



## forestry, fisheries & the environment

Department:  
Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Private Bag X 447 · PRETORIA · 0001 · Environment House · 473 Steve Biko Road, Arcadia · PRETORIA

**DFFE Reference:** 14/12/16/3/3/1/2605

**Enquiries:** Ms Trisha Pillay

**Telephone:** (012) 399 9406 **E-mail:** tpillay@dfre.gov.za

Mr Lance Blaine  
Red Cap Hoogland 4 (Pty) Ltd  
Unit B2, Mainstream Centre  
**HOUT BAY**  
7806

**Telephone Number:** (021) 790 1392  
**E-mail Address:** lance@red-cap.co.za

### PER EMAIL

Dear Mr Blaine

### **APPLICATION FOR ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION IN TERMS OF THE NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT ACT, ACT NO. 107 OF 1998, AS AMENDED: THE PROPOSED 420MW HOOGLAND 4 WIND FARM AND ITS ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE BETWEEN LOXTON AND BEAUFORT WEST WITHIN THE BEAUFORT WEST LOCAL MUNICIPALITY IN THE WESTERN CAPE PROVINCE**

With reference to the above application, please be advised that the Department has decided to grant authorisation. The Environmental Authorisation (EA) and reasons for the decision are attached herewith.

In terms of Regulation 4(2) of the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations, 2014, as amended (the EIA Regulations), you are instructed to notify all registered interested and affected parties, in writing and within fourteen (14) days of the date of the decision, of the Department's decision as well as the provisions regarding the submission of appeals that are contained in the EIA Regulations.

In terms of the Promotion of Administrative Justice Act, 2000 (Act No. 3 of 2000), you are entitled to the right to fair, lawful and reasonable administrative action; and to written reasons for administrative action that affects you negatively. Further your attention is drawn to the provisions of the Protection of Personal Information Act, 2013 (Act No. 4 of 2013) which stipulate that the Department should conduct itself in a responsible manner when collecting, processing, storing and sharing an individual or another entity's personal information by holding the Department accountable should the Department abuse or compromise your personal information in any way.

Your attention is drawn to Chapter 2 of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998) National Appeal Regulations published under Government Notice R993 in Government Gazette No. 38303 dated 08 December 2014 (National Appeal Regulations, 2014), which prescribes the appeal procedure to be followed. Kindly include a copy of this document (National Appeal Regulations, 2014) with the letter of notification to interested and affected parties in this matter.

Should any person wish to lodge an appeal against this decision, he/she must submit the appeal to the appeal administrator, and a copy of the appeal to the applicant, any registered interested and affected party, and any organ of state with interest in the matter within twenty (20) days from the date that the notification of the decision was sent to the registered interested and affected parties by the applicant; or the date that the notification of the decision was sent to the applicant by the Department, whichever is applicable.

**Appeals must be submitted in writing in the prescribed form to:**

The Director: Appeals and Legal Review of this Department at the below mentioned addresses.

By email: [appealsdirector@dfre.gov.za](mailto:appealsdirector@dfre.gov.za);

By hand: Environment House  
473 Steve Biko  
Arcadia  
Pretoria  
0083; or

By post: Private Bag X447  
Pretoria  
0001

Please note that in terms of Section 43(7) of the National Environmental Management Act, Act No. 107 of 1998, as amended, the lodging of an appeal will suspend the environmental authorisation or any provision or condition attached thereto. In the instance where an appeal is lodged, you may not commence with the activity until such time that the appeal is finalised.

To obtain the prescribed appeal form and for guidance on the submission of appeals, please visit the Department's website at [https://www.dfre.gov.za/documents/forms#legal\\_authorisations](https://www.dfre.gov.za/documents/forms#legal_authorisations) or request a copy of the documents at [appealsdirector@dfre.gov.za](mailto:appealsdirector@dfre.gov.za).

Yours faithfully



**Ms Millicent Solomons**  
**Acting Chief Director: Integrated Environmental Authorisations**  
**Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment**  
Date: 24/11/2022.

cc:	Mr Stuart Heather-Clarke	SLR Consulting Africa (South Africa) (Pty) Ltd.	Email: <a href="mailto:shclark@slrconsulting.com">shclark@slrconsulting.com</a>
	Mr Zaahir Toefy	WC DEADP	E-mail: <a href="mailto:Zaahir.toefy@westerncape.gov.za">Zaahir.toefy@westerncape.gov.za</a>
	Mr Goodwill Zwelithini Nyathi	Beaufort West Local Municipality	Email: <a href="mailto:goodwilln@beaufortwestmun.co.za">goodwilln@beaufortwestmun.co.za</a>



## forestry, fisheries & the environment

Department:  
Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

# Environmental Authorisation

In terms of Regulation 25 of the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations, 2014, as amended

**THE 420MW HOOGLAND 4 WIND FARM AND ITS ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE BETWEEN  
LOXTON AND BEAUFORT WEST WITHIN THE BEAUFORT WEST LOCAL MUNICIPALITY IN THE  
WESTERN CAPE PROVINCE**

**Central Karoo District Municipality**

<b>Authorisation register number:</b>	14/12/16/3/3/1/2605
<b>Last amended:</b>	First issue
<b>Holder of authorisation:</b>	Red Cap Hoogland 4 (Pty) Ltd
<b>Location of activity:</b>	Portion 2 and Portion 3 of the Farm Platfontein 28; Remainder of Portion 1 of the Farm Platfontein 28; Portion 3 of the Farm Eyerkuil 39; Remainder of Portion 1 of the Farm Eyerkuil 39; Remainder of Portion 2 of the Farm Eyerkuil 39; Annex Karoo Plaats 33; Portion 1 of the Farm The Rosary 32; Remainder of the Farm Adjoining Quaggas Fontein 83; Remainder of the Farm Driefontein 37; Beaufort West Local Municipality; Central Karoo District Municipality; Western Cape Province

This authorisation does not negate the holder of the authorisation's responsibility to comply with any other statutory requirements that may be applicable to the undertaking of the activity.

## Decision

The Department is satisfied, on the basis of information available to it and subject to compliance with the conditions of this Environmental Authorisation, that the applicant should be authorised to undertake the activities specified below.

Non-compliance with a condition of this Environmental Authorisation may result in criminal prosecution or other actions provided for in the National Environmental Management Act, Act No. 107 of 1998, as amended and the EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended.

Details regarding the basis on which the Department reached this decision are set out in Annexure 1.

## Activities authorised

By virtue of the powers conferred on it by the National Environmental Management Act, Act No. 107 of 1998, as amended and the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations, 2014, as amended, the Department hereby authorises –

### **RED CAP HOOGLAND 4 (PTY) LTD**

(hereafter referred to as the **holder of the authorisation**)

with the following contact details –

Mr Lance Blaine

Unit B2, Mainstream Centre

**HOUT BAY**

7806

Telephone Number: (021) 790 1392

Cell phone Number: (083) 235 6737

E-mail Address: lance@red-cap.co.za

to undertake the following activities (hereafter referred to as "the activity") indicated in Listing Notice 1, 2 and Listing Notice 3 of the EIA Regulations, 2014 as amended:

Activity number	Activity description
<p><u>Listing Notice 1, Item 11:</u></p> <p><i>"The development of facilities or infrastructure for the transmission and distribution of electricity</i></p> <p><i>(i) outside urban areas or industrial complexes with a capacity of more than 33 but less than 275 kilovolts."</i></p>	<p>The site is zoned as agricultural land which falls outside of an urban area. The infrastructure will include two 132kV substations (including control, operation, workshop, storage buildings) and high voltage (maximum up to 66kV) underground cables and overhead power lines. Short sections of 132kV overhead power lines may also be required.</p>
<p><u>Listing Notice 1, Item 12:</u></p> <p><i>"The development of-</i></p> <p><i>(ii) Infrastructure or structures with a physical footprint of 100 square metres or more;</i></p> <p><i>Where such development occurs-</i></p> <p><i>(a) within a watercourse; or</i></p> <p><i>(c) if no development setback exists, within 32 metres of a watercourse, measured from the edge of a watercourse."</i></p>	<p>The project will require the placement of linear infrastructure, i.e., internal access roads, underground cables, and internal overhead power lines with a combined physical footprint of more than 100m<sup>2</sup> within a watercourse, or within 32m of a watercourse. Watercourse crossing upgrades will also be required.</p>
<p><u>Listing Notice 1, Item 14:</u></p> <p><i>"The development and related operation of facilities or infrastructure, for the storage, or for the storage and handling, of a dangerous good, where such storage occurs in containers with a combined capacity of 80 cubic metres or more but not exceeding 500 cubic metres."</i></p>	<p>Fuel and lubricants, electrolyte solution and powder cement may be required on site during various stages of the project. The combined capacity of all of the above goods will exceed 80m<sup>3</sup> but will be below 500m<sup>3</sup>.</p>
<p><u>Listing Notice 1, Item 19:</u></p> <p><i>"The infilling or depositing of any material of more than 10 cubic metres into, or the dredging, excavation, removal or moving of soil, sand, shells, shell grit, pebbles or rock of more than 10 cubic metres from a watercourse."</i></p>	<p>The project will require the infilling or depositing of material from a watercourse in excess of 10m<sup>3</sup> or the dredging, excavation, removal or moving of material in excess of 10m<sup>3</sup> from a watercourse, as a result of the construction of internal roads,</p>

	upgrades to existing roads and laying of underground cables.
<p><u>Listing Notice 1, Item 24:</u></p> <p><i>"The development of a road</i>  <i>(ii) with reserve wider than 13,5 meters, or where no reserve exists where the road is wider than 8 meters.</i></p>	<p>A temporary road corridor of up to 15m will be impacted during the construction phase. This will be rehabilitated after the completion of construction activities to allow for a permanent 6m wide road surface, with side drains on one or both sides where necessary.</p>
<p><u>Listing Notice 1, Item 28:</u></p> <p><i>"Residential, mixed, retail, commercial, industrial or institutional developments where such land was used for agriculture, game farming, equestrian purposes or afforestation on or after 01 April 1998 and where such development:</i>  <i>(ii) will occur outside an urban area, where the total land to be developed is bigger than 1 hectare."</i></p>	<p>The land is currently used for agriculture however some areas will be converted to commercial/ industrial land use to accommodate the wind farm infrastructure. These areas equate to an area of more than 1ha.</p>
<p><u>Listing Notice 1, Item 48:</u></p> <p><i>"The expansion of-</i>  <i>(i) infrastructure or structures where the physical footprint is expanded by 100 square metres or more; or where such expansion occurs-</i>  <i>(a) within a watercourse; or</i>  <i>(c) if no development setback exists, within 32 metres of a watercourse, measured from the edge of a watercourse."</i></p>	<p>The project will require the upgrading of existing roads within the project area, as well as watercourse crossing upgrades, where such upgrades may take place within watercourses and within 32m from the edge of these watercourses. The total footprint of the upgrades to be undertaken on the existing roads would be in excess of 100m<sup>2</sup> within a watercourse, or within 32m of a watercourse.</p>
<p><u>Listing Notice 1, Item 56:</u></p> <p><i>"The widening of a road by more than 6 metres, or the lengthening of a road by more than 1 kilometre-</i>  <i>(i) where the existing reserve is wider than 13,5 meters; or</i>  <i>(ii) where no reserve exists, where the existing road is wider than 8 metres."</i></p>	<p>Existing roads will be upgraded where possible. A temporary road corridor up to 15m will be impacted during the construction phase. This will be rehabilitated after the completion of construction activities to allow for a permanent 6m wide road surface with side drains on one or both sides where</p>

	necessary. The development will also involve the lengthening of these existing roads, where required, more than 1km.
<p><u>Listing Notice 2, Item 1:</u></p> <p><i>"The development of facilities or infrastructure for the generation of electricity from a renewable resource where the electricity output is 20 megawatts or more."</i></p>	The wind farm will have a total generating capacity of up to 420MW.
<p><u>Listing Notice 2, Item 15:</u></p> <p><i>"The clearance of an area of 20 hectares or more of indigenous vegetation."</i></p>	The project will require the clearance of more than 20ha of indigenous vegetation for the placement of infrastructure.
<p><u>Listing Notice 3, Item 4:</u></p> <p><i>"The development of a road wider than 4 metres with a reserve less than 13,5 metres.</i></p> <p><i>i. Western Cape</i></p> <p><i>ii. Outside urban areas:</i></p> <p><i>(aa) Areas containing indigenous vegetation."</i></p>	A temporary road corridor up to 15m will be impacted during the construction phase. This will be rehabilitated after the completion of construction activities to allow for a permanent 6m wide road surface with side drains on one or both sides where necessary. Most of the site in the Western Cape constitutes indigenous vegetation.
<p><u>Listing Notice 3, Item 12:</u></p> <p><i>"The clearance of an area of 300 square metres or more of indigenous vegetation.</i></p> <p><i>i. Western Cape</i></p> <p><i>ii. Within critical biodiversity areas identified in bioregional plans."</i></p>	In some areas, development of infrastructure will require the clearance of more than 300m <sup>2</sup> of indigenous vegetation.
<p><u>Listing Notice 3, Item 14:</u></p> <p><i>"The development of-</i></p> <p><i>(ii) infrastructure or structures with a physical footprint of 10 square metres or more;</i></p> <p><i>where such development occurs-</i></p> <p><i>(a) within a watercourse; or</i></p> <p><i>(c) if no development setback has been adopted, within 32 metres of a watercourse, measured from the edge of a watercourse.</i></p>	Internal roads, underground cables, and overhead power lines with a total physical footprint in excess of 10m <sup>2</sup> will be required within and adjacent to watercourses and will traverse CBAs in places.

<p>i. Western Cape</p> <p>i. Outside urban areas:</p> <p>(ff) Critical biodiversity areas or ecosystem service areas as identified in systematic biodiversity plans adopted by the competent authority or in bioregional plans."</p>	
<p><u>Listing Notice 3, Item 18:</u></p> <p>"The widening of a road by more than 4 metres, or the lengthening of a road by more than 1 kilometre.</p> <p>i. Western Cape</p> <p>ii. All areas outside urban areas:</p> <p>(aa) Areas containing indigenous vegetation."</p>	<p>Existing roads may require widening of up to 6m (up to 15m during construction) and/or lengthening by more than 1km, to accommodate the movement of heavy vehicles and cable trenching activities. This includes a number of watercourse crossing upgrades, on site.</p>

as described in the Basic Assessment Report (BAR) dated September 2022 at:

#### SG 21 Digit Code:

Farm Description	21 Digit Surveyor General Code
Portion 2 of the Farm Platfontein 28	C00900000000002800002
Portion 3 of the Farm Platfontein 28	C00900000000002800003
Remainder of Portion 1 of the Farm Platfontein 28	C0090000000000280000i
Portion 3 of the Farm Eyerkuil 39	C00900000000003900003
Remainder of Portion 1 of the Farm Eyerkuil 39	C00900000000003900001
Remainder of Portion 2 of the Farm Eyerkuil 39	C00900000000003900002
Annex Karroo Plaats 33	C00900000000003300000
Portion 1 of the Farm The Rosary 32	C00900000000003200001
Remainder of the Farm Adjoining Quaggas Fontein 83	C00900000000008300000
Remainder of the Farm Driefontein 37	C00900000000003700000

#### Coordinates: Hoogland 4 Wind Farm

Points	Latitude	Longitude
1.	31° 56' 21.979" S	22° 08' 29.815" E
2.	31° 56' 52.944" S	22° 09' 28.840" E



3.	31° 57' 21.170" S	22° 10' 52.371" E
4.	31° 57' 27.841" S	22° 13' 17.315" E
5.	31° 57' 11.543" S	22° 13' 23.100" E
6.	31° 57' 3.664" S	22° 11' 29.998" E
7.	31° 56' 27.930" S	22° 09' 7.405" E
8.	31° 55' 30.494" S	22° 08' 23.220" E
9.	31° 55' 05.770" S	22° 08' 6.371" E
10.	31° 56' 52.948" S	22° 13' 43.452" E
11.	31° 58' 34.121" S	22° 15' 18.115" E
12.	31° 57' 02.649" S	22° 17' 20.253" E
13.	32° 00' 09.557" S	22° 17' 34.829" E
14.	31° 59' 38.307" S	22° 17' 10.703" E
15.	31° 59' 33.949" S	22° 21' 26.887" E
16.	31° 56' 10.799" S	22° 20' 48.612" E
17.	31° 52' 12.056" S	22° 13' 54.037" E
18.	31° 54' 33.438" S	22° 11' 11.319" E
19.	31° 53' 39.022" S	22° 12' 30.628" E
20.	31° 53' 43.539" S	22° 11' 52.787" E
21.	31° 58' 06.454" S	22° 14' 21.375" E

#### Coordinates for the Battery Energy Storage Systems:

Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS)	Latitude	Longitude
BESS 4A	31° 56' 51,047" S	22° 16' 52,508" E
BESS 4B	31° 57' 03,332" S	22° 14' 34,952" E

#### Coordinates for the Substations:

Substations	Latitude	Longitude
Substation 4A	31° 56' 49,191" S	22° 16' 57,506" E
Substation 4B	31° 57' 08,520" S	22° 14' 35,641" E

-for the 420MW Hoogland 4 Wind Farm and its associated infrastructure between Loxton and Beaufort West within the Beaufort West Local Municipality, in the Central Karoo District Municipality, Western Cape Province, hereafter referred to as "the property".

The facility will comprise of the following:

- A maximum of 55 turbines with a total generation capacity of 420MW;
- Specifications of the wind turbines is as follows:
  - Rotor diameter: 100m to 195m (50m to 97.5m blade/radius);
  - Hub height: 80m to 150m;
  - Rotor top tip height: 130m to 247.5m (maximum based on 150m hub + 97.5m blade = 247.5m); and
  - Rotor bottom tip height: minimum of 20m (and not lower).
- Turbine foundations, turbine hardstands, temporary and permanent laydown areas associated with the wind turbines which would have a combined footprint of approximately 25.30ha (permanent) and 28.60ha (temporary);
- The total road network for the wind farm (access roads) would be approximately 91.40km in length with the following specifications:
  - Permanent roads will be 6m wide and over above this may require side drains on one or both sides depending on the topography with a permanent footprint of 73.10ha. Many roads will have underground cables running next to them; and
  - An up to 15m wide road corridor which may be temporarily impacted during construction and rehabilitated to allow for a 6m road surface after construction with a temporary footprint of 82.30ha.
- Two substation yards (150m x 75m) that will include an Operation and Maintenance (O&M) building, Substation building and a High Voltage Gantry with a combined footprint of 2.3ha;
- Two ~3.5ha areas for a Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) with a combined footprint of ~7ha;
- The wind farm will comprise of the following temporary construction areas (temporary footprint of 6ha):
  - Temporary site camp/s areas of ~20 000m<sup>2</sup>;
  - Batching plant area of ~2 000m<sup>2</sup>;
  - General laydown area of ~36 000m<sup>2</sup>; and
  - The Wind Farm will have a bunded fuel and lubricants storage facility at the site camp.
- Four security gates are to be installed at each entrance to the farm with a combined footprint of 80m<sup>2</sup>;
- Turbines to be connected to on-site substation via up to 66kV cables. Cables to be laid underground in trenches mainly adjacent to proposed wind farm roads; and
- In limited instances, overhead lines will be used where burying is not possible due to technical, geological, environmental or topographical constraints. Up to 66kV overhead power lines supported by structures of up to approximately 22m in height, as well as tracks for access to the pylons.

Technical details for the proposed Wind Farm

Component	Description / dimensions
Location of the site	Between Loxton and Beaufort West
The total area of the site	14 450ha
Total disturbance footprint	123.3ha Temporary 112.9ha Permanent
Maximum generation capacity for facility	420MW
Number of Turbines	55
Hub Height from ground level	Up to 150m
Rotor top tip height	Up to 247.50m
Rotor bottom tip height	Minimum of 20m
Blade Length	Up to 97.5m
Rotor Diameter	Up to 195m
Turbine Foundations	<p><u>Circular foundation</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Approximately 1400m<sup>2</sup> per turbine (35m x 40m)</li> <li>➤ Approximately a total of 7.7ha.</li> </ul> <p><u>Crane Pad</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Approximately 3200m<sup>2</sup> per turbine (80m x 40m)</li> <li>➤ Approximately a total of 17.6ha.</li> </ul>
Turbine Hardstands and Laydown Areas	<p>Temporary hardstand area (20m x 40m): 800m<sup>2</sup></p> <p>A blade laydown area (104m x 20m): 2080m<sup>2</sup></p> <p>An additional embankment area (~104m x 5m): 520m<sup>2</sup></p> <p>Temporary crane boom assembly area (120m x 15m): 1800m<sup>2</sup></p> <p>Temporary areas are up to a maximum of 5,200m<sup>2</sup> per turbine therefore a total temporary footprint of 28.6ha.</p>
Capacity of on-site substation	<p>Capacity: 132kV</p> <p>Two (150m x 75m) substation yards that will include an Operation and Maintenance (O&amp;M) building, Substation building and a High Voltage Gantry with a combined footprint of 2.3ha.</p>
Battery Energy Storage System (BESS)	<p>Number of BESS areas: Two (~3.50ha each)</p> <p>Combined Area: ~7ha</p>

	Technology: Lithium Ion or Redox Flow type batteries.
Cables and Overhead Power line	<p>Turbines to be connected to on-site substation via up to 66kV cables. Cables to be laid underground in trenches mainly adjacent to proposed wind farm roads.</p> <p>Only in limited instances, overhead lines will be used where burying is not possible. Up to 66kV overhead power lines supported by structures of up to approximately 22m in height.</p>
Access Roads	<p>The total road network: ~91.40km in length with the following specifications:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Permanent roads will be 6m wide (total footprint of 73.10ha);</li> <li>➤ An up to 15m wide road corridor which may be temporarily impacted during construction and rehabilitated to allow for a 6m road surface (temporary footprint of 82.30ha); and</li> <li>➤ Road network upgrades: 2.7km.</li> </ul>
Temporary construction areas	<p>Total temporary footprint: 6ha</p> <p>The temporary construction areas will comprise of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Temporary site camp/s areas of ~20 000m<sup>2</sup></li> <li>➤ Batching plant area of ~2 000m<sup>2</sup></li> <li>➤ General laydown area of ~36 000m<sup>2</sup></li> <li>➤ The wind farm will have a bunded fuel and lubricants storage facility at the site camp.</li> </ul>

## **Conditions of this Environmental Authorisation**

### **Scope of authorisation**

1. The development of the 420MW Hoogland 4 Wind Farm and its associated infrastructure between Loxton and Beaufort West within the Beaufort West Local Municipality, within the Central Karoo District Municipality in the Western Cape Province, as described above, are hereby approved as per the geographic coordinates cited in the table above.
2. Authorisation of the activity is subject to the conditions contained in this Environmental Authorisation, which form part of the Environmental Authorisation and are binding on the holder of the authorisation.
3. The holder of the authorisation is responsible for ensuring compliance with the conditions contained in this Environmental Authorisation. This includes any person acting on the holder's behalf, including but not limited to, an agent, servant, contractor, sub-contractor, employee, consultant or person rendering a service to the holder of the authorisation.
4. The activities authorised may only be carried out at the property as described above.
5. Any changes to, or deviations from, the project description set out in this Environmental Authorisation must be approved, in writing, by the Department before such changes or deviations may be effected. In assessing whether to grant such approval or not, the Department may request such information as it deems necessary to evaluate the significance and impacts of such changes or deviations and it may be necessary for the holder of the authorisation to apply for further Environmental Authorisation in terms of the regulations.
6. The holder of an Environmental Authorisation must apply for an amendment of the Environmental Authorisation with the Competent Authority for any alienation, transfer or change of ownership rights in the property on which the activity is to take place.
7. This activity must commence within a period of ten (10) years from the date of issue of this Environmental Authorisation. If commencement of the activity does not occur within that period, the authorisation lapses and a new application for Environmental Authorisation must be made in order for the activity to be undertaken.
8. Construction must be completed within five (05) years of the commencement of the activity on site.
9. Commencement with one activity listed in terms of this Environmental Authorisation constitutes commencement of all authorised activities.

### **Notification of authorisation and right to appeal**

10. The holder of the authorisation must notify every registered interested and affected party, in writing and within 14 (fourteen) calendar days of the date of this Environmental Authorisation, of the decision to authorise the activity.
11. The notification referred to must –
  - 11.1. specify the date on which the authorisation was issued;
  - 11.2. inform the interested and affected party of the appeal procedure provided for in the National Appeal Regulations, 2014;
  - 11.3. advise the interested and affected party that a copy of the authorisation will be furnished on request; and
  - 11.4. give the reasons of the Competent Authority for the decision.

### **Commencement of the activity**

12. The authorised activity shall not commence until the period for the submission of appeals has lapsed as per the National Appeal Regulations, 2014, and no appeal has been lodged against the decision. In terms of Section 43(7), an appeal under Section 43 of the National Environmental Management Act, Act No. 107 of 1998, as amended will suspend the Environmental Authorisation or any provision or condition attached thereto. In the instance where an appeal is lodged you may not commence with the activity until such time that the appeal has been finalised.

### **Management of the activity**

13. A final site layout plan for the Wind Farm, as determined by the detailed engineering phase and micro-siting, and all mitigation measures as dictated by the final site layout plan, must be submitted to the Department for approval prior to construction. A copy of the final site layout map must be made available for comments to registered Interested and Affected Parties and the holder of this Environmental Authorisation must consider such comments. Once amended, the final development layout plan must be submitted to the Department for written approval, prior to commencement of the activity. All available biodiversity information must be used in the finalisation of the layout plan. Existing infrastructure must be used as far as possible e.g., roads. The layout plan must indicate the following:
  - 13.1. The position of the wind turbines and its associated infrastructure;
  - 13.2. Cable routes (where they are not along internal roads);

- 13.3. Internal roads indicating width and length;
- 13.4. Wetlands, drainage lines, rivers, stream and water crossing of roads and cables;
- 13.5. All sensitive features e.g. Critical Biodiversity Areas, Ecological Support Areas, heritage sites, wetlands, pans and drainage channels that will be affected by the facility and associated infrastructure;
- 13.6. Substation(s), inverters and/or transformer(s) sites including their entire footprint;
- 13.7. Battery Energy Storage Systems including their entire footprint;
- 13.8. Connection routes (including pylon positions) to the distribution/transmission network;
- 13.9. All existing infrastructure on the site, such as roads;
- 13.10. Soil heaps (temporary for topsoil and subsoil and permanently for excess material);
- 13.11. Buildings, including accommodation; and,
- 13.12. All "no-go" and buffer areas.
- 14. The generic Environmental Management Programme (EMPr) for the substation, submitted as part of the final BAR dated September 2022, is approved. The final site layout plan of the on-site substation, must be appended to Part B of the generic EMPr.
- 15. The generic Environmental Management Programme (EMPr) for the overhead power line, submitted as part of the final BAR dated September 2022, is approved. The final site layout plan of the on-site substation must be appended to Part B of the generic EMPr.
- 16. The Environmental Management Programme (EMPr) for the Wind Farm, submitted as part of the EMPr is not approved and must be amended to include measures, as dictated by the final site layout plan and micro-siting, and the provisions of this Environmental Authorisation. The EMPr must be made available for comments to registered Interested and Affected Parties and the holder of this Environmental Authorisation must consider such comments. Once amended, the final EMPr must be submitted to the Department for written approval prior to commencement of the activity.
- 17. The EMPr amendment must include the following:
  - 17.1. Fossil Chance Find Procedure;
  - 17.2. Plant Rescue and Protection;
  - 17.3. Alien Invasive Management Plan;
  - 17.4. Bat Mitigation Action Plan;
  - 17.5. Avifaunal Monitoring and Adaptive Management Plan;
  - 17.6. Dwarf Tortoise Monitoring Plan;
  - 17.7. Rehabilitation Management Plan;
  - 17.8. Open Space Management Plan;
  - 17.9. Noise Monitoring Plan;

- 17.10. Traffic Management Plan;
  - 17.11. Fire Management Plan;
  - 17.12. EMC Control Plan
  - 17.13. A storm water and wash water 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 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;
  - 17.14. An erosion management plan for monitoring and rehabilitating erosion events associated with the facility. Erosion mitigation must form part of this plan to prevent and reduce the risk of any potential erosion. This plan must ensure to include drainage features that will be infilled and or excavated;
  - 17.15. The requirements and conditions of this Environmental Authorisation;
  - 17.16. All recommendations and mitigation measures recorded in the BAR and the specialist reports as included in the final BAR dated September 2022; and
  - 17.17. The final site layout plan.
- 18. Once approved, the EMPr must be implemented and strictly enforced during all phases of the project. It shall be seen as a dynamic document and shall be included in all contract documentation for all phases of the development when approved.
  - 19. Changes to the approved EMPr must be submitted in accordance with the EIA Regulations applicable at the time.
  - 20. The Department reserves the right to amend the approved EMPr should any impacts that were not anticipated or covered in the BAR be discovered.

#### **Frequency and process of updating the EMPr**

- 21. The EMPr must be updated where the findings of the environmental audit reports, contemplated in Condition 32 below, indicate insufficient mitigation of environmental impacts associated with the undertaking of the activity, or insufficient levels of compliance with the Environmental Authorisation or EMPr.
- 22. The updated EMPr must contain recommendations to rectify the shortcomings identified in the environmental audit report.
- 23. The updated EMPr must be submitted to the Department for approval together with the environmental audit report, as per Regulation 34 of the EIA Regulations, 2014 as amended. The updated EMPr must



have been subjected to a public participation process, which process has been agreed to by the Department, prior to submission of the updated EMPr to the Department for approval.

24. In assessing whether to grant approval of an EMPr which has been updated as a result of an audit, the Department will consider the processes prescribed in Regulation 35 of the EIA Regulations, 2014 as amended. Prior to approving an amended EMPr, the Department may request such amendments to the EMPr as it deems appropriate to ensure that the EMPr sufficiently provides for avoidance, management and mitigation of environmental impacts associated with the undertaking of the activity.
25. The holder of the authorisation must apply for an amendment of an EMPr, if such amendment is required before an audit is required. The amendment process is prescribed in Regulation 37 of the EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended. The holder of the authorisation must request comments on the proposed amendments to the impact management outcomes of the EMPr or amendments to the closure objectives of the closure plan from potentially interested and affected parties, including the competent authority, by using any of the methods provided for in the Act for a period of at least 30 days.

## **Monitoring**

26. The holder of the authorisation must appoint an experienced Environmental Control Officer (ECO) for the construction phase of the development that will have the responsibility to ensure that the mitigation/rehabilitation measures and recommendations referred to in this Environmental Authorisation are implemented and to ensure compliance with the provisions of the approved EMPr.
27. The ECO must be appointed before commencement of any authorised activities.
28. Once appointed, the name and contact details of the ECO must be submitted to the Director: Compliance Monitoring of the Department.
29. The ECO must keep record of all activities on site, problems identified, transgressions noted and a task schedule of tasks undertaken by the ECO.
30. The ECO must remain employed until all rehabilitation measures, as required for implementation due to construction damage, are completed and the site is ready for operation.

## **Recording and reporting to the Department**

31. All documentation e.g. audit/monitoring/compliance reports and notifications, required to be submitted to the Department in terms of this Environmental Authorisation, must be submitted to the Director: Compliance Monitoring of the Department at [Directorcompliance@dfre.gov.za](mailto:Directorcompliance@dfre.gov.za).

32. The holder of the Environmental Authorisation must, for the period during which the Environmental Authorisation and EMPr remain valid, ensure that project compliance with the conditions of the Environmental Authorisation and the EMPr are audited, and that the audit reports are submitted to the Director: Compliance Monitoring of the Department at [Directorcompliance@dfre.gov.za](mailto:Directorcompliance@dfre.gov.za).
33. The frequency of auditing and of submission of the environmental audit reports must be as per the frequency indicated in the EMPr, taking into account the processes for such auditing as prescribed in Regulation 34 of the EIA Regulations, 2014 as amended.
34. The holder of the authorisation must, in addition, submit an environmental audit report to the Department within 30 days of completion of the construction phase (i.e., within 30 days of site handover) and a final environmental audit report within 30 days of completion of rehabilitation activities.
35. The environmental audit reports must be compiled in accordance with Appendix 7 of the EIA Regulations, 2014 as amended and must indicate the date of the audit, the name of the auditor and the outcome of the audit in terms of compliance with the Environmental Authorisation conditions as well as the requirements of the approved EMPr.
36. Records relating to monitoring and auditing must be kept on site and made available for inspection to any relevant and competent authority in respect of this development.

#### **Notification to authorities**

37. A written notification of commencement must be given to the Department no later than fourteen (14) days prior to the commencement of the activity. Commencement for the purposes of this condition includes site preparation. The notice must include a date on which it is anticipated that the activity will commence, as well as a reference number.

#### **Operation of the activity**

38. A written notification of operation must be given to the Department no later than fourteen (14) days prior to the commencement of the activity operational phase.

#### **Site closure and decommissioning**

39. Should the activity ever cease or become redundant, the holder of the authorisation must undertake the required actions as prescribed by legislation at the time and comply with all relevant legal requirements administered by any relevant and Competent Authority at that time.

## Specific conditions

40. Up to 55 wind turbines are approved.
41. The final placement of turbines must follow a micro siting procedure involving a walk-through and identification of any sensitive areas by ecological (terrestrial and aquatic), avifaunal, bat, surface water, palaeontology, and heritage specialists.
42. Once the final walkthrough by the relevant specialists have been completed, the final adjustments to the layout plan must be made based on the specialist micro-siting recommendations. Any No-Go Areas (areas that shall be excluded from any construction activity or general access by the construction team) within the development sites or servitudes shall be clearly indicated on maps and included with the micro-siting reports or attached to the EMP.
43. The 'No-Go area' maps for specific infrastructure types (Appendix B: Maps) i.e., the No-Go area map for turbines, the No-Go area map for internal roads, the No-Go area map for buildings, and the No-Go area map for internal overhead lines must be strictly adhered to. These areas and their respective buffers must be avoided as recommended by the relevant specialist studies.
44. Exclusion of sensitive ecological, fauna, flora avifaunal, bat, surface water and heritage areas from construction activities must inform micro siting of all development activities.
45. Contractors and construction workers must be clearly informed of the no-go areas.
46. No turbines must be located within 30m of 1:4 slopes to ensure the tops of the cliff faces are avoided and to avoid slope constraints.
47. Should any occupied farm buildings be affected by shadow flicker, the holder of this Environmental Authorisation must provide mitigation measures to reduce the impact to an acceptable level as advised by a suitably qualified specialist. The Applicant must consult and explore measures with the residents or receptor owners to select the most suitable measures to prevent re-occurrence and protect residential amenity. This includes shielding or moving the affected window, compensation, or any other measure found acceptable to the affected party, with curtailment as a last resort.
48. Areas outside of the footprint, including sensitive areas and buffer areas, must be clearly demarcated (using fencing and appropriate signage) before construction commences and must be regarded as "no-go" areas.
49. No turbines or infrastructure must be located closer than 13.5 km from the Karoo National Park boundary and no wind turbines or infrastructure will be located in the expansion footprint or buffer zone.
50. The holder of the Environmental Authorisation must undertake a study to better understand the effect of infrasound and noise from the wind farm on rhino populations in the Karoo National Park (KRNP). The

study is to have an annual budget of up to R200 000 (+ CPI) for up to 5 years. This study will only be undertaken if the following occurs:

- 50.1. The KRNP expands into the proposed expansion plan land, which includes an area that is within 5km of the Hoogland 4 Wind Farm, and KRNP must have introduced a rhino population into the proposed park expansion area including the area within 5km of Hoogland 4 Wind Farm.
51. Due to the high risk to the Square Kilometre Array (SKA), a detailed EMC Control Plan must be developed by the holder and the development must not commence prior to complying with the Astronomy Geographic Advantage (Act 21 of 2007).
52. An integrated waste management approach must be implemented that is based on waste minimisation and must incorporate reduction, recycling, re-use and disposal where appropriate. Any solid waste must be disposed of at a landfill licensed in terms of Section 20 (b) of the National Environment Management Waste Act, 2008 (Act No.59 of 2008).

#### Terrestrial Ecology

53. A Fauna Monitoring Programme must be implemented at the site before and after construction to monitor the impact of the development on faunal presence within the facility.
54. The designs of the roads and other infrastructure must seek to minimise faunal impacts and allow fauna to pass over, through or underneath these features as appropriate.
55. A log must be kept detailing any fauna-related incidences or mortalities that occur on site, including roadkill, electrocutions etc. These must be reviewed annually and used to inform operational management and mitigation measures.
56. The holder must develop and fund a conservation initiative for the life of the wind farm in partnership with EWT (Endangered Wildlife Trust) or a similar qualified NGO with experience of Riverine Rabbit Conservation in the area. This initiative must focus on enhancing management of the most suitable Riverine Rabbit Riparian habitat in the broader Karoo, with the aim of halting the current trend of degradation and the associated decline in the Riverine Rabbit population. The Applicant should therefore make provision for R250 000 per annum towards this fund during the construction and operational phases of the wind farm commencing at the start of construction. The annual amount of R250 000 is applicable to the year 2022 and should be escalated in accordance with CPI each year after that.
57. A Monitoring Plan for the Karoo dwarf tortoise must be compiled for the construction and operational phases prior to construction. The monitoring plan must include the following:
  - 57.1. Monitor construction activities aimed at reducing impacts on the Karoo Dwarf Tortoise, i.e., an ECO must oversee the implementation of mitigating measures.

- 57.2. Monitor (keep log of) tortoise killed by earthworks and traffic.
- 57.3. Conduct annual surveys along the power lines to 1) census crow numbers, 2) log crow nesting sites, and 3) log tortoise carcasses observed along the power lines.
- 57.4. Based on the findings of the annual inspections reactive measures must be implemented.
- 58. Undertake a pre-construction walkthrough of the development footprint to refine the layout through micro siting of turbines, buildings, substations (and associated battery facilities), access roads and internal roads where it impacts on species of conservation concern.
- 59. Undertake search and rescue for reptiles and other vulnerable species during construction before areas of intact vegetation are cleared. Such search and rescue should be conducted by relevant experts with experience in search and rescue of the faunal groups concerned.
- 60. The design must ensure that there is no electrical fencing around substations (and associated battery facilities) or other features within 30cm of the ground as tortoises become stuck against such fences and are electrocuted to death. Alternatively, a guard wire set at 20cm can be used to keep larger tortoises away from the fence.

#### Bats and Avifauna

- 61. All mitigation measures mentioned in the Bat Mitigation Action Plan must be strictly adhered to.
- 62. A buffer of 200m must be applied to all areas identified as high bat sensitivity area and a buffer of 150m must be applied to areas identified as moderate bat sensitivity areas as illustrated on Figure 5-19: Bat sensitivity map of the proposed Hoogland 4 Wind Farm site, showing moderate and high sensitivity zones and their buffers. No wind turbines are to be located within these areas.
- 63. A minimum of 2 years of operational bat mortality monitoring must be conducted from the start of the operation of the facility. The methodology of this monitoring must comply with the South African Good Practice Guidelines for Operational Monitoring for Bats at Wind Energy Facilities - 2nd Edition June 2020 (Aronson et al. 2020), or any newer version of the applicable guidelines that may be in force at the start of operation of the facility. The results of the bat mortality study may be used to develop mitigation measures focused on specific problematic turbines. The results of this monitoring must be made available to the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE) and the South African Bat Assessment Advisory Panel (SABAAP) and must further advise the EMPr where necessary.
- 64. Internal power lines must be placed underground except where absolutely necessary such as to cross drainage lines or traverse steep/ extremely rocky slopes.
- 65. During construction, all roads, hard stand verges and other disturbed areas must be fully compacted to as hard as they were prior to construction, to ensure that these areas do not attract ground burrowing

mammals in artificially high abundance and closer to turbines. These species represent prey for raptors and such situations would increase raptor-turbine collision risk.

66. Blade painting or shutdown on demand (either observer or technology led) must be implemented to mitigate bird turbine collision risk. It should be noted that if blade painting is selected, a visual specialist should be consulted to assess the visual implications of painting the blades.
67. Monitoring of breeding status of Martial and Verreaux's Eagles should be conducted in all breeding seasons prior to and during construction (to establish a baseline). This can be done by a minimum of three site visits by an independent avifaunal specialist to the nest site per breeding season (May to October). The breeding status and productivity to be determined. Any response by eagles to construction disturbance must be documented.
68. The facility must be monitored once operational in accordance with the most recent version of the best practice guidelines available at the time (Jenkins et al, 2015, 2021 in prep) for avifauna. These guidelines currently state that a minimum of two years of monitoring must be completed, although if significant impacts are detected this must be extended. The findings from the operational phase monitoring should inform an adaptive management programme to mitigate any impacts on avifauna to acceptable levels. In particular, any Verreaux's Eagle fatalities should be reported to Dr Megan Murgatroyd to close the feedback loop back to the VERA modelling performed for this site. The results of this monitoring should feed into an Adaptive Management Plan for the facility. The results of this monitoring must also be made available to the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE) and Birdlife South Africa (BLSA) and must further advise the EMP where necessary.
69. Anti-collision devices such as bird flappers must be installed where the internal power lines cross avifaunal corridors (e.g. grasslands, rivers, wetlands, and dams). The input of an avifaunal specialist must be obtained for the fitting of the anti-collision devices onto specific sections of the line once the exact positions of the towers have been surveyed and pegged. Additional areas of high sensitivity along the preferred alignment must also be identified by the avifaunal specialist for the fitment of anti-collision devices. These devices must be according to Eskom's Transmission and EWT's Guidelines.

#### Aquatic Ecology and Vegetation

70. A 50m buffer must be applied to the Endorheic Pan and the Valley Bottom wetland identified on the site. These areas are declared as "No-Go" areas and no development is to occur within these areas and their respective buffers. Only existing roads may be used in these areas, and any upgrades may only take place once the proposed designs have been evaluated in the field by the specialist.

71. All areas depicted as No-Go areas on Figure 13: Aquatic sensitivity map, showing a more detailed view of the layout in relation to the habitats observed on Hoogland 4, must be avoided.
72. Suitable stormwater management systems must be installed along roads and other areas and monitored during the first few months of use. Any erosion / sedimentation must be resolved through additional interventions as mentioned in the Stormwater Management Plan.
73. No surface storm water from the site must be directly discharged into the river/streams or wetlands. Energy dissipaters, gabion mattress, erosion control structures and water pollution mitigation measures must be constructed and implemented.
74. Vegetation clearing must be limited to the required footprint for actual construction works and operational activities. Mitigation measures must be implemented to reduce the risk of erosion and the invasion of alien species.
75. A Search and Rescue Plan must be developed for any TOPs or species of conservation concern that have the likelihood of occurring in the study area. This plan will need to be updated once the pre-construction walk-through referred to above has been completed.
76. A final walk-through to locate Species of Conservation Concern that can be trans-located or avoided must be undertaken with an experienced and qualified ecologist.
77. Permits from relevant authorities must be obtained for the removal or disturbance of any TOPs, Red Data listed or nationally protected species.
78. No exotic plants may be used for rehabilitation purposes. Only indigenous plants of the area may be utilised.
79. Workers must be made aware of the importance of not destroying or damaging the vegetation along rivers and wetland areas and this awareness must be promoted throughout the construction phase.
80. Quarterly groundwater monitoring must be implemented to ensure sustainable use of boreholes within their authorised usage volumes, as well as for contamination.

#### Visual

81. No turbines may be located on visually sensitive skylines, such as the dolerite ridges, koppies, rocky outcrops and slopes steeper than 1:4 or 1:10 gradient as identified by the visual specialist.
82. A CAA-approved warning system which only requires the red lights to come on when an aircraft is in the vicinity (on demand warning lights) must be used to reduce the night-time impacts to the sense of place.
83. The holder of this authorisation must reduce visual impacts during construction by minimising areas of surface disturbance, controlling erosion, using dust suppression techniques, and restoring exposed soil as closely as possible to their original contour and vegetation.

84. A lighting engineer must be consulted to assist in the planning and placement of light fixtures to reduce visual impacts associated with glare and light trespass.
85. Lighting of main structures (turbines) and ancillary buildings must be designed to minimise light pollution without compromising safety, and turbines must be lit according to Civil Aviation Regulations.

#### Historical/cultural/paleontological resources

86. Should any archaeological sites, artefacts, paleontological fossils, or graves be exposed during construction work, work in the immediate vicinity of the find must be stopped, the South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA) must be informed, and the services of an accredited heritage professional obtained for an assessment of the heritage resources must be made.
87. The farm road to be reused adjacent to waypoint 1807 as identified in the Heritage Impact Assessment (Appendix C12) may not be widened towards the north.
88. The various sites whose buffers will be intersected and where the activity will be quite close to the site must be marked on the ground with No-Go signage. This affects waypoints 1780, 1801, 1806, 1807, 1588-1598 and 1781-1791 as identified in the Heritage Impact Assessment (Appendix C12).
89. The complexes at waypoints 1588-1598 and 1781-1791 must be monitored by the ECO during road construction.
90. In the event the final layout does not need all approved turbine locations then where a choice exists between turbines to be dropped, and all other factors are equal, priority should be given to dropping Turbine 96.
91. Construction managers/foremen must be informed before construction starts of the possible types of heritage sites and cultural material that may be encountered and the procedures to follow when they find sites.

#### Traffic

92. All vehicles should adhere to a low-speed limit on site to avoid collisions with susceptible species such as tortoises. Heavy vehicles should be restricted to 30km/h and light vehicles to 40km/h.
93. Existing road infrastructure must be used as far as possible for providing access to the proposed turbine positions. Where no road infrastructure exists, new roads must be placed within existing disturbed areas or environmental conditions must be taken into account to ensure that minimum amount of damage is caused to natural habitats.
94. Signage must be erected at appropriate points warning of turning traffic and the construction site.



95. Signs must be placed along construction roads to identify speed limits, travel restrictions, and other standard traffic control information to minimize impacts on possible faunal species.
96. Road borders must be regularly maintained to ensure that vegetation remains short and that they therefore serve as an effective firebreak.
97. The treacherous section of the gravel road, through the Molteno Pass on the TR05801, must be upgraded by the developer to improve the safety of the road for all road users, including the personnel commuting to and from the site on a daily basis. This upgrade must be implemented prior to or during site establishment but before major earthworks commence on the development.
98. The Traffic Management Plan (TMP) must be strictly adhered to.

## **General**

99. The recommendations of the EAP in the BAR dated September 2022 and the specialist studies attached must be adhered to. In the event of any conflicting mitigation measures and conditions of the Environmental Authorisation, the specific condition of this Environmental Authorisation will take preference.
100. A copy of this Environmental Authorisation, the audit and compliance monitoring reports, and the approved EMP, must be made available for inspection and copying-
  - 100.1. at the site of the authorised activity;
  - 100.2. to anyone on request; and
  - 100.3. where the holder of the Environmental Authorisation has a website, on such publicly accessible website.
101. National government, provincial government, local authorities or committees appointed in terms of the conditions of this authorisation or any other public authority shall not be held responsible for any damages or losses suffered by the holder of the authorisation or his/her successor in title in any instance where construction or operation subsequent to construction be temporarily or permanently stopped for reasons of non-compliance by the holder of the authorisation with the conditions of authorisation as set out in this document or any other subsequent document emanating from these conditions of authorisation.

Date of Environmental Authorisation: 24/11/2022.



**Ms Millicent Solomons**

**Acting Chief Director: Integrated Environmental Authorisations**

**Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment**

## Annexure 1: Reasons for Decision

### 1. Information considered in making the decision

In reaching its decision, the Department took, *inter alia*, the following into consideration -

- a) The listed activities as applied for in the application form received on 15 August 2022.
- b) The information contained in the BAR dated September 2022.
- c) The comments received from the DFFE: Biodiversity Conservation Directorate and interested and affected parties as included in the BAR dated September 2022.
- d) Mitigation measures as proposed in the BAR and the EMPr dated September 2022.
- e) The information contained in the specialist studies contained within the appendices of the BAR dated September 2022 and as appears below:

Title	Prepared by	Date issued
Climate Change Impact Assessment	Promethium Carbon	June 2022
Desktop Geotechnical Study	R.A. Bradshaw & Associates cc	January 2022
Agricultural Compliance Statement	Johann Lanz	July 2022
Terrestrial Biodiversity Assessment	3Foxes Biodiversity Solutions	July 2022
Plant Species Compliance Statement	3Foxes Biodiversity Solutions	June 2022
Terrestrial Animal Species Compliance Statement	3Foxes Biodiversity Solutions	June 2022
Site Sensitivity Verification and Terrestrial Animal Species Specialist Assessment for the Karoo Dwarf Tortoise	Sungazer Faunal Surveys	July 2022
Bat Basic Assessment Report	Animalia	July 2022
Avifaunal Impact Assessment	WildSkies Ecological Services (Pty) Ltd	August 2022
Aquatic Impact Assessment	EnviroSci (Pty) Ltd	June 2022
Visual Impact Assessment	Quinton Lawson and Bernard Oberholzer	June 2022
Heritage Impact Assessment	ASHA Consulting (Pty) Ltd	July 2022
Palaeontological Heritage Assessment	Natura Viva cc	June 2022
Noise Impact Assessment	EARES	June 2022
Desktop Shadow Flicker Assessment	Arcus Consultancy Services Ltd.	July 2022

Traffic Impact Assessment	Athol Schwarz	June 2022
Socio-Economic Impact Assessment Report	Independent Economic Researchers	July 2022
Geohydrological Assessment	GEOSS South Africa (Pty) Ltd.	August 2022

## 2. Key factors considered in making the decision

All information presented to the Department was taken into account in the Department's consideration of the application. A summary of the issues which, in the Department's view, were of the most significance is set out below.

- The findings of all the specialist studies conducted and their recommended mitigation measures.
- The need for the proposed project stems from the provision of electricity to the national grid.
- The BAR dated September 2022 identified all legislation and guidelines that have been considered in the preparation of the BAR.
- The location of the proposed project falls within the Beaufort West Renewable Energy Development Zone (REDZ)<sup>11</sup>.
- The methodology used in assessing the potential impacts identified in the BAR dated September 2022 and the specialist studies have been adequately indicated.
- A sufficient public participation process was undertaken, and the applicant has satisfied the minimum requirements as prescribed in the EIA Regulations, 2014 as amended for public involvement.

## 3. Findings

After consideration of the information and factors listed above, the Department made the following findings -

- The identification and assessment of impacts are detailed in the BAR dated September 2022 and sufficient assessment of the key identified issues and impacts have been completed.
- The procedure followed for impact assessment is adequate for the decision-making process.
- The information contained in the BAR dated September 2022 is deemed to be accurate and credible.
- The proposed mitigation of impacts identified and assessed adequately curtails the identified impacts.
- EMPr measures for the pre-construction, construction and rehabilitation phases of the development were proposed and included in the BAR and will be implemented to manage the identified environmental impacts during the construction phase.

In view of the above, the Department is satisfied that, subject to compliance with the conditions contained in the Environmental Authorisation, the authorised activities will not conflict with the general objectives of integrated environmental management laid down in Chapter 5 of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 and that any potentially detrimental environmental impacts resulting from the authorised activities can be mitigated to acceptable levels. The Environmental Authorisation is accordingly granted.

Ms.

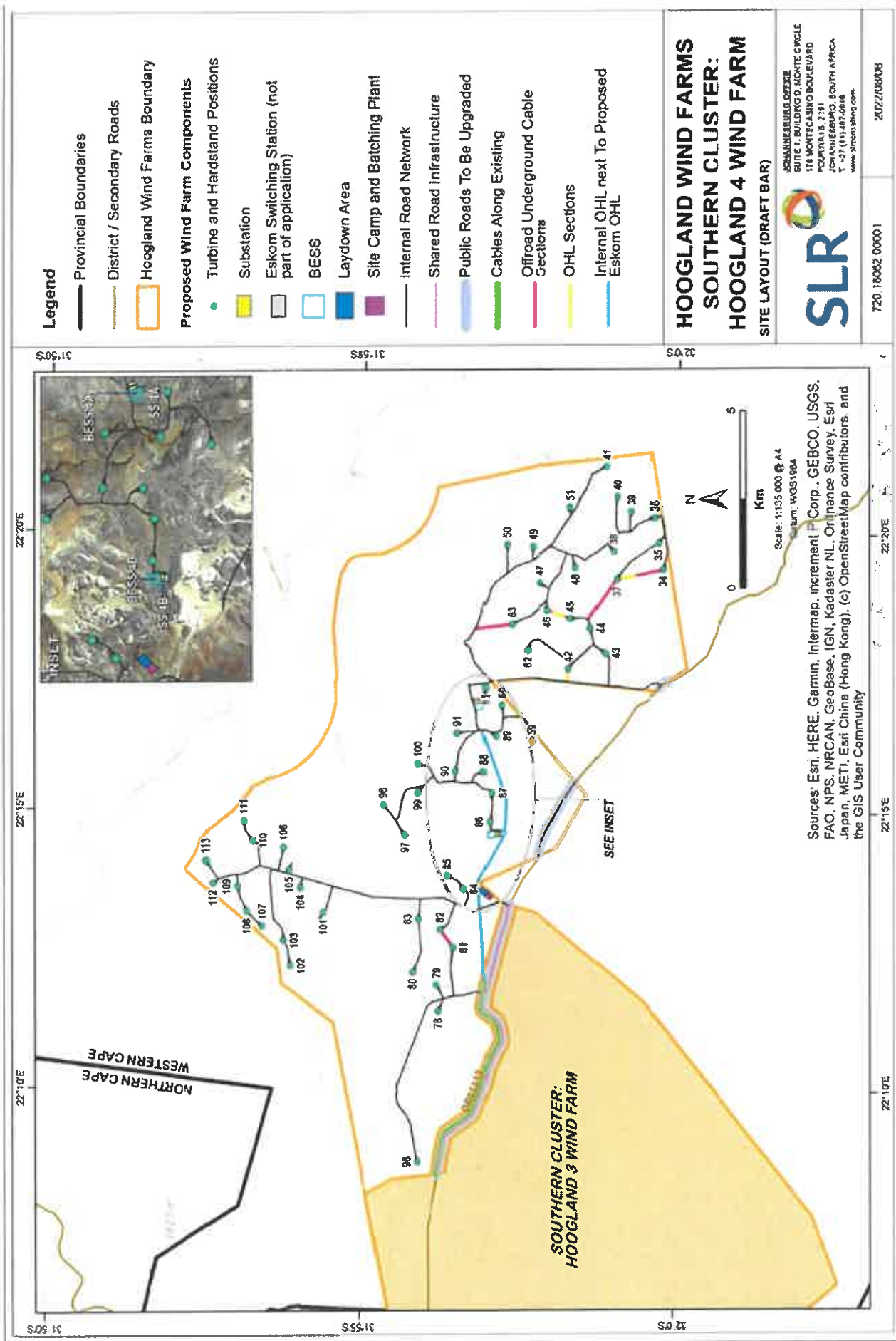


Figure 2-6: Hoogland 4 Wind Farm Layout (55 turbines)



## forestry, fisheries & the environment

Department:  
Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment  
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Ms. Milicent Solomons  
Director: Prioritised Infrastructure Projects

Dear Ms. Solomons

### **APPOINTMENT AS ACTING CHIEF DIRECTOR: INTEGRATED ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATIONS FOR THE PERIOD 01 NOVEMBER 2022 – 16 DECEMBER 2022**

I hereby inform you that I have decided to appoint you as Acting Chief Director: Integrated Environmental Authorizations, for the period of 01 November 2022 – 16 December 2022 whilst Mr Sabelo Malaza is fulfilling his temporary reassignment function at the Forestry Branch.

All the correspondence and other documents that are usually signed by the Chief Director: Integrated Environmental Authorizations must be signed under Acting Chief Director: Integrated Environmental Authorisations during the above-mentioned period.

Your appointment in the above acting position remains subject to the provisions of the Public Service Act, 1994 (Proclamation No. 103 of 1994), as amended, the Government Employees Pension Fund Act, 1996 (Proclamation No. 21 of 1996), the regulations promulgated under these Acts and relevant circulars.

In the execution of your duties and the exercising of the powers delegated to you, you will furthermore be subjected to the provisions of the Public Finance Management Act, compliance with the Promotion of Access to Information Act, Promotion of Administrative Justice Act, the Minimum Information Security Standard, Departmental Policies and other applicable legislations with the Republic of South Africa. You are therefore advised to make yourself familiar with the provisions of these legislations and policies and the amendments thereof. (Copies of Departmental policies can be obtained from the Human Resource Office).

Please accept my heartfelt gratitude for all your assistance on behalf of the department.

Yours sincerely

Ms. Devinagie Bendeman  
Deputy Director-General: RSCM (Regulatory Compliance and  
Sector Monitoring)

Date: 31 October 2022

#### **ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

I ACCEPT / ~~DO NOT ACCEPT~~  
appointment as Acting Chief  
Director: Integrated Environmental  
Authorisations

Signed:

Date: 31/10/2022.