
8 December 2022

Department of Environmental Affairs & Development Planning
Western Cape Government
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**WESTERN CAPE LAND USE PLANNING ACT (ACT 3 OF 2014) : CONSTRUCTION OF HOOGLAND 4 WIND FARM
& ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE IN THE BEAUFORT WEST MUNICIPAL AREA (WESTERN CAPE PROVINCE)**

This letter serves to provide information on the relevance of the Land Use Planning Act, 2014 (Act 3 of 2014) to the above mentioned project.

The project's Final Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) (SLR Consulting (South Africa) (Pty) Ltd), undertaken in terms of the National Environmental Management Act (Act 107 of 1998, as amended) (NEMA) and the 2010 NEMA Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations (GN R543), includes an Agricultural Specialist Report by Johann Lanz Consulting.

The Agriculture Specialist Study (refer to attached document) did not identify any approvals required in terms of the Land Use Planning Act, 2014 (Act 3 of 2014). The study notes and concludes with the following :

- *The only areas of cultivation or irrigation within the wind farm development area are small, isolated patches of cultivation around farmsteads. The wind farm footprint entirely avoids all of these patches of cultivation and was purposefully designed to do so.*
- *The proposed development will occupy land that is of very limited land capability, is only suitable as grazing land, and is unsuitable for the production of cultivated crops. There is not a scarcity of such agricultural land in South Africa and its conservation for agriculture is not therefore a priority.*
- *The amount of agricultural land loss is well within the allowable development limits prescribed by the agricultural protocol. These limits reflect the national need to conserve valuable agricultural land and therefore to steer, particularly renewable energy developments, onto land with low agricultural production potential.*
- *The proposed development poses a low risk in terms of causing soil degradation, and only to a very small proportion of the land. Degradation can be adequately and easily managed by mitigation management actions. In addition, the degradation risk is only to land of low agricultural value, and the significance of the impact is therefore low.*
- *The proposed development offers some positive impact on agriculture by way of improved financial security for farming operations, as well as wider, societal benefits.*

Based on the above information, it can be confirmed that the Hoogland 4 Wind Farm will not utilise an area of 5 ha or more of agricultural land that has been cultivated or irrigated during the 10 year period immediately preceding the proposed development and therefore does not trigger a Provincial Development Application in terms of Sec 53(1) of the Land Use Planning Act, 2014 (Act 3 of 2014).

Kind Regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Lanz', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the left.

Johann Lanz