookOnDemand>]

EXTERNAL MESSAGE

Dear AddForm team,

Your form "Blackhole Engagement Form" has a new response.

1. What's your name?

[redacted]

2. Why do you participate?

[redacted]

3. Your Email

[redacted]

4. Your Name

[redacted]

5. Comments/Phone Number

[redacted]

6. Your Address

[redacted]

7. What is your interest in the program?

Environment

Yes

8. Please visit the ERM website (link below) for more info and access to the reports. Are you able to access the website?

Yes

9. What are your comments regarding the Blackhole, Emerald and Shepperson WEF Chats?

I will change the environment device

10. Protection of Personal Information (POPI) Act, Act 4 of 2013

No (B)

Yes

Yes

Yes

Yes

Yes

Yes

Yes

Yes

Yes

Yes

Yes

Yes

Yes

Yes

Yes

Yes

Yes

Yes

Yes

Yes

Yes

Yes

Yes

Yes

Yes

Yes

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Yes

Yes

Yes

Yes

Yes

Yes

Yes

Yes

Yes

Yes

Yes

Yes

Yes

Yes

Yes

Yes

Yes

Yes

Yes

Yes

Yes

From: [ERM Arcus Amsterdam](#)
To: [ERM Arcus Amsterdam](#)
Subject: Notification of Submission of Final Scoping Report for the Proposed Sheepmoor, Rochdale and Emvelo WEF Cluster, Mpumalanga Province
Date: Thursday, 10 October 2024 13:52:23
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

Dear Registered Interested and Affected Party,

NOTIFICATION OF SUBMISSION OF THE FINAL SCOPING REPORT(S) FOR APPROVAL TO PROCEED TO ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT PHASE FOR THE PROPOSED SHEEPMOOR, ROCHDALE AND EMVELO WIND ENERGY FACILITIES, MPUMALANGA PROVINCE

-

DFFE Reference: 14/12/16/3/3/2/2611, 14/12/16/3/3/2/2612 and 14/12/16/3/3/2/2613

This email serves to inform you about the submission of the Final Scoping Reports for the proposed Sheepmoor, Rochdale and Emvelo WEFs , in the Mpumalanga Province.

The Draft Scoping Report for the Proposed Development(s) was subjected to the required 30-day comment and review period, from the 22 August 2024 to the 21 September 2024 (both days inclusive), taking into consideration Chapter 2 Regulation 3 (1); (2) and (3) of the NEMA, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998). Comments received from the public were incorporated, addressed and responded to in the Final Scoping Report.

Following the 30-day public comment and review period, the Final Scoping Reports has been submitted to the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (competent authority) for decision and is available for the public to view and download via the ERM website.

With reference to the above, please send any queries to the below address. Please also indicate the contact details of any other potential I&APs that should be contacted and registered.

Email: <mailto:ERM.ArcusAmsterdam@erm.com>

Website: <https://www.erm.com/public-information-sites/proposed-amsterdam-wind-energy-facility-and-auxiliary-infrastructure-cluster-mpumalanga/>

Thank you for the interest in the project.

Kind Regards

Lucien Barbeau
Consultant

Cape Town

[erm.com](https://www.erm.com)



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+27105963488



From: [REDACTED]
To: [ERM Arcus Amsterdam](#)
Subject: Out of office Re: Notification of Submission of Final Scoping Report for the Proposed Sheepmoor, Rochdale and Emvelo WEF Cluster, Mpumalanga Province
Date: Thursday, 10 October 2024 13:52:34

EXTERNAL MESSAGE

Thank you for your email. I am out of office and will respond to your email on my return.
If urgent please contact Francois on [REDACTED]

From: [ERM Arcus Amsterdam](#)
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE:
Date: Wednesday, 02 October 2024 13:16:36
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

Hi Josua,

Thank you for sharing your concerns about the proposed WEF cluster. We appreciate your input. Your comments will be considered during the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) phase.

As part of the process, we will assess potential changes to the wind turbine layout and work to avoid sensitive areas to minimize any negative impacts. Your feedback appreciated and we will keep you updated as the EIA progresses.

Kind regards,



ERM

Sustainability is our business

Lucien Barbeau
Consultant

Cape Town
+27105963488

erm.com

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 19, 2024 1:21 PM
To: ERM Arcus Amsterdam <ERM.ArcusAmsterdam@erm.com>
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject:

You don't often get email from ermelo.postnet@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

EXTERNAL MESSAGE

From: [Stephanie Gopaul](#)
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: 14/12/16/3/3/2/2611; 2612; 2613: FSR Acceptance for the proposed Emvelo, Rochdale and Sheepmoor WEFs, MP
Date: Wednesday, 20 November 2024 09:27:43
Attachments: [image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)

Thanks you Masina. Received.



ERM

Sustainability is our business

Stephanie Gopaul
Partner
She/Her/Hers

Durban
0656660066

erm.com

From: Masina Morudu <memorudu@dffe.gov.za>
Sent: Tuesday, November 19, 2024 9:59 PM
To: Stephanie Gopaul <stephanie.gopaul@erm.com>

Cc: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] proposed Emvelo, Rochdale
and Sheepmoor WEFs, MP

EXTERNAL MESSAGE

Dear Staphanie,

Attached please find the FSR acceptance letters for your attention.

Regards,

MASINA MORUDU

Integrated Environmental Authorisations
EAPASA Registration: 2019/1805

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

"We all have few failures in life, it's what makes us ready for the success".



forestry, fisheries & the environment

Department:
Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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From: [REDACTED]
To: [ERM Arcus Amsterdam](#)
Cc: [REDACTED]
Date: Monday, 20 January 2025 11:37:47
Attachments: [image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)
[image005.png](#)
[image001.png](#)

You don't often get email from dutoit.malherbe@aboenergy.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

EXTERNAL MESSAGE

Hi Lucien,

Thank you for the feedback!

Kind regards,

Du Toit Malherbe LABO Energy South Africa (Pty) Ltd
[REDACTED]

From: ERM Arcus Amsterdam <ERM.ArcusAmsterdam@erm.com>
Sent: Monday, January 20, 2025 09:53
To: [REDACTED]
<ERM.ArcusAmsterdam@erm.com>
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: 0684401 Amsterdam Cluster WEF - Register as I&AP

Hi Du Toit,

Kindly note that you have been added as an I&AP to this projects database. New Public documentation will be available in February 2025 when PPP commences.

Kind Regards



ERM

Sustainability is our business

Lucien Barbeau
Senior Consultant

Cape Town
+27105963488

erm.com

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, January 20, 2025 8:13 AM
To: ERM Arcus Amsterdam <ERM.ArcusAmsterdam@erm.com>
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: 0684401 Amsterdam Cluster WEF - Register as I&AP

You don't often get email from dutoit.malherbe@aboenergy.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

EXTERNAL MESSAGE

Good day,

I'd like to follow-up on my request from October 2024 to be registered as an I&AP for the Project Reference: 0684401 Amsterdam Cluster WEF, since we're developing other renewable energy projects in the area. Please confirm if I'm registered and kindly share all publicly available documents.

Kind regards,

Du Toit Malherbe | ABO Energy South Africa (Pty) Ltd

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: Wednesday, October 23, 2024 23:05

To: ERM.ArcusAmsterdam@erm.com

Cc: [REDACTED] >

Subject: 0684401 Amsterdam Cluster WEF - Register as I&AP

Hi Liandra,

I hope you're doing well.

Could you kindly register me as an I&AP for the Project Reference: 0684401 'Amsterdam Cluster WEF', including the proposed Rochdale, Emvelo and Sheepmoor WEFs including their associated infrastructure, since we're developing other renewable energy projects in the area.

Thank you in advance.

Kind regards,

Du Toit Malherbe

Project Manager

ABO Energy South Africa (Pty) Ltd.
Unit 2A, Quantico House, Loerie Park
Paul Kruger Street
Durbanville, Western Cape, 7550, South Africa

Visitor address:
6th Floor, Sunclare Building
21 Dreyer Street
Cape Town, Claremont, 7708, South Africa

Phone: +27 (0)21 276 3620



Renewables
are our DNA

Wind is now ABO Energy. Find out more: www.aboenergy.com/newname

Company registration number 2018/062901/07 | Tax registration number 4370284061

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From: [ERM Arcus Amsterdam](#)
To: [REDACTED]
Date: RE: 0684401 Amsterdam Cluster WEF - Register as I&AP
Monday, 20 January 2025 09:53:03
Attachments: [image002.png](#)
[image005.png](#)
[image007.png](#)
[image001.png](#)

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Kind Regards



ERM

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Senior Consultant

Cape Town
+27105963488

erm.com

From: [REDACTED]
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Cc: [REDACTED]
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Kind regards,

Du Toit Malherbe | ABO Energy South Africa (Pty) Ltd
[REDACTED]

From: Du Toit Malherbe
Sent: Wednesday, October 23, 2024 23:05
To: ERM.ArcusAmsterdam@erm.com
Cc: Lihle Khumalo <lihle.khumalo@aboenergy.com>
Subject: 0684401 Amsterdam Cluster WEF - Register as I&AP

Hi Liandra,

I hope you're doing well.

Could you kindly register me as an I&AP for the Project Reference: 0684401 'Amsterdam Cluster WEF', including the proposed Rochdale , Emvelo and Sheepmoor WEFs including their associated infrastructure, since we're developing other renewable energy projects in the area.

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Kind regards,

Du Toit Malherbe

Project Manager

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Unit 2A, Quantico House, Loerie Park
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Durbanville, Western Cape, 7550, South Africa

Visitor address:
6th Floor, Sunclare Building
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Cape Town, Claremont, 7708, South Africa



www.aboenergy.co.za



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Company registration number 2018/062901/07 | Tax registration number 4370284061
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From: [REDACTED]
To: [ERM Arcus Amsterdam](#)
Cc: [REDACTED]
Date: RE: 0684401 Amsterdam Cluster WEF - Register as I&AP
Monday, 20 January 2025 08:13:20
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image003.png](#)
[image004.png](#)

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Company registration number 2018/062901/07 | Tax registration number 4370284061

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From: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: Amsterdam Wind Cluster
Date: Tuesday, 12 November 2024 12:09:10

EXTERNAL MESSAGE

Dear Lucien,

This is extremely helpful, thanks a lot

I am already registered as an I&AP for the Amsterdam cluster and for Khoe/Hugo. Can you kindly register me for Boshock 1-3 and Koupl-2?

Thanks and regards,

DAVID NUNEZ
executive director
website www.siriuspower.co.za

SIRIUS POWER SOUTH AFRICA

El 12 nov 2024, a las 8:26, ERM Arcus Amsterdam <ERM.ArcusAmsterdam@erm.com> escribió:

Hi David,

I have drawn up a list of ERM onshore Wind and Solar Renewable projects below:

<https://www.erm.com/public-information-sites/proposed-amsterdam-wind-energy-facility-and-auxiliary-infrastructure-cluster-mpumalanga/>

<https://www.erm.com/public-information-sites/genesis-koup-wind-energy-facility-1-beaufort-west-province/>

<https://www.erm.com/public-information-sites/genesis-koup-wind-energy-facility-2-beaufort-west-province/>

<https://www.erm.com/public-information-sites/proposed-boshock-solar-energy-facility-1-north-west-province/>

<https://www.erm.com/public-information-sites/proposed-boshock-solar-energy-facility-2-north-west-province/>

<https://www.erm.com/public-information-sites/proposed-boshock-solar-energy-facility-3-north-west-province/>

<https://www.erm.com/hugoandkhoe/>

Kind Regards

<image001.png>

Lucien Barbeau

Consultant

Cape Town
+27105963488

erm.com

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, November 8, 2024 9:57 AM
To: ERM Arcus Amsterdam <ERM.ArcusAmsterdam@erm.com>
Cc: Stephanie Gopaul <Stephanie.Gopaul@erm.com>
Subject: Re: Amsterdam Wind Cluster

Algunos contactos que recibieron este mensaje no suelen recibir correos electrónicos de david.nunez@siriuspower.co.za. Ver aquí si es algo importante.

EXTERNAL MESSAGE

Thanks for your prompt response!

On a different note that is unrelated to the PPP for the Amsterdam cluster:

I have put together a database of renewable energy projects at different stages of development in South Africa based entirely on public information obtained from PPP of EIA applications. I lost track of EIA applications from your portfolio when ERM acquired Arcus and the public participation section on Arcus' website was removed, and there isn't a similar section on ERM's website (the closest I found is [this site](#), but it is empty).

Is there a section of your website that I'm missing where I can find a list of "active" projects similar to [this one](#)? If not, is there any way I can automatically get registered as I&AP on existing and future energy projects?

Many thanks for your help

Best regards,

DAVID NUNEZ
executive director
website www.siriuspower.co.za

SIRIUS POWER SOUTH AFRICA

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Hi David,

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Your notes below have been acknowledged. Please do me on the look out for updated Technical information and layout changes within the EIA Phase.

Kind Regards,

<image001.png>

Lucien Barbeau

Consultant

Cape Town
+27105963488

erm.com

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, November 8, 2024 8:21 AM
To: Stephanie Gopaul <Stephanie.Gopaul@erm.com>; ERM Arcus Amsterdam <erm.arcusamsterdam@erm.com>
Subject: Amsterdam Wind Cluster

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EXTERNAL MESSAGE

Dear Stephanie,

I filled in the online form - kindly confirm I am registered as an I&AP and will receive further info as the EIA process evolves.

Please note:

- There is a disconnect between the declared MW size and the number of turbines:
 - Rochdale: 240MW vs. 16 WTGs @ 8MW = 128MW
 - Enveto: 200MW vs. 36 WTGs @ 8MW = 288MW
 - Sheppmoor: 360MW vs. 22 WTGs @ 8MW = 176W
- WTGs of Enveto falls outside of the declared development area

Can you kindly clarify?

Thanks and regards,

DAVID NUNEZ
executive director
website www.siriuspower.co.za

SIRIUS POWER SOUTH AFRICA

From: [REDACTED]
Cc: [Stephanie Gopaul](#)
Subject: Re: Amsterdam Wind Cluster
Date: Friday, 08 November 2024 09:57:05

Algunos contactos que recibieron este mensaje no suelen recibir correos electrónicos de david.nunez@siriuspower.co.za. [Por qué es esto importante](#)

EXTERNAL MESSAGE

Thanks for your prompt response!

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executive director
website www.siriuspower.co.za

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Kind Regards,

[<image001.png>](#)

Lucien Barbeau
Consultant

Cape Town
+27105963488

erm.com

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, November 8, 2024 8:21 AM
To: Stephanie Gopaul <stephanie.gopaul@erm.com>; ERM Arcus Amsterdam <erm.arcusamsterdam@erm.com>
Subject: Amsterdam Wind Cluster

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EXTERNAL MESSAGE

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Please note:

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 - Rochdale: 240MW vs. 16 WTGs @ 8MW = 128MW
 - Emvelo: 200MW vs. 36 WTGs @ 8MW = 288MW
 - Sheepmoor: 360MW vs. 22 WTGs @ 8MW = 176W
- WTG8 of Emvelo falls outside of the declared development area

Can you kindly clarify?

Thanks and regards,

DAVID NUNEZ
executive director
website www.siriuspower.co.za

SIRIUS POWER SOUTH AFRICA

From: [ERM Arcus Amsterdam](#)
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: [Stephanie Gopaul](#)
Date: RE: Amsterdam Wind Cluster
Wednesday, 13 November 2024 13:11:35
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

Hi David,

A pleasure, sure I will place you on the database.

Regards



ERM

Sustainability is our business

Lucien Barbeau
Consultant

Cape Town
+27105963488

erm.com

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, November 12, 2024 12:09 PM
To: ERM Arcus Amsterdam <ERM.ArcusAmsterdam@erm.com>
Cc: Stephanie Gopaul <Stephanie.Gopaul@erm.com>
Subject: Re: Amsterdam Wind Cluster

EXTERNAL MESSAGE

Dear Lucien,

This is extremely helpful, thanks a lot

I am already registered as an I&AP for the Amsterdam cluster and for Khoe/Hugo. Can you kindly register me for Boshhoek 1-3 and Koup1-2?

Thanks and regards,

DAVID NUNEZ
executive director

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
website www.siriuspower.co.za

SIRIUS POWER SOUTH AFRICA

El 12 nov 2024, a las 8:26, ERM Arcus Amsterdam
<ERM.ArcusAmsterdam@erm.com> escribió:

Hi David,

I have drawn up a list of ERM onshore Wind and Solar Renewable projects below:

<https://www.erm.com/public-information-sites/proposed-amsterdam-wind-energy-facility-and-auxiliary-infrastructure-cluster-mpumalanga/>

<https://www.erm.com/public-information-sites/genesis-koup-wind-energy-facility-1-beaufort-west-province/>

<https://www.erm.com/public-information-sites/genesis-koup-wind-energy-facility-2-beaufort-west-province/>

<https://www.erm.com/public-information-sites/proposed-boshoek-solar-energy-facility-1-north-west-province/>

<https://www.erm.com/public-information-sites/proposed-boshoek-solar-energy-facility-2-north-west-province/>

<https://www.erm.com/public-information-sites/proposed-boshoek-solar-energy-facility-3-north-west-province/>

<https://www.erm.com/hugoandkhoe/>

Kind Regards

<image001.png>

Lucien Barbeau
Consultant

Cape Town
+27105963488

[erm.com](https://www.erm.com)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, November 8, 2024 9:57 AM
To: ERM Arcus Amsterdam <ERM.ArcusAmsterdam@erm.com>
Cc: Stephanie Gopaul <Stephanie.Gopaul@erm.com>
Subject: Re: Amsterdam Wind Cluster

Algunos contactos que recibieron este mensaje no suelen recibir correos electrónicos de david.nunez@siriuspower.co.za Por qué es esto importante

EXTERNAL MESSAGE

Thanks for your prompt response!

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I have put together a database of renewable energy projects at different stages of development in South Africa based entirely on public information obtained from PPP of EIA applications. I lost track of EIA applications from your portfolio when ERM acquired Arcus and the public participation section on Arcus' website was removed, and there isn't a similar section on ERM's website (the closest I found is [this site](#), but it is empty).

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Many thanks for your help

Best regards,

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website www.siriuspower.co.za

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Kind Regards,

<[image001.png](#)>

Lucien Barbeau
Consultant

Cape Town
+27105963488

erm.com

From:

Sent: Friday, November 8, 2024 8:21 AM

To: Stephanie Gopaul <stephanie.gopaul@erm.com>; ERM Arcus Amsterdam
<erm.arcusamsterdam@erm.com>

Subject: Amsterdam Wind Cluster

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EXTERNAL MESSAGE

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Please note:

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- WTG8 of Emvelo falls outside of the declared development area

Can you kindly clarify?

Thanks and regards,

DAVID NUNEZ
executive director

website www.siriuspower.co.za

SIRIUS POWER SOUTH AFRICA

From: [ERM Arcus Amsterdam](#)
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Amsterdam Wind Cluster
Date: Tuesday, 12 November 2024 08:26:30
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

Hi David,

I have drawn up a list of ERM onshore Wind and Solar Renewable projects below:

<https://www.erm.com/public-information-sites/proposed-amsterdam-wind-energy-facility-and-auxiliary-infrastructure-cluster-mpumalanga/>

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Kind Regards



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[erm.com](https://www.erm.com)

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 [co.za](mailto:david.nunez@siriuspower.co.za)
website www.siriuspower.co.za

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[<image001.png>](#)

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Cape Town
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erm.com

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Subject: Amsterdam Wind Cluster

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de david.nunez@siriuspower.co.za. [Por qué es esto importante](#)

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Can you kindly clarify?

Thanks and regards,

DAVID NUNEZ
executive director

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
website www.siriuspower.co.za

SIRIUS POWER SOUTH AFRICA

From: [ERM Arcus Amsterdam](#)
To: [REDACTED]
Date: RE: Amsterdam Wind Cluster
Friday, 08 November 2024 09:45:15
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

Hi David,

Thank you for the interest in the project. You have now been added and an I&AP database and will be notified as the EIA process continues. The project status: Transitioning from Final scoping to Draft EIA phase.

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Kind Regards,



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Lucien Barbeau
Consultant

Cape Town
+27105963488

erm.com

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, November 8, 2024 8:21 AM
To: Stephanie Gopaul <stephanie.gopaul@erm.com>; ERM Arcus Amsterdam <erm.arcusamsterdam@erm.com>
Subject: Amsterdam Wind Cluster

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DAVID NUNEZ
executive director

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] SOUTH AFRICA

From: [REDACTED]
To: [ERM Arcus Amsterdam](#)
Cc: [REDACTED]
Date: Monday, 30 September 2024 17:57:33
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)

You don't often get email from jonathan@camissaconsulting.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

EXTERNAL MESSAGE

Hi Lucien

Do you have any updates on the next steps needed for me – are my comments below sufficient?

All the best

Jonathan Aronson
Camissa Sustainability Consulting



[REDACTED]
W www.camissaconsulting.com
A 1053 BA Amsterdam, Netherlands

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, 18 September 2024 12:02
To: 'ERM Arcus Amsterdam' <ERM.ArcusAmsterdam@erm.com>
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Bat Specialist - Mulilo Amsterdam CA Commenting Responses required

Hi Lucien

Thanks for sharing these comments.

I agree with the board on points regarding the CBA. I have used that in my structuring of risk as per the text and table below:

To align with regional conservation and integrated development planning, the Mpumalanga Biodiversity Sector Plan Handbook (MTPA 2014) was consulted to further define spatial risk in the Aol. The intention here was to align biodiversity conservation policy objectives with renewable energy policy objectives, attempting to minimise trade-offs between conflicting goals (Jackson 2011, Gasparatos et al. 2017). The handbook includes a map of terrestrial areas that are important for conserving biodiversity and ecological processes – Critical Biodiversity Areas (CBAs) and Ecological Support Areas (ESAs) respectively. CBA Irreplaceable Areas were categorised as High Risk (Table 6) because the conservation goals for these areas are to maintain them in a natural state with no loss of ecosystems, functionality or species, and with no flexibility in land-use options (MTPA 2014). The remaining areas were assigned low or medium risk where all infrastructure development should be prioritized. These included modified land, ESA, CBA optimal, and other Natural Areas (Table 6). Although the primary objective of the CBA optimal areas is to

maintain these spaces in a natural state with no loss of ecosystems, functionality or species, some flexibility in land-use options is permitted (MTPA 2014). Similarly, in ecological supports areas (ESAs), the objective is to maintain habitats in a natural, or near-natural, state with limited loss of ecosystems or functionality. Hence, these areas were classified as medium risk, permitting the siting of turbines in these spaces. All turbines will be subjected to a post-construction bat fatality monitoring program which will monitor residual impacts at turbines located in CBA optimal and ecological support areas, as well as turbines in low-risk areas. The results of this monitoring will inform management actions where needed to ensure alignment with the MTPA objectives to limit impacts to biodiversity.

Table 6: Features used to assign spatial risk categories in the AoI for bats (Chiroptera)

Risk Level			
Low	Medium	High	No-Go
Heavily modified land	CBA Optimal	CBA Irreplaceable Areas	Farm Dams (200 m buffer)
Moderately modified land	ESA Landscape corridor		Wetlands (200 m buffer)
	ESA Local corridor		Houses (200 m buffer)
	Other Natural Areas		Buildings (200 m buffer)
			Rivers (200 m buffer)
			Wetlands (200 m buffer)
			Rocky Outcrops (200 m buffer)

Based on the comments, it can be argued that the CBA Irreplaceable Areas would need to be elevated to No-Go as well which I would support.

Regarding comments 8.3, 9.3 and 10.3; these assessments would be addressed in the final EIA report.

I am unable to attend the meeting on Monday. Please advise what the next steps are.

All the best

Jonathan Aronson
Camissa Sustainability Consulting



W www.camissaconsulting.com
A 1053 BA Amsterdam, Netherlands

From: ERM Arcus Amsterdam <ERM.ArcusAmsterdam@erm.com>
Sent: Wednesday, 18 September 2024 10:44
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: Lloyd Barnes <lloyd@mulilo.com>; Stephen Burton <Stephen.Burton@erm.com>
Subject: Bat Specialist - Mulilo Amsterdam CA Commenting Responses required

Hi Jonathan,

Kindly see attached comments from DARDLEA/MTPA pertaining to the Mulilo Amster WEF Cluster (Sheepmoor, Rochdale and Emvelo).

Please could you read through all the comments for each development. However please focus your responses on the following points per development:

Bats	Rochdale	Sheepmoor	Emvelo
Point	1, 4, 6 and 9.3	1, 6, 7, 8 and 10.3	1, 4, 5, 6 and 8.3

Ideally, we would like these comments responded to by Monday the 23rd September, please let us know if this will be an issue.

A meeting invite for today at 14h00 will be sent out shortly to discuss the above. Kindly indicate your availability to attend.

Kind Regards



ERM

Sustainability is our business

Lucien Barbeau
Consultant

Cape Town
+27105963488

erm.com



From: [REDACTED]
To: [ERM Arcus Amsterdam](#)
Subject: RE: Confirmation of Project Final EIAr Submission
Date: Tuesday, 26 November 2024 10:02:04
Attachments: [image003.png](#)
[image004.png](#)

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EXTERNAL MESSAGE

Yes correct , Friday, 28 March 2025

Regards

Mr. Ephron Maradwa

Administrative Officer: Integrated Environmental Authorisations

Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment

473 Steve Biko Road

PRETORIA

Tel: (012) 399 9367

Cell: 076 940 6571

E-mail: EMaradwa@dfef.gov.za



From: ERM Arcus Amsterdam <ERM.ArcusAmsterdam@erm.com>

Sent: Monday, 25 November 2024 12:48

To: [REDACTED]

Subject: Confirmation of Project Final EIAr Submission

Good day Ephron,

I trust that you are well. We have received acceptance of Final Scoping from the Department on the 19th of November 2024 for Project Mulilo Amsterdam WEF Cluster within the Msukaligwa Local Municipality, Mpumalanga Province. References: 14/12/16/3/3/2/2611, 14/12/16/3/3/2/2612 and 14/12/16/3/3/2/2613.

I would like to confirm this projects Final EIA Report submission of the 28th March 2025 as telephonically discussed.

Awaiting your response,

Many Thanks



ERM

Sustainability is our business

Lucien Barbeau
Consultant

Cape Town
+27105963488

erm.com



From: [ERM Arcus Amsterdam](#)
To: [REDACTED]
Date: Tuesday, 01 October 2024 12:46:32
Attachments: [image002.png](#)

Thanks Celia!



ERM

Sustainability is our business

Lucien Barbeau
Consultant

Cape Town
+27105963488

erm.com

From: Celia de Waal <celia@mtpa.co.za>
Sent: Tuesday, October 1, 2024 11:15 AM
To: ERM Arcus Amsterdam <ERM.ArcusAmsterdam@erm.com>
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: DRaft Comments LUA 24-3965 Rochdale Wind Energy Facility

WARNING: The sender of this email could not be validated and may not match the person in the "From" field.

EXTERNAL MESSAGE

Good day

Kindly receive the draft comments from Mr. Krige of LUA 24-3965. As soon as we have a signed copy, I will forward it to you.

Kind regards

Celia

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 01 October 2024 10:35
To: Erm.arcusamsterdam@erm.com
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: FW: MTPA's comments LUA 24/3966 - Draft Scoping for 45 wind turbines (Emvelo Wind Energy)

Good day

Kindly receive two of the letters as requested

I will follow up with Frans Krige on LUA 24/3965, Rochdale, as soon as he is done with his meeting.

Regards

Celia

From: Celia de Waal

Sent: 20 September 2024 09:56

To: stephanie.gopaul@erm.com

Cc: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Subject: MTPA's comments LUA 24/3966 - Draft Scoping for 45 wind turbines (Emvelo Wind Energy)

Dear Ms. Gopaul

Kindly receive the attached comments from the MTPA regarding a Draft Scoping report for 45 wind turbines for Emvelo Wind Energy Facility & auxiliary infrastructure.

Your project no: **0684401**

Our EIA reference number is **LUA 24/3966**

Kind regards

Celia de Waal



Cecilia de Waal

Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Data Capturer

Land Use Advisory (LUA)

Biodiversity Conservation: Scientific Services

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

From: [ERM Arcus Amsterdam](#)
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: MTPA's comments LUA 24/3967 - Draft EIA Scoping Report for the proposed development of the Sheepmoor Wind Energy facility.
Date: Monday, 30 September 2024 11:49:03
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

Good day Celia,

Trusting you are well. Do you have any update for me on comments for Enviro and Rochdale proposed Developments.

Kind Regards,



ERM

Sustainability is our business

Lucien Barbeau
Consultant

Cape Town
+27105963488

erm.com

From: ERM Arcus Amsterdam <ERM.ArcusAmsterdam@erm.com>

Sent: Thursday, September 19, 2024 11:15 AM

To: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]za>; [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

LUA 24/3967 - Draft EIA Scoping Report for the proposed development of the Sheepmoor Wind Energy facility.

Hi Celia,

Thank you for the update,

Regards



ERM

Sustainability is our business

Lucien Barbeau
Consultant

Cape Town
+27105963488

erm.com

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: Thursday, September 19, 2024 11:07 AM

To: ERM Arcus Amsterdam <ERM.ArcusAmsterdam@erm.com>

Cc: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] LUA 24/3967 - Draft EIA Scoping Report for the proposed development of the Sheepmoor Wind Energy facility.

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EXTERNAL MESSAGE

Good morning

Regarding your enquiry below, the following:

- The comments for the Emvelo project (our ref: LUA 24/3966) is currently at the Acting Manager: Scientific Service for review). The signed copy might be released today, which will be send to you as soon as I receive it.
- The commenting scientist is currently still busy commenting on the Rochdale project (LUA 24/3965).

Kind regards

Celia

From: ERM Arcus Amsterdam <ERM.ArcusAmsterdam@erm.com>

Sent: Thursday, 19 September 2024 09:54

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]rvyn

[REDACTED] 3967 - Draft EIA Scoping Report for the proposed development of the Sheepmoor Wind Energy facility.

Hi Celia,

Thank you for providing comment on the Sheepmoor WEF facility. Are you able to please indicate when we can expect comment on the remaining 2 facilities, namely Rochdale and Emvelo.

Kind regards

Lucien



Sustainability is our business

From: Celia de Waal <celia@mtpa.co.za>

Sent: Wednesday, September 18, 2024 2:36 PM

To: ERM Arcus Amsterdam <ERM.ArcusAmsterdam@erm.com>

Cc: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] - Draft EIA Scoping Report for the proposed development of the Sheepmoor Wind Energy facility.

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WARNING: The sender of this email could not be validated and may not match the person in the "From" field.

EXTERNAL MESSAGE

Dear Ms. Gopaul

Kindly receive the attached comments from the MTPA regarding a Draft EIA Report for the proposed development of the Sheepmoore Wind Energy facility (WEF) with 23 wind turbines and Auxiliary infrastructure.

Your reference number: **Project 0684401** (DFFE: 14/12/16/3/3/2/2593)

Our EIA registration/reference number is **LUA 24/3967** (kindly use this number in any further correspondence to us regarding this project)

Kind regards

Celia de Waal



Cecilia de Waal

Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Data Capturer

Land Use Advisory (LUA)

Biodiversity Conservation: Scientific Services



e-mail: celia.dewaal@mtpa.co.za

From: [ERM Arcus Amsterdam](#)
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: MTPA's comments: LUA 24/3965 - Draft Scoping report for the Rochdale Wind Energy Facility near Ermelo
Date: Wednesday, 02 October 2024 13:38:43
Attachments: [image002.png](#)

Hi Celia

Signed copy well received

Kind Regards



ERM

Sustainability is our business

Lucien Barbeau
Consultant

Cape Town
+27105963488

erm.com

From: Celia de Waal <celia@mtpa.co.za>
Sent: Wednesday, October 2, 2024 11:14 AM
To: ERM Arcus Amsterdam <ERM.ArcusAmsterdam@erm.com>
Cc: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] isi
[REDACTED]
Subject: MTPA's comments: LUA 24/3965 - Draft Scoping report for the Rochdale Wind Energy Facility near Ermelo

WARNING: The sender of this email could not be validated and may not match the person in the "From" field.

EXTERNAL MESSAGE

Good day

Kindly receive the attached comments from the MTPA regarding a Draft Scoping Report for the 240 MW Rochdale Wind Energy Facility near Ermelo.

Your reference number is: **0684401**

Our EIA registration/reference number is: **LUA 24/3965**

Kind regards

Celia de Waal



Cecilia de Waal

Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Data Capturer

Land Use Advisory (LUA)

Biodiversity Conservation: Scientific Services



e-mail: celia.dewaal@mtpa.co.za

From: [REDACTED]
To: [ERM Arcus Amsterdam; Birding Africa \(Callan Cohen\)](#)
Subject: Re: Mulilo Amsterdam WEF Cluster - DFFE Specialist Declaration Form and SACNASP registration request Final Scoping
Date: Thursday, 10 October 2024 14:26:46
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[eia.specialistdeclaration2023aug_Jonathan_Colville_Oct2024_p2.pdf](#)
[eia.specialistdeclaration2023aug_Jonathan_Colville_Oct2024_p3.pdf](#)
[eia.specialistdeclaration2023aug_Jonathan_Colville_Oct2024_p1.pdf](#)
[134759JFColville_SACNASP_Certificate_2024.pdf](#)

EXTERNAL MESSAGE

Hi Lucien

Please find attached the requested documents.

Regards
Jonathan

On Thu, 3 Oct 2024 at 10:14, ERM Arcus Amsterdam <ERM.ArcusAmsterdam@erm.com> wrote:

Good day,

I kindly request the following documentation for Final Scoping submission to DFFE:

- DFFE Specialist Declaration form (see latest form attached); and
- E-copy of SACNASP registration (if applicable).

Kindly do forward these documents to me as soon as you can.

Thank you



ERM

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Lucien Barbeau
Consultant

Cape Town
+27105963488

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SUSTAINABILITY REPORT 2024

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From: [ERM Arcus Amsterdam](#)
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Mulilo Amsterdam WEF Cluster (Sheepmoor, Rochdale and Emvelo)
Date: Monday, 30 September 2024 14:46:31
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

Hi Graham,

Kindly send invoices for projects attached in previous email.

Your response to comments are noted.

Thank you,



ERM

Sustainability is our business

Lucien Barbeau
Consultant

Cape Town
+27105963488

erm.com

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 23, 2024 12:29 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: Mulilo Amsterdam WEF Cluster (Sheepmoor, Rochdale and Emvelo)

You don't often get email from grahamyounlandarch@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

EXTERNAL MESSAGE

Dear Lucien,
Upon review of the CA's comments, we've found no specific issues that relate directly to the visual assessment. We therefore have not commented.
However, their comment about cumulative impact is noted and will be addressed in the assessment phase, should the project proceed to that phase.

I have also attached our Statement for work done to date. Please note that we have not been paid for our Scoping Reports. The invoice was issued in November 2023.
G


African Journal of Landscape Architecture: <https://www.ajlajournal.org/ifla-africa>
African Landscape Network: <https://bit.ly/ALNstorymap>

On Wed, 18 Sept 2024 at 11:07, ERM Arcus Amsterdam

<ERM.ArcusAmsterdam@erm.com> wrote:

Hi there.

I hope this email finds you well. Please see attached comments from the CA (DARDLEA/MTPA) pertaining to the Mulilo Amsterdam WEF cluster. Please read through all comments and respond to the comments directed at your speciality.

If responses could please be provided by Monday the 23rd September that would be appreciated.

Thank you,



ERM

Lucien Barbeau
Consultant

Sustainability is our business

Cape Town
+27105963488

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From: [ERM Arcus Amsterdam](#)
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Mulilo Amsterdam WEF Cluster (Sheepmoor, Rochdale and Emvelo)
Date: Tuesday, 01 October 2024 15:23:52
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

Hi Gavin,

Hoping you are well. Noted on your availability to attend to these comments, however please do let me know if you are able to provide any comment before this coming Friday, it will be appreciated. Apologies for the delays in the VO – I am following up with finance.

Additionally, I just wanted to find out if you have uploaded the Heritage survey to the SAHRA via SAHRIS?

Kindest Regards,



ERM

Sustainability is our business

Lucien Barbeau
Consultant

Cape Town
+27105963488

erm.com

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, September 18, 2024 6:40 PM
To: ERM Arcus Amsterdam <ERM.ArcusAmsterdam@erm.com>
Subject: Re: Mulilo Amsterdam WEF Cluster (Sheepmoor, Rochdale and Emvelo)

EXTERNAL MESSAGE

Hi Lucien

Highly unlikely that I can get comments by then. It is too short notice. If they require more than a sentence and if there are many it will take longer. I have been in the field for 3 weeks and have 3 weeks to go. Will see what I can do.

We still have not been paid that VO. Can you please look into it.

Regards

Gavin

On Wed, 18 Sept 2024 at 11:07, ERM Arcus Amsterdam
<ERM.ArcusAmsterdam@erm.com> wrote:

Hi there.

I hope this email finds you well. Please see attached comments from the CA (DARDLEA/MTPA) pertaining to the Mulilo Amsterdam WEF cluster. Please read

through all comments and respond to the comments directed at your speciality.

If responses could please be provided by Monday the 23rd September that would be appreciated.

Thank you,



ERM

Lucien Barbeau
Consultant

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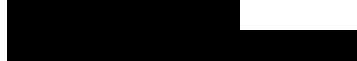
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=====

20 years of Heritage Impact Assessments

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UMLANDO: Archaeological Surveys & Heritage Management
PO Box 10153, Meerensee, KwaZulu-Natal 3901



Facebook: Umlando SouthAfrica
Email:umlando@gmail.com

From: [ERM Arcus Amsterdam](#)
To: [REDACTED] and Emvelo)
Date: Monday, 30 September 2024 14:46:31
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

Hi Graham,

Kindly send invoices for projects attached in previous email.

Your response to comments are noted.

Thank you,



ERM

Sustainability is our business

Lucien Barbeau
Consultant

Cape Town
+27105963488

erm.com

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 23, 2024 12:29 PM
To: ERM Arcus Amsterdam <ERM.ArcusAmsterdam@erm.com>; [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Subject: Re: Mulilo Amsterdam WEF Cluster (Sheepmoor, Rochdale and Emvelo)

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EXTERNAL MESSAGE

Dear Lucien,
Upon review of the CA's comments, we've found no specific issues that relate directly to the visual assessment. We therefore have not commented.
However, their comment about cumulative impact is noted and will be addressed in the assessment phase, should the project proceed to that phase.

I have also attached our Statement for work done to date. Please note that we have not been paid for our Scoping Reports. The invoice was issued in November 2023.
G

[REDACTED]

African Journal of Landscape Architecture: <https://www.ajlajournal.org/ifla-africa>
African Landscape Network: <https://bit.ly/ALNstorymap>

On Wed, 18 Sept 2024 at 11:07, ERM Arcus Amsterdam

<ERM.ArcusAmsterdam@erm.com> wrote:

Hi there.

I hope this email finds you well. Please see attached comments from the CA (DARDLEA/MTPA) pertaining to the Mulilo Amsterdam WEF cluster. Please read through all comments and respond to the comments directed at your speciality.

If responses could please be provided by Monday the 23rd September that would be appreciated.

Thank you,



ERM

Lucien Barbeau
Consultant

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Cape Town
+27105963488

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From: [Liesal Muller](#)
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [ERM Arcus Amsterdam](#)
Subject: RE: Mulilo Amsterdam WEF Cluster (Sheepmoor, Rochdale and Emvelo)
Date: Tuesday, 01 October 2024 11:06:34
Attachments: [image002.png](#)

Hi Stephen

When you have a moment, kindly check if you are able to view and approve invoice 160 that I've routed to you. I'm holding thumbs it works this time around.

Liesal Muller
IT Coordinator
She/Her/Hers

Great Westerford, 240 Main Road, [erm.com](#)
Rondebosch, 7700, Cape Town
+27 21 681 5400
+27 10 596 3463

From: ERM Arcus Amsterdam <ERM.ArcusAmsterdam@erm.com>
Sent: Tuesday, October 1, 2024 10:06 AM
To: Liesal Muller <Liesal.Muller@erm.com>
Cc: Stephen Burton <Stephen.Burton@erm.com>
Subject: FW: Mulilo Amsterdam WEF Cluster (Sheepmoor, Rochdale and Emvelo)

Hi Liesal

Please see the invoice as requested.

Thank you!

Lucien Barbeau
Consultant

Cape Town [erm.com](#)
+27105963488

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, October 1, 2024 9:55 AM
To: ERM Arcus Amsterdam <[ERM.ArcusAmsterdam@erm.com](#)>
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: Mulilo Amsterdam WEF Cluster (Sheepmoor, Rochdale and Emvelo)

EXTERNAL MESSAGE

Dear Lucien
Attached the invoice as requested.
Kind regards
G

African Journal of Landscape Architecture: <https://www.ajlajournal.org/ifla-africa>
African Landscape Network: <https://bit.ly/ALNstorymap>

On Mon, 30 Sept 2024 at 14:46, ERM Arcus Amsterdam
<ERM.ArcusAmsterdam@erm.com> wrote:

Hi Graham,

Kindly send invoices for projects attached in previous email.

Your response to comments are noted.

Thank you,



ERM

Sustainability is our business

Lucien Barbeau
Consultant

Cape Town
+27105963488

erm.com

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 23, 2024 12:29 PM
To: ERM Arcus Amsterdam <ERM.ArcusAmsterdam@erm.com>; [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: Mulilo Amsterdam WEF Cluster (Sheepmoor, Rochdale and Emvelo)

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EXTERNAL MESSAGE

Dear Lucien,
Upon review of the CA's comments, we've found no specific issues that relate directly to the visual assessment. We therefore have not commented.
However, their comment about cumulative impact is noted and will be addressed in the assessment phase, should the project proceed to that phase.

I have also attached our Statement for work done to date. Please note that we have not been paid for our Scoping Reports. The invoice was issued in November 2023.

G

African Journal of Landscape Architecture: <https://www.ajlajournal.org/ifla-africa>
African Landscape Network: <https://bit.ly/ALNstorymap>

On Wed, 18 Sept 2024 at 11:07, ERM Arcus Amsterdam

<ERM.ArcusAmsterdam@erm.com> wrote:

Hi there.

I hope this email finds you well. Please see attached comments from the CA (DARDLEA/MTPA) pertaining to the Mulilo Amsterdam WEF cluster. Please read through all comments and respond to the comments directed at your speciality.

If responses could please be provided by Monday the 23rd September that would be appreciated.

Thank you,



ERM

Lucien Barbeau
Consultant

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Cape Town
+27105963488

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email communication or its attachments. To find out how the ERM Group manages personal data please review our [Privacy Policy](#)

From: [REDACTED] [Menno Klapwijk](#)
Subject: Re: Mulilo Amsterdam WEF Cluster (Sheepmoor, Rochdale and Emvelo)
Date: Monday, 23 September 2024 12:30:20
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[ERM Statement_2024709.pdf](#)

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EXTERNAL MESSAGE

Dear Lucien,
Upon review of the CA's comments, we've found no specific issues that relate directly to the visual assessment. We therefore have not commented.
However, their comment about cumulative impact is noted and will be addressed in the assessment phase, should the project proceed to that phase.

I have also attached our Statement for work done to date. Please note that we have not been paid for our Scoping Reports. The invoice was issued in November 2023.
G



African Journal of Landscape Architecture: <https://www.ajlajournal.org/ifla-africa>
African Landscape Network: <https://bit.ly/ALNstorymap>

On Wed, 18 Sept 2024 at 11:07, ERM Arcus Amsterdam
<ERM.ArcusAmsterdam@erm.com> wrote:

Hi there.

I hope this email finds you well. Please see attached comments from the CA (DARDLEA/MTPA) pertaining to the Mulilo Amsterdam WEF cluster. Please read through all comments and respond to the comments directed at your speciality.

If responses could please be provided by Monday the 23rd September that would be appreciated.

Thank you,



ERM

Lucien Barbeau
Consultant

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+27105963488

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SUSTAINABILITY REPORT 2024

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From:



Subject:

Re: Mulilo Amsterdam WEF Cluster (Sheepmoor, Rochdale and Emvelo)

Date:

Monday, 23 September 2024 10:02:42

WARNING: The sender of this email could not be validated and may not match the person in the "From" field.

EXTERNAL MESSAGE

Morning

From my side no comments directly on the aquatic / wetland environment as any comments related to this field were related to the avifaunal i.e. waterbirds or buffers associated.

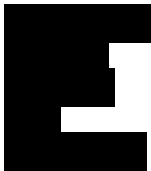
They have noted that some of the infrastructure is within some of the aquatic features / buffers as indicated in my reports and must be resolved in the design phase for the EIA

Thanks and regards

Brian

Dr Brian Colloty
Ecologist (Pr Sci Nat 400268/07)

EnviroSci (Pty) Ltd



On 18 Sep 2024, at 11:07, ERM Arcus Amsterdam <ERM.ArcusAmsterdam@erm.com> wrote:

Hi there.

I hope this email finds you well. Please see attached comments from the CA (DARDLEA/MTPA) pertaining to the Mulilo Amsterdam WEF cluster. Please read through all comments and respond to the comments directed at your speciality.

If responses could please be provided by Monday the 23rd September that would be appreciated.

Thank you,

[<image001.png>](#)

Lucien Barbeau
Consultant

Cape Town
+27105963488

erm.com

[<image002.jpg>](#)

<Comments SR_Emvelo WEF_5G-30 (002).pdf><Comments SR_Rochdale WEF 5G-29.pdf><Comments SR_Sheepmoor WEF 5G-28.pdf>

Good day,

Thank you for your comment. Your comments will be taken into consideration during the TIA phase of the proposed WTF Charter.

Kind Regards,

Lucien Babin
Conservation Corps Team

ccw@wtf.org

From: ccw@wtf.org (mailto:ccw@wtf.org)

Sent: Sunday, September 22, 2024 7:39 PM

To: ERD.Antonia.Kennedy@wtf.org

Subject: New Response Re: "Wildlife Engagement Form"

[You don't often get email from ccw@wtf.org. Learn why this is important # <https://aka.ms/OutlookGroupSafety>]

EXTERNAL MESSAGE

Dear AddForm user,

Your item "Wildlife Engagement Form" has a new response.

1. What is your name?

2. What is your organization?

3. What is your email?

4. What is your phone number?

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140. What is your phone number?

From: [REDACTED]
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: Response to Environmental Engagement Form

Good day,
Thank you for your interest in the project. You have now been added to the EA-OP Database and will receive updated information as the project moves forward.

Kind Regards

Lucien Bouchard
Senior Consultant / Capa Team
capa.com

-----Original Message-----
From: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, December 5, 2024 1:18 PM
To: ERB Access Authorization <[REDACTED]>
Subject: New Response for "Blackwater Engagement Form"

EXTERNAL MESSAGE

Dear André/Ann Marie,
Your form "Blackwater Engagement Form" has a new response.

1. What's your name?

[REDACTED]

2. What do you do for work?

[REDACTED]

3. Your Email

[REDACTED]

4. Your Personal Website

[REDACTED]

5. Address (Please Use Your

[REDACTED]

6. Your Address

[REDACTED]

7. What is your interest in the project?

Environmental Authorization program

8. Please visit the ERB website (link below) for more info and access to the reports. Are you able to access the website?

Yes

9. What are your comments regarding the Blackwater, Emerald and Thompson "RIP" Claims?

No comments related to the program but would like to be updated on the status of the environmental authorization program.

10. Protection of Personal Information (POPI) Act, Act 4 of 2013 No. 10

[REDACTED]

You can turn off or manage notifications for this form at:

<https://capa.com/notifications/track/track/track/>

or <https://capa.com/notifications/track/track/track/>

Any questions or comments?

Your André/Ann Marie

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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From: [BC Admin](#)
To: [ERM Arcus Amsterdam](#)
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Notification of Submission of Final Scoping Report for the Proposed Sheepmoor, Rochdale and Emvelo WEF Cluster, Mpumalanga Province
Date: Wednesday, 16 October 2024 13:11:09
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image003.png](#)

You don't often get email from bcadmin@dffe.gov.za. [Learn why this is important](#)

EXTERNAL MESSAGE

Dear Sir/Madam

DFFE Directorate: Biodiversity Conservation hereby acknowledge receipt of the invitation to review and comment on the project mentioned on the subject line. Kindly note that the project has been allocated to Mrs P Makitla and Ms Nompumelelo Lekalakala (Copied on this email). In addition, kindly share the shapefiles of the development footprints/application site with the Case Officers.

Please note: All Public Participation Process documents related to Biodiversity EIA review and any other Biodiversity EIA queries must be submitted to the Directorate: Biodiversity Conservation at Email: BCAdmin@dffe.gov.za for attention of Mr Seoka Lekota

Kind regards,

Lindiwe Victoria Dlamini

Directorate: Biodiversity Mainstreaming and FRA

Branch: Biodiversity and Conservation

Website: www.environment.gov.za

From: ERM Arcus Amsterdam <ERM.ArcusAmsterdam@erm.com>

Sent: Thursday, 10 October 2024 13:52

To: ERM Arcus Amsterdam <ERM.ArcusAmsterdam@erm.com>

Subject: Notification of Submission of Final Scoping Report for the Proposed Sheepmoor, Rochdale and Emvelo WEF Cluster, Mpumalanga Province

Dear Registered Interested and Affected Party,

NOTIFICATION OF SUBMISSION OF THE FINAL SCOPING REPORT(S) FOR APPROVAL TO PROCEED TO ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT PHASE FOR THE PROPOSED SHEEPMOOR, ROCHDALE AND EMVELO WIND ENERGY FACILITIES, MPUMALANGA PROVINCE

-

DFFE Reference: 14/12/16/3/3/2/2611, 14/12/16/3/3/2/2612 and 14/12/16/3/3/2/2613

This email serves to inform you about the submission of the Final Scoping Reports for the proposed Sheepmoor, Rochdale and Emvelo WEFs , in the Mpumalanga Province.

The Draft Scoping Report for the Proposed Development(s) was subjected to the required 30-day comment and review period, from the 22 August 2024 to the 21 September 2024 (both days inclusive), taking into consideration Chapter 2 Regulation 3 (1); (2) and (3) of the NEMA, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998). Comments received from the public were incorporated, addressed and responded to in the Final Scoping Report.

Following the 30-day public comment and review period, the Final Scoping Reports has been submitted to the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (competent authority) for decision and is available for the public to view and download via the ERM website.

With reference to the above, please send any queries to the below address. Please also indicate the contact details of any other potential I&APs that should be contacted and registered.

Email: <mailto:ERM.ArcusAmsterdam@erm.com>

Website: <https://www.erm.com/public-information-sites/proposed-amsterdam-wind-energy-facility-and-auxiliary-infrastructure-cluster-mpumalanga/>

Thank you for the interest in the project.

Kind Regards



ERM

Sustainability is our business

Lucien Barbeau
Consultant

Cape Town
+27105963488

[erm.com](https://www.erm.com)



From: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Notification of Submission of Final Scoping Report for the Proposed Sheepmoor, Rochdale and Emvelo WEF Cluster, Mpumalanga Province
Date: Wednesday, 16 October 2024 15:40:56
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image003.png](#)
[Amsterdam \(2023-08-16\).kmz](#)

Good day,

Kindly see shapefiles as requested.

Thank you



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Lucien Barbeau
Consultant

Cape Town
+27105963488

erm.com

From: BC Admin <bcadmin@dfpe.gov.za>
Sent: Wednesday, October 16, 2024 1:11 PM
To: ERM Arcus Amsterdam <ERM.ArcusAmsterdam@erm.com>
Cc: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Subject: RE: Notification of Submission of Final Scoping Report for the Proposed Sheepmoor, Rochdale and Emvelo WEF Cluster, Mpumalanga Province

You don't often get email from bcadmin@dfpe.gov.za. [Learn why this is important](#)

EXTERNAL MESSAGE

Dear Sir/Madam

DFPE Directorate: Biodiversity Conservation hereby acknowledge receipt of the invitation to review and comment on the project mentioned on the subject line. Kindly note that the project has been allocated to Mrs P Makitla and Ms Nompumelelo Lekalakala (Copied on this email). In addition, kindly share the shapefiles of the development footprints/application site with the Case Officers.

Please note: All Public Participation Process documents related to Biodiversity EIA review and any other Biodiversity EIA queries must be submitted to the Directorate: Biodiversity Conservation at Email: BCAdmin@dfpe.gov.za for attention of Mr Seoka Lekota

Kind regards,

Lindiwe Victoria Dlamini

Directorate: Biodiversity Mainstreaming and F&A
Branch: Biodiversity and Conservation

Website: www.environment.gov.za

From: ERM Arcus Amsterdam <ERM.ArcusAmsterdam@erm.com>

Sent: Thursday, 10 October 2024 13:52

To: ERM Arcus Amsterdam <ERM.ArcusAmsterdam@erm.com>

Subject: Notification of Submission of Final Scoping Report for the Proposed Sheepmoor, Rochdale and Emvelo WEF Cluster, Mpumalanga Province

Dear Registered Interested and Affected Party,

NOTIFICATION OF SUBMISSION OF THE FINAL SCOPING REPORT(S) FOR APPROVAL TO PROCEED TO ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT PHASE FOR THE PROPOSED SHEEPMOOR, ROCHDALE AND EMVELO WIND ENERGY FACILITIES, MPUMALANGA PROVINCE

-

DFFE Reference: 14/12/16/3/3/2/2611, 14/12/16/3/3/2/2612 and 14/12/16/3/3/2/2613

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With reference to the above, please send any queries to the below address. Please also indicate the contact details of any other potential I&APs that should be contacted and registered.

Email: <mailto:ERM.ArcusAmsterdam@erm.com>

Website: <https://www.erm.com/public-information-sites/proposed-amsterdam-wind-energy-facility-and-auxiliary-infrastructure-cluster-mpumalanga/>

Thank you for the interest in the project.

Kind Regards



ERM

Sustainability is our business

Lucien Barbeau
Consultant

Cape Town
+27105963488

[**erm.com**](https://erm.com)



From: [REDACTED]
To: [ERM Arcus Amsterdam](#)
Subject: RE: Notification of Submission of Final Scoping Report for the Proposed Sheepmoor, Rochdale and Emvelo WEF Cluster, Mpumalanga Province
Date: Monday, 14 October 2024 11:43:14
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[RSImage-1550512.png](#)
[RSImage-1550510.png](#)

You don't often get email from thea@agrisa.org.za. [Learn why this is important](#)

EXTERNAL MESSAGE

Good day

Please send notifications of this nature to janse@agrisa.org.za

Kind regards

Thea Liebenberg

Communications | Kommunikasie



[REDACTED]
Pretoria Head Office: Block D, Inkwazi Office Park,
1249 Embankment Road, Zwartkop X7, South Africa



Attention: This message is intended for the exclusive use of the named addressees hereof and may contain privileged or confidential information or otherwise restricted from disclosure wider than the named addressees. If you are not the named addressee, you are not authorised to read, use, transmit, print, retain, copy or disseminate this message or any part of it. If you have received this message in error, please notify me immediately by email, discard any paper copies and delete all electronic files of the message.

From: ERM Arcus Amsterdam <ERM.ArcusAmsterdam@erm.com>

Sent: Thursday, October 10, 2024 1:52 PM

To: ERM Arcus Amsterdam <ERM.ArcusAmsterdam@erm.com>

Subject: Notification of Submission of Final Scoping Report for the Proposed Sheepmoor, Rochdale and Emvelo WEF Cluster, Mpumalanga Province

Some people who received this message don't often get email from erm.arcusamsterdam@erm.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear Registered Interested and Affected Party,

**NOTIFICATION OF SUBMISSION OF THE FINAL SCOPING REPORT(S) FOR APPROVAL TO
PROCEED TO ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT PHASE FOR THE PROPOSED
SHEEPMOOR, ROCHDALE AND EMVELO WIND ENERGY FACILITIES, MPUMALANGA PROVINCE**

-
DFFE Reference: 14/12/16/3/3/2/2611, 14/12/16/3/3/2/2612 and 14/12/16/3/3/2/2613

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With reference to the above, please send any queries to the below address. Please also indicate the contact details of any other potential I&APs that should be contacted and registered.

Email: <mailto:ERM.ArcusAmsterdam@erm.com>

Website: <https://www.erm.com/public-information-sites/proposed-amsterdam-wind-energy-facility-and-auxiliary-infrastructure-cluster-mpumalanga/>

Thank you for the interest in the project.

Kind Regards



ERM

Sustainability is our business

Lucien Barbeau
Consultant

Cape Town
+27105963488

[erm.com](https://www.erm.com)



From: [REDACTED]
To: [ERM Arcus Amsterdam](#)
Subject: Re: Notification of Submission of Final Scoping Report for the Proposed Sheepmoor, Rochdale and Emvelo WEF Cluster, Mpumalanga Province
Date: Thursday, 21 November 2024 10:02:11
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

EXTERNAL MESSAGE

Good day

What is the next step in the EIA phase for the above proposed three windfarms?

Where can the public comments, the address and response to that been seen?

Has the health risk and distance from occupied dwellings according to international standards and law been investigated and addressed?

Are there still public meetings to follow?

Can you please forward the procedure that is still to come?

Regards

On Thu, Oct 10, 2024 at 1:52 PM ERM Arcus Amsterdam
<ERM.ArcusAmsterdam@erm.com> wrote:

Dear Registered Interested and Affected Party,

**NOTIFICATION OF SUBMISSION OF THE FINAL SCOPING REPORT(S) FOR
APPROVAL TO PROCEED TO ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT
PHASE FOR THE PROPOSED SHEEPMOOR, ROCHDALE AND EMVELO WIND
ENERGY FACILITIES, MPUMALANGA PROVINCE**

DFFE Reference: 14/12/16/3/3/2/2611, 14/12/16/3/3/2/2612 and 14/12/16/3/3/2/2613

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Thank you for the interest in the project.

Kind Regards



ERM

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Lucien Barbeau
Consultant

Cape Town
+27105963488

[erm.com](https://www.erm.com)



From: [ERM Arcus Amsterdam](#)
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Sheepmoor, Rochdale and Emvelo WEFs - Registration as I&AP
Date: Monday, 30 September 2024 12:43:53
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)

Hi Kristen,

That is correct.

Kind Regards



ERM

Sustainability is our business

Lucien Barbeau
Consultant

Cape Town
+27105963488

erm.com

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 20, 2024 9:56 AM
To: ERM Arcus Amsterdam <ERM.ArcusAmsterdam@erm.com>
Cc: 'Francois le Roex' <francois@red-cap.co.za>
Subject: RE: Sheepmoor, Rochdale and Emvelo WEFs - Registration as I&AP

You don't often get email from kirsten@red-cap.co.za. [Learn why this is important](#)

EXTERNAL MESSAGE

Thanks Lucien,

Will you be uploading the FSR onto the website (and notifying I&APs) once it has been submitted to DFFE?

Kind regards
Kirsten

From: ERM Arcus Amsterdam <ERM.ArcusAmsterdam@erm.com>
Sent: Thursday, 19 September 2024 20:13
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Sheepmoor, Rochdale and Emvelo WEFs - Registration as I&AP

Good day,

Thank you for your email, you will now be added as an I&AP to the proposed Sheepmoor,

Rochdale and Emvelo WEFs.

Kind Regards



Sustainability is our business

Lucien Barbeau
Consultant

Cape Town
+27105963488

erm.com

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 19, 2024 4:17 PM
To: ERM Arcus Amsterdam <ERM.ArcusAmsterdam@erm.com>
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Sheepmoor, Rochdale and Emvelo WEFs - Registration as I&AP

You don't often get email from kirsten@red-cap.co.za. [Learn why this is important](#)

EXTERNAL MESSAGE

Hi there,

Please could you register myself and colleague Francois le Roex (copied) as I&APs on these projects,

Kind regards



KIRSTEN JONES | SENIOR PROJECT MANAGER



From: [REDACTED]
To: [ERM Arcus Amsterdam](#)
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Sheepmoor, Rochdale and Emvelo WEFs - Registration as I&AP
Date: Friday, 20 September 2024 09:55:56
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)

You don't often get email from kirsten@red-cap.co.za. [Learn why this is important](#)

EXTERNAL MESSAGE

Thanks Lucien,

Will you be uploading the FSR onto the website (and notifying I&APs) once it has been submitted to DFFE?

Kind regards
Kirsten

From: ERM Arcus Amsterdam <ERM.ArcusAmsterdam@erm.com>
Sent: Thursday, 19 September 2024 20:13
To: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] 'Francois le Roex' <francois@red-cap.co.za>
Subject: RE: Sheepmoor, Rochdale and Emvelo WEFs - Registration as I&AP

Good day,

Thank you for your email, you will now be added as an I&AP to the proposed Sheepmoor, Rochdale and Emvelo WEFs.

Kind Regards



ERM

Sustainability is our business

Lucien Barbeau
Consultant

Cape Town
+27105963488

erm.com

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 19, 2024 4:17 PM
To: ERM Arcus Amsterdam <ERM.ArcusAmsterdam@erm.com>
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Sheepmoor, Rochdale and Emvelo WEFs - Registration as I&AP

You don't often get email from kirsten@red-cap.co.za. [Learn why this is important](#)

EXTERNAL MESSAGE

Hi there,

Please could you register myself and colleague Francois le Roex (copied) as I&APs on these projects,

Kind regards



KIRSTEN JONES | SENIOR PROJECT MANAGER



From: [ERM Arcus Amsterdam](#)
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Sheepmoor, Rochdale and Emvelo WEFs - Registration as I&AP
Date: Thursday, 19 September 2024 20:12:47
Attachments: [image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)

Good day,

Thank you for your email, you will now be added as an I&AP to the proposed Sheepmoor, Rochdale and Emvelo WEFs.

Kind Regards



ERM

Sustainability is our business

Lucien Barbeau
Consultant

Cape Town
+27105963488

[erm.com](#)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 19, 2024 4:17 PM
To: ERM Arcus Amsterdam <ERM.ArcusAmsterdam@erm.com>
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Sheepmoor, Rochdale and Emvelo WEFs - Registration as I&AP

You don't often get email from kirsten@red-cap.co.za. [Learn why this is important](#)

EXTERNAL MESSAGE

Hi there,

Please could you register myself and colleague Francois le Roex (copied) as I&APs on these projects,

Kind regards



KIRSTEN JONES | SENIOR PROJECT MANAGER
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: Terrestrial Biodiversity + Faunal Specialist - Mulilo Amsterdam CA Commenting Responses required
Date: Thursday, 26 September 2024 08:18:52
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

EXTERNAL MESSAGE

Hi Lucien

Sorry we could not attend the meeting - we've been busy with field work and Callan is still away in Australia.

I had a quick look at the comments - most seem related to the avifaunal theme and there appear to be no direct comments related to the faunal theme and animal SCC we assessed.

The general comment about the importance of intact grassland patches and CBAs: In this regard, we had considered intact grassland habitat and CBAs to classify our constraints map in terms of faunal sensitivity.

Once turbine placement and associated roads and other infrastructure are finalized, then one can better assess the site sensitivity of these specific areas and if any ecological processes may be impacted in relation to the animal theme and flagged animal SCC.

Best regards
Jonathan (and Callan)

On Wed, 18 Sept 2024 at 10:44, ERM Arcus Amsterdam
<ERM.ArcusAmsterdam@erm.com> wrote:

Hi Jamie, Jonathan and Callan,

Kindly see attached comments from DARDLEA/MTPA pertaining to the Mulilo Amster WEF Cluster (Sheepmoor, Rochdale and Emvelo).

Please could you read through all the comments for each development. However please focus your responses on the following points per development:

Terrestrial Biodiversity	Rochdale	Sheepmoor	Emvelo
Point	1, 4, 5, 6 and 9.1	1, 4, 5, 7, 8 and 10.2	1, 3, 4, 5, 6 and 8.1

We would like these comments responded to by Monday the 23rd September, please let us know if this will be an issue.

A meeting invite for today at 14h00 will be sent out shortly to discuss the above. Kindly indicate your availability to attend.

Kind Regards



ERM

Lucien Barbeau
Consultant

Sustainability is our business

Cape Town
+27105963488

erm.com



From: [Microsoft Outlook](#)
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Undeliverable: Notification of Submission of Final Scoping Report for the Proposed Sheepmoor, Rochdale and Emvelo WEF Cluster, Mpumalanga Province
Date: Thursday, 10 October 2024 13:52:24
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For more information and tips to fix this issue see our article: <https://go.microsoft.com/fwlink/?LinkId=389361>.

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Date: Friday, 11 October 2024 13:58:25
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Date: Thursday, 10 October 2024 13:55:12
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Attachments: [Notification of Submission of Final Scoping Report for the Proposed Sheepmoor Rosedale and Ernselo WEF Cluster Mpumalanga Province.msp](#)

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Subject: Undeliverable: Notification of Submission of Final Scoping Report for the Proposed Sheepmoor, Rochdale and Emvelo WEF Cluster, Mpumalanga Province
Date: Thursday, 10 October 2024 13:54:33
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Date: Thursday, 10 October 2024 13:54:04
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Date: Thursday, 10 October 2024 13:52:47
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From: [Microsoft Outlook](#)
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Undeliverable: Notification of Submission of Final Scoping Report for the Proposed Sheepmoor, Rochdale and Emvelo WEF Cluster, Mpumalanga Province
Date: Thursday, 10 October 2024 13:52:22
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Original message headers:

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([fe80::87b3:8fbb:8d:3148]) by DB9PR04MB10065.eurprd04.prod.outlook.com

([fe80::87b3:8fbb:8d:3148%2]) with mapi id 15.20.8026.020; Thu, 10 Oct 2024

11:52:19 +0000

Content-Type: application/ms-tnef; name="winmail.dat"

Content-Transfer-Encoding: binary

From: "ERM Arcus Amsterdam" <ERM.ArcusAmsterdam@erm.com>

To: "ERM Arcus Amsterdam" <ERM.ArcusAmsterdam@erm.com>

Subject: Notification of Submission of Final Scoping Report for the Proposed

Sheepmoor, Rochdale and Emvelo WEF Cluster, Mpumalanga Province

Thread-Topic: Notification of Submission of Final Scoping Report for the

Proposed Sheepmoor, Rochdale and Emvelo WEF Cluster, Mpumalanga Province

Thread-Index: AdsX5XlzlfcHfRcCL7pxp8LqjHQ==

X-MS-Exchange-MessageSentRepresentingType: 1

Date: Thu, 10 Oct 2024 11:52:19 +0000

Message-ID: <DB9PR04MB10065AEDFC1894A089F9230B09B782@DB9PR04MB10065.eurprd04.prod.outlook.com>

Accept-Language: en-ZA, en-US

Content-Language: en-US

X-MS-Has-Attach: yes

X-MS-TNEF-Correlator: <DB9PR04MB10065AEDFC1894A089F9230B09B782@DB9PR04MB10065.eurprd04.prod.outlook.com>

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9a97-568759608577_Name=General

- Anyone

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x-templafyemailsigstoversion: 9.16.0.0

MIME-Version: 1.0

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Subject: Undeliverable: Notification of Submission of Final Scoping Report for the Proposed Sheepmoor, Rochdale and Emvelo WEF Cluster, Mpumalanga Province
Date: Thursday, 10 October 2024 13:52:42
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5.4.1 Recipient address rejected: Access denied.
[JN1PEPF00001EDB.ZAFP275.PROD.OUTLOOK.COM 2024-10-10T11:52:32.374Z
08DCE8B46F5EF61A]

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08DCE59A8F64C342]

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Further information

5.4.1 Recipient address rejected: Access denied.
[CPT0EPF00000718.ZAFP275.PROD.OUTLOOK.COM 2024-10-10T11:52:32.347Z
08DCE8E40E0E3300]

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APPENDIX 7 MTPA AND DARDLEA MEETING MINUTES



Subject	DARDLEA and MTPA Meeting
Project Title	Proposed Mulilo Amster WEF Cluster (Sheepmoor, Rochdale and Emvelo)
Project Developer	Mulilo Energy Holdings
Date	11 September 2024

Notes

Virtual Meeting: MS Teams 10h00 – 12h00

Meeting Attendees

Organisation		Name of Attendee	
Mpumalanga Department of Agriculture, Rural Development, Land and Environmental Affairs	(DARDLEA)	Robyn Luyt	(RL)
Mpumalanga Department of Agriculture, Rural Development, Land and Environmental Affairs	(DARDLEA)	Gavin Cowden	(GC)
Mpumalanga Department of Agriculture, Rural Development, Land and Environmental Affairs	(DARDLEA)	Sindy Mbuyane	(SM)
Mpumalanga Tourism & Parks Agency	(MTPA)	Celia De Waal	(CDW)
Mpumalanga Tourism & Parks Agency	(MTPA)	Frans Krige	(FK)
Mpumalanga Tourism & Parks Agency	(MTPA)	Khumbelo Malele	(KM)
Environmental Resources Management	(ERM)	Stephanie Gopaul	(SG)
Environmental Resources Management	(ERM)	Stephen Burton	(SB)
Environmental Resources Management	(ERM)	Lucien Barbeau	(LB)
Afriavian Environmental	(AE)	Albert Froneman	(AF)
Mulilo Energy Holdings	(MEH)	Lloyd Barnes	(LB)
Mulilo Energy Holdings	(MEH)	Andrew Pearson	(AP)

ORGANISATION	COMMENT RAISED	NOTES / RESPONSES / ACTIONS
DARDLEA/MTPA	Concerns expressed around changes to the sites. Intact grassland as mapped by MTPA was raised as a potential constraint. It was queried if the vegetation specialist had taken this into account.	MTPA agreed to forward the dataset to the project proponents for inclusion into specialist assessments.
DARDLEA/MTPA	WWFT habitat was discussed with regards to its lack of detail in the scoping level reports.	Albert Froneman and Lloyd Barnes noted that the habitat mapping for this species would be included in the updated EIA phase reports.
DARDLEA/MTPA	Martial Eagle nests data and associated movement data were discussed with reference to buffers.	It was noted that data was still being received and that the buffer proposed for the nests and the bird movements were still under discussion with EWT.
DARDLEA/MTPA	The current laydown areas for Rochdale are placed within a CBA, and this will be problematic in future and thus will need to be moved.	The current layout will be altered during the EIA phase. CBA's will be taken into consideration when establishing revised layouts.
MEH	There will be a reduction in applications, where Sheepmoor may be incorporated into Rochdale. Thus going forward there will only be 2 applications.	Once Draft EIA phase is reached the new layout will be introduced and the two new applications submitted and the third one withdrawn
DARDLEA/MTPA	The Impact methodology does not appear to be included in the DSR's, DARDLEA and MTPA requested that the impact methodology be provided in a standalone form.	ERM sent the standalone impact methodology to all meeting invitees on the 11 th of September 2024
DARDLEA/MTPA	It must be noted that comment can only be provided based on the layout provided, and thus there will likely be many comments related to tower positions, laydown areas and the other sensitivities identified across the sites.	It is noted that the current layout will need refinement and the draft EIA layout will likely look completely different, as the comments will be incorporated into the layout.

APPENDIX A ATTENDANCE REGISTER

Meeting Attendees

Organisation		Name of Attendee	
Mpumalanga Department of Agriculture, Rural Development, Land and Environmental Affairs	(DARDLEA)	Robyn Luyt	(RL)
Mpumalanga Department of Agriculture, Rural Development, Land and Environmental Affairs	(DARDLEA)	Gavin Cowden	(GC)
Mpumalanga Department of Agriculture, Rural Development, Land and Environmental Affairs	(DARDLEA)	Sindy Mbuyane	(SM)
Mpumalanga Tourism & Parks Agency	(MTPA)	Celia De Waal	(CDW)
Mpumalanga Tourism & Parks Agency	(MTPA)	Frans Krige	(FK)
Mpumalanga Tourism & Parks Agency	(MTPA)	Khumbelo Malele	(KM)
Environmental Resources Management	(ERM)	Stephanie Gopaul	(SG)
Environmental Resources Management	(ERM)	Stephen Burton	(SB)
Environmental Resources Management	(ERM)	Lucien Barbeau	(LB)
Afriavian Environmental	(AE)	Albert Froneman	(AF)
Mulilo Energy Holdings	(MEH)	Lloyd Barnes	(LB)
Mulilo Energy Holdings	(MEH)	Andrew Pearson	(AP)

APPENDIX 8 LEGAL MEMO



NICHOLAS SMITH ATTORNEYS
ENVIRONMENTAL LAW SPECIALISTS

MEMORANDUM OF ADVICE:

IN RE: AMSTERDAM WEF CLUSTER (PROPOSED SHEEPMOOR AND EMVELO WIND ENERGY FACILITIES)

Prepared for:

Mulilo Renewable Project Developments (Pty) Ltd

Attention: Mr. Lloyd Barnes

By email: Lloyd@mulilo.com

Copy to:

Mr. Andrew Pearson; Ms. Rebecca Thomas; Mr. Stuart MacWilliam; Ms. Ameesha Sanker; Ms. Gail Wheeler; and Ms. Jody Thorburn

By email: Andrew@mulilo.com; Reth@mulilo.com; Stuart@mulilo.com; ameesha@mulilo.com; gail@mulilo.com; joth@mulilo.com

6 MARCH 2025

Nicholas Smith - BA (Hons) LLB ADL LLM (Marine & Environmental Law)

T: +27 (0) 21 424 5826 | C: +27 (0) 82 375 0905 | nicks@nsmithlaw.co.za
www.nsmithlaw.co.za | 3rd Floor, 114 Bree Street, Cape Town, 8001



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2.2 THE REQUIREMENTS IN NEMA PERTAINING TO PROCEDURAL FAIRNESS	4
2.3 THE PROVISIONS OF THE EIA REGULATIONS APPLICABLE TO THE SUBMISSION AND CONSIDERATION OF AN EIA REPORT AND SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS TO THE COMPETENT AUTHORITY	5
3. MY ADVICE	8



1. INTRODUCTION

We act for Mulilo Renewable Project Developments (Pty) Ltd.

Our instructions are that client proposes undertaking the development of two wind energy facilities ("WEFs") where three WEFs were originally envisaged.

The three WEFs originally envisaged were the Sheepmoor WEF; the Emvelo WEF and the Rochdale WEF. The current proposal is to incorporate areas from the Rochdale WEF into the two remaining projects (the Sheepmoor and Emvelo WEFs) following the scoping phase, which excluded most of the turbines originally part of the Rochdale WEF.¹ This is explained in more detail in the two paragraphs directly below.

The Sheepmoor WEF, as approved for the EIA phase after acceptance of the scoping report by the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment ("DFFE")² will now include properties that were assessed as part of the scoping process for the Emvelo WEF and the Sheepmoor WEF.

The Emvelo WEF will, for purposes of the EIA phase for that WEF, now include immovable properties assessed, and accepted by DFFE, pursuant to the Emvelo and Rochdale scoping processes.³

The Chief Directorate: Environmental Affairs⁴ in the DFFE (i.e. the competent authority) has confirmed in writing that the proposed approach as described above is substantively sound, and that the Sheepmoor and Emvelo WEFs (collectively the Amsterdam Cluster herein) can both proceed to the EIA phase.

DFFE's Chief Directorate: Integrated Environmental Authorisations has confirmed DFFE's opinion in writing, in the following terms:

¹ Our instructions are that the number of turbines originally envisaged for the Rochdale WEF were scoped out principally because of concerns pertaining to aspects raised by the civil aviation authority; and potential impacts on avifauna.

² By letter dated 19 November 2024 and signed by Ms. Masina Morudu. Ms. Morudu is the Designated Control Environmental Officer: National Integrated Authorisation, and at the behest of Dr. Sabelo Malaza the Chief Director: Integrated Environmental Authorisations in DFFE.

³ The Emvelo and Rochdale scoping reports and respective plans of study for environmental impact assessment (PoSEIA) dated October 2024 and received by the Department on 7 October 2024 were accepted by Ms. Morudu for and on behalf of Dr. Malaza on 19 November 2024.

⁴ Represented by Ms. Milicent Solomons of the Chief Directorate: Integrated Environmental Authorisations in the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and Environment ("DFFE"). Ms. Solomons expressed the competent authority's position in an email to our client's Mr. Barnes dated 17 February 2025.

"The trailing emails below refer. Please note the opinion of the Chief Directorate: Integrated Environmental Authorisations after internal consultation ...

2. *In terms of the EIA Regulations, 2014 (as amended) we do not see any prohibition of the proposed process, incorporating the 20% of the Rochdale site into the Emvelo application. The project scope and the relevant assessments will have to comply with all legislative requirements.*
3. ***However it is important to indicate that we foresee several challenges, should you adopt to follow this process:***
 - a. *This is the 2nd application for the same development and as you are aware a few concerns have been raised by stakeholders.*
 - b. *The screening reports and approved plan of study does not include this portion of the property (20% of Rochdale) and will very likely be challenged by stakeholders. The current approved plan of study and terms of reference for Emvelo does not include the 20% of Rochdale and this can be challenged based on procedure.*

Based on the potential risks, we suggest that you consider withdrawing the two applications in question, i.e. Rochdale and Emvelo and submit one application as Emvelo (including 20% Rochdale portion). The screening report and the plan of study will include the whole area; all stakeholders will have an opportunity to comment and provide input at scoping phase during the public review process."
(My underlining; bold text as in the original.)

As regards the *verbatim* extract above from the emailed correspondence from the DFFE's Chief Directorate: Integrated Environmental Authorisation, in summary, and in my considered view, any procedural challenge would only have reasonable prospects of success if the public/registered interested and affected parties ("I&APs") are excluded from the EIA phase, which is not client's intention nor the practice that will be followed.

All relevant stakeholders will be entitled to participate fully in the EIA process, which will conform to the requirements of regulation 23 of the NEMA EIA Regulations (which governs the submission and consideration of EIA Reports and supporting documents to the competent authority; and Chapter 6⁵ in the latter Regulations, which governs public participation; and regulation 45⁶ of EIA Regulations, which stipulates adherence to the regulatory time-frames.

⁵ Chapter 6 is titled "*Public participation*".

⁶ Regulation 45 is included in Chapter 7 of the NEMA EIA Regulations, titled "*General matters*".

The public participation processes obliged in the DFFE's letters accepting the respective scoping reports are exactly the same. In other words, even with the proposed inclusion of turbines from the Rochdale WEF in the Emvelo WEF, and turbines from the Emvelo WEF in the Sheepmoor WEF, the same nature and extent of PPP is obliged of the applicant.

What is also clear from our instructions⁷ is that our client is not proposing to expand upon the areas already assessed during scoping.⁸ As such, there can be no suggestion of procedural or substantive unfairness in the EIAs as authorised by the DFFE and to be undertaken respectively for the Emvelo and Sheepmoor WEFs.

If the areas assessed during the two EIAs were to be increased (either additionally or cumulatively) then there could be an argument that the scoping process should commence afresh. The same principle would apply if additional NEMA-listed activities were to be triggered by the proposed merger of the three WEFs originally envisaged into the two WEFs now proposed for purposes of EIA. On the facts, neither of these scenarios arises, and it follows that the two WEFs now contemplated can lawfully be progressed to the EIA phase, with particular reference to meeting the procedural and substantive requirements laid down in DFFE's acceptance letters dated 19 November 2024.

2. THE APPLICABLE LAW

2.1 The constitutional point of departure in respect of fair process

Section 33 of the Constitution⁹ provides that administrative action (in this instance, the DFFE's decision-making procedures that pertain to the grant or refusal of EA after the EIA phase) must be lawful, reasonable and procedurally fair.¹⁰

⁷ By email from client's Mr. Barnes.

⁸ See the unnumbered second paragraph of our emailed instructions.

⁹ Act 108 of 1996 (as amended).

¹⁰ Section 33 of the Constitution (titled "*Just administrative action*") reads as follows in full: "(1) *Everyone has the right to administrative action that is lawful, reasonable and procedurally fair* (2) *everyone whose rights have been adversely affected by administrative action has the right to be given written reasons* (3) *National legislation must be enacted to give effect to these rights, and must – (a) provide for the review of administrative action by a court or, where appropriate, an independent and impartial tribunal; (b) impose a duty on the State to give effect to the rights in sub-sections (1) and (2); and (c) promote an efficient administration.*" (We mention for the sake of completeness that the national legislation enacted to give effect to the right to just administrative action is the Promotion of Administrative Justice Act, 3 of 2000).

Procedural fairness will depend on the facts of the particular administrative action in question as well as the prevailing law that applies to a particular procedure.¹¹

2.2 **The requirements in NEMA pertaining to procedural fairness**

In this instance, procedural fairness in respect of the two WEF applications to be proceeded with by client to the EIA phase and pursuant to acceptance of the scoping phase is regulated in the main by the NEMA EIA Regulations, and in particular, the requirements incumbent upon an applicant as those are set out in Chapter 6 of the aforesaid Regulations.

Before considering the procedural requirements (or safeguards) articulated in the NEMA EIA Regulations, it is useful to have regard to the provisions of NEMA itself.

Among the relevant principles in NEMA's section 2 are the following:

Section 2(3) of NEMA stipulates that:

"Development must be socially, environmentally and economically sustainable."

Section 2(4)(b) of NEMA provides that:

"Environmental management must be integrated, acknowledging that all elements of the environment are linked and inter-related, and it must take into account the effects of decisions on all aspects of the environment and all people in the environment by pursuing the selection of the best practicable environmental option."

Section 2(4)(f) of NEMA obliges the following:

"The participation of all interested and affected parties in environmental governance must be promoted, and all people must have the opportunity to develop the understanding, skills and capacity necessary for achieving equitable and effective participation, and participation by vulnerable and disadvantaged persons must be ensured."

Section 2(4)(g) of NEMA stipulates that:

"Decisions must take into account the interests, needs and values of all interested and affected parties, and this includes recognising all forms of knowledge, including traditional and ordinary knowledge."

¹¹ See *Director: Mineral Development, Gauteng Region and Another v Save the Vaal Environment and Others* (133/98) [1999] ZASCA 9; [1999] 2 All SA 381 (A) (12 March 1999).

Section 2(4)(k) of NEMA provides that:

“Community well-being and empowerment must be promoted through environmental education, the raising of environmental awareness, the sharing of knowledge and experience and other appropriate means.”

The general objectives of integrated environmental management in section 23 of NEMA include ensuring “... *adequate and appropriate opportunity for public participation in decisions that may affect the environment.*”

It is clear with reference to the Constitution and the primary regulation that gives effect to the environmental assessment process that public participation forms an integral part of any environmental assessment process, whether basic assessment or (as in this instance) scoping and EIA.

On the facts of the present matter DFFE’s Chief Director: Integrated Environmental Authorisations¹² has accepted the scoping reports respectively for the Rochdale WEF; the Sheepmoor WEF and the Emvelo WEF. He has also accepted the plan of study for the EIA in each instance, dated October 2024 and received by DFFE on 7 October 2024. In each case, the EAP employed by Environmental Resource Management Southern Africa (Pty) Ltd¹³ has been authorised to proceed “... *with the [EIA] process in accordance with the tasks contemplated in the [plan of study for EIA] as required in terms of the EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended. The EIA report must comply with the requirements of appendix 3 of the EIA Regulations 2014, as amended*”.

In each instance the DFFE’s Chief Directorate has progressed the scoping phase with particular reference to regulation 22(a) of the NEMA EIA Regulations. That regulation provides that the competent authority must, within 43 days of receipt of a scoping report accept the scoping report, with or without conditions, and advise the applicant to proceed or continue with the tasks contemplated in the plan of study for EIA.

Subsequent to DFFE’s acceptance of the scoping report, client’s EAP attended a meeting with DFFE, the aim of which was to formally present the proposed way forward post-scoping approval, for the proposed WEFs in this matter. Another principal aspect for discussion was the review and discussion of agreed changes to the project boundaries in the EIA phase. It is clear from the minutes of the meeting that the remaining turbines comprising the Rochdale WEF “... *will be merged with Emvelo*”. The scope of the Sheepmoor WEF has been reduced and will include a small portion of the previous Emvelo application. It is clear from the minute of the meeting that the updated Sheepmoor and Emvelo WEFs are contemplated for completion in terms of regulations 31 and 32 of the NEMA EIA Regulations. The provisions of the EIA

¹² Dr. Sabelo Malaza.

¹³ Ms. Stephanie Gopaul.

Regulations applicable to the submission and consideration of an EIA report and supporting documents to the competent authority

Regulation 23(1) obliges the applicant for EA, within 106 days of the acceptance of the scoping report to submit an EIA report inclusive of any specialist reports, and an EMPr (in this instance, by no later than Thursday 27 March 2025¹⁴).

The submission of the EIA report and accompanying EMPr is subject to a peremptory procedural requirement: Both documents “... *must have been subjected to a public participation process of at least 30 days and [they must reflect] the incorporation of comments received, including any comments of the competent authority.*”

In the alternative the applicant must submit to the competent authority a notice in writing that the documents contemplated in regulation 23(1)(a) will be submitted within 156 days of acceptance of the scoping report by the competent authority, as significant changes have been made or significant new information has been added to the documents, which changes or information was not contained in the original documents consulted on during the initial public participation process contemplated in sub-regulation 1(a), and that the revised documents contemplated in sub-regulation 1(a) will be subjected to another public participation process of at least 30 days.

In the circumstances there can be no suggestion that the relevant procedural safeguards in relation to an EIA report pertaining to the two proposed WEFs (Emvelo and Sheepmoor) will not occur.

Another of the substantive requirements in regulation 23 that includes a procedural safeguard is to be found in regulation 23(3) which provides as follows:

“An [EIA] report must contain all information set out in appendix 3 to these Regulations or comply with a protocol or minimum information requirements relevant to the application as identified and gazetted by the Minister in a Government Notice.”

The EMPr delivered simultaneously with the EIA report must contain all information set out in appendix 4 to the EIA Regulations or must be a generic EMPr relevant to the application as identified and gazetted by the Minister.

Specialist reports must contain all information set out in appendix 6 to the NEMA EIA Regulations.

¹⁴ The 106-day period must exclude the period from 15 December 2024 to 5 January 2025. In this regard, regulation 3(2) of the NEMA EIA Regulations provides as follows: “*For any action contemplated in terms of these Regulations for which a timeframe is prescribed, the period of 15 December to 5 January must be excluded in the reckoning of days.*”

As regards the scope of assessment and content of EIA reports as regulated by appendix 3 to the EIA Regulations it is important to have regard to paragraph 2 thereunder which provides the following:

“The objective of the EIA process is to, through a consultative process –

- (a) Determine the policy and legislative context within which the activity is located and document how the proposed activity complies with and responds to the policy and legislative context;*
- (b) describe the need and desirability of the proposed activity, including the need and desirability of the activity in the context of the development footprint on the approved site as contemplated in the accepted scoping report.”*

As to the scope of assessment and content of EIA reports appendix 3 contains certain peremptory obligations (i.e. the report “... *must contain the information that is necessary for the competent authority to consider and come to a decision on the application and must include – (h) a full description of the process followed to reach the proposed development footprint within the approved site as contemplated in the accepted scoping report, including: ... (iii) a summary of the issues raised by interested and affected parties, and an indication of the manner in which the issues were incorporated, or the reasons for not including them ...; (i) a full description of the process undertaken to identify, assess and rank the impacts the activity and associated structures and infrastructure will impose on the preferred development footprint on the approved site as contemplated in the accepted scoping report through the life of the activity, including – (i) a description of all environmental issues and risks that were identified during the EIA process; and (ii) an assessment of the significance of each issue and risk and an indication of the extent to which the issue and risk could be avoided or addressed by the adoption of mitigation measures.*”)

Also required is a reasoned opinion from the EAP as to whether the proposed activity should or should not be authorised, and if the opinion is that it should be authorised, any conditions that should be made in respect of that authorisation.¹⁵

Another important obligation incumbent upon the EAP is set out in paragraph 3(1)(s) which obliges the EAP, under oath or affirmation to confirm the inclusion of comments and inputs from stakeholders and I&APs as well as any information provided by the EAP to I&APs and any responses by the EAP to comments or inputs made by interested or affected parties.

¹⁵ See paragraph 3(1)(q) in appendix 3.

It is clear that the procedure pertaining to EIA after the acceptance of a scoping report includes detailed procedural requirements which act as a bulwark in respect of fair and defensible public participation.

In the circumstances and provided that the EAP ensures full and proper public participation with all I&APs registered during the scoping phase (as accepted by the DFFE) there should be no procedural difficulties with the proposed merger of the originally envisaged three WEFs into two WEFs.

3. MY ADVICE

Mulilo needs to ensure that there is a detailed but succinct explanation contained in the EIA reports of the following:

- (1) How the scoping phase for each WEF culminated in the DFFE's approval thereof on 19 November 2024, which acceptance letters include reference to PPP in the EIA phase as follows:

- Under the heading “*General Comments*” at paragraph 1 the acceptance of the scoping report reads as follows:

“The meeting minutes in Appendix F of the [PP] Report refers. The discussions during the meeting with the Mpumalanga Department of Agriculture, Rural Development, Land and Environmental Affairs (DARDLEA) and the Mpumalanga Tourism & Parks Agency (MTPA) on 11 September 2024 are noted.”

- Under the heading “*Public Participation*” in DFFE's written acceptance of the scoping report the following is recorded:

“10. Proof of correspondence with the various stakeholders must be included in the EIAR. This must indicate that this draft EIAR has been subjected to 30 days [PPP], stating the start and end date of the PPP.

11. Please ensure that comments from all relevant stakeholders are submitted to the Department with the EIAR.

12. Should you be unable to obtain comments, proof should be submitted to the Department of the attempts that were made to obtain comments. Please provide proof of written notice for the availability of the draft EIAR for comment.

13. All issues raised and comments received must be incorporated into the Comments and Response Report (CRR).

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14. *Comments from I&APs must not be split and arranged into categories. Comments from each submission must be responded to individually.*
 15. *Please refrain from summarising comments made by I&APs. All comments from I&APs must be copied verbatim and responded to clearly. Please note that a response such as “noted” is not regarded as an adequate response to an I&AP’s comments.*
 16. *The CRR addresses comments on the draft SR, which have been received from organs of state, however, copies of these comments are not included in the report. Copies of original comments received from I&APs and organs of state, which have jurisdiction in respect of the proposed activity must be submitted to the Department with the EIAr.*
 17. *If applicable, the attendance registers and minutes of any meetings held by the Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP) with I&APs and other role players must be included in the EIAr.*
 18. *The newspaper advert proof in Appendix C of the [PP] Report refers. Please submit a full page of the newspaper(s) containing the advertisement, ensuring that the name of the newspaper and date are visible. (Underlining as in the original.)*

- As regards comments from organs of state paragraph 19 (under the heading “Specialist assessments”) provides as follows:

“Interim and final comments from the South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA) must be addressed and incorporated in the EIAr.”

- (2) Subsequent to the approval of the scoping phase it became clear that only some of the turbines comprising the Rochdale WEF could be erected.
- (3) The proposal assessed in the EIA is to merge Rochdale’s remaining turbines into the Emvelo WEF, and the registered stakeholders (i.e. I&APs) are entitled to participate fully in the on-going EIA process.

My advice is that there can be no procedural prejudice to the registered I&APs provided that they are fully engaged in the statutory PPP as envisaged in NEMA, the EIA Regulations and the relevant provisions of the letter from DFFE that confirms the Chief Director: Integrated Environmental Authorisation’s acceptance of the scoping reports at issue in this matter. There is a substantively good *rationale* for the accepted scoping report for the Sheepmoor WEF now including properties that were assessed (and



accepted by DFFE) as part of the Emvelo and Sheepmoor scoping processes, which will now form part of the Sheepmoor WEF.

The same *rationale* applies to the accepted scoping report for the Emvelo WEF now including properties that were assessed (and accepted by DFFE) as part of the Emvelo and Rochdale scoping processes, which will now form part of the consolidated Emvelo WEF.

In an abundance of caution, the EAP could include DFFE's Chief Directorate's emailed correspondence to client's Mr. Barnes as an annexure to the two EIA reports to be submitted by 27 March 2025.

It would also be useful to append an aerial photograph that shows conclusively that the consolidated and respective Sheepmoor and Emvelo WEFs incorporate properties that were assessed during scoping and accepted as such in DFFE's acceptance letters dated 19 November 2024. As already pointed out, there can be no suggestion that the now-proposed Sheepmoor WEF and Emvelo WEF include any properties that were not the subject of the scoping exercise that culminated in the acceptance of the scoping reports. An aerial photograph as proposed would provide the reader of this memorandum with conclusive evidence in that regard.

We advise accordingly.

PREPARED at CAPE TOWN on this 6th day of MARCH 2025

N.D. SMITH



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