



# 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:** 14/12/16/3/3/2/2325

**Enquiries:** Ms Azrah Essop

**Telephone:** (012) 399 8529 **E-mail:** [AEssop@dfpe.gov.za](mailto:AEssop@dfpe.gov.za)

Mr Lance Blaine  
Mura 4 (Pty) Ltd  
Unit B2, Mainstream Centre  
Main Road Hout Bay  
**CAPE TOWN**  
7806

Tel number: 021 790 1392  
Email address: [surina@red-cap.co.za](mailto:surina@red-cap.co.za)

## PER E-MAIL

Dear Mr Blaine

**ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION IN TERMS OF THE NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT ACT, ACT NO. 107 OF 1998, AS AMENDED: FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF A MURA 4 SOLAR PHOTOVOLTAIC FACILITY (UP TO 360MW) 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 14 (fourteen) days of the date of the decision as well as the provisions regarding the submission of appeals that are contained in the Regulations.

In terms of the Promotion of Administrative Justice Act, 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, 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 National Environmental Management Act, 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: [appeals@dfre.gov.za](mailto:appeals@dfre.gov.za)

By hand: Environment House  
473 Steve Biko Road  
Arcadia  
**PRETORIA**  
0083

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 [appeals@dfre.gov.za](mailto:appeals@dfre.gov.za).

Yours faithfully



**Mr Vusi Skosana**  
**Acting Chief Director: Integrated Environmental Authorisations**  
**Department of Forestry, Fisheries & the Environment**  
**Date: 17 October 2023**

cc:	Ashlea Strong	WSP Group Africa (Pty) Ltd	Email: <a href="mailto:Ashlea.strong@wsp.com">Ashlea.strong@wsp.com</a>
	Gavin Benjamin	Western Cape: DEA&DP	Email: <a href="mailto:gavin.benjamin@westerncape.gov.za">gavin.benjamin@westerncape.gov.za</a>
	MJ Penxa	Beaufort West Local Municipality	Email: <a href="mailto:jacksonp@beaufortwestmun.co.za">jacksonp@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.

CONSTRUCTION OF A MURA 4 SOLAR PHOTOVOLTAIC FACILITY (UP TO 360MW) 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>	14/12/16/3/3/2/2325
<b>Last amended:</b>	First issue
<b>Holder of authorisation:</b>	Mura 4 (Pty) Ltd
<b>Location of activity:</b>	Within Ward 7, on Leeuwkloof Farm 43, Aangrensend Abramskraal Farm 11, Portion 4 of Duiker Kranse Farm 45, RE of Portion 3 of Duiker Kranse Farm 45, RE of Duiker Kranse Farm 45, Sneeuwkraal Farm 46 within Beaufort West Local Municipality in the 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.

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## 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–

#### **MURA 4 (PTY) LTD**

with the following contact details–

Lance Blaine  
Mura 4 (Pty) Ltd  
Unit B2, Mainstream Centre  
Main Road, Hout Bay  
**CAPE TOWN**  
7806

Tel number: 021 790 1392  
Email address: [surina@red-cap.co.za](mailto:surina@red-cap.co.za)

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

As described in the final Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) dated August 2023 at:

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 currently zoned as agricultural land and falls outside the urban area. The Mura 4 Solar PV Facility will include up to two solar farm substations, and one BESS substation, of up to 132kV each and internal underground cables of up to 132kV.</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>(a) within a watercourse or</i></p> <p><i>(c) within 32 meters of a watercourse measured from the edge of a watercourse.</i></p>	<p>The Mura 4 Solar PV Facility will have internal underground cables and internal gravel roads that will have an up to 4m wide driving surface and may require side drains on one or both sides. During construction the access roads may be up to 12m wide but this will be a temporary impact and rehabilitated following the construction phase. The internal underground cables, internal gravel roads and access roads may require a total construction area of more than 100m<sup>2</sup> within 32m of a watercourse.</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 storage and handling of a dangerous good, where such storage occurs in containers with a combined capacity of 80 but not exceeding 500 cubic metres.</i></p>	<p>The solar facility will require temporary fuel (and lubricants) and powder cement storage facilities during the construction phase. The combined storage capacity of all of the above facilities/infrastructure 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,</i></p>	<p>Internal underground cables, internal gravel roads and the access roads, including stormwater control</p>

Activity number	Activity description
<i>removal or moving of soil, sand, shells, shell grit, pebbles or rock of more than 10 cubic metres from a watercourse.</i>	infrastructure, will collectively require the excavation, infilling or removal of soil exceeding 10m <sup>3</sup> from delineated watercourses on site.
<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 or afforestation on or after 1998 and where such development,</i></p> <p><i>(ii) will occur outside an urban area, where the total land to be developed is bigger than 1 hectare.</i></p>	The proposed site is zoned as agricultural land and will continue to be used for agricultural purposes should the proposed project receive environmental authorisation. The project extent of Mura 4 Solar PV Facility is 466ha. This area will be fully transformed with solar panels or other supporting infrastructure (including the substations, BESS, building infrastructure, internal underground cables, internal gravel access roads, fencing, panel maintenance and cleaning area, stormwater management system and construction work area or the access roads).
<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></p> <p><i>(ii) where no reserve exists, where the existing road is wider than 8 metres.</i></p>	Existing roads may require widening of up to 12m during construction accommodate the movement of heavy vehicles.
<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 Mura 4 Solar PV Facility will generate up to 360 MW of electricity output from a renewable resource
<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 extent of Mura 4 Solar PV Facility is 466ha. This area will be fully transformed. It is likely that at least 20ha of indigenous vegetation will be removed.
<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>Western Cape,</i></p>	The Mura 4 Solar PV Facility will have internal gravel roads that will have a 4m wide driving surface and may require side drains on one or both sides. During

Activity number	Activity description
ii. Areas outside urban areas (aa) Areas containing indigenous vegetation.	construction, the access roads may be up to 12m wide but this will be a temporary impact and rehabilitated following the construction phase.
Listing Notice 3, Item 18: <i>The widening of a road by more than 4 metres, or the lengthening of a road by more than 1 kilometre.</i> i. Western Cape, ii. All areas outside urban areas: (aa) Areas containing indigenous vegetation.	Existing roads will require widening of up to 12m during construction, to accommodate the movement of heavy vehicles, this will be a temporary impact. The widening of the roads may take place in areas containing indigenous vegetation.

Farm names/ and 21 Digit Surveyor General Code:

Leeuwkloof Farm 43	C00900000000004300000
Aangrensend Abramskraal Farm 11	C00900000000001100000
Portion 4 of Duiker Kranse Farm 45	C00900000000004500004
RE of Portion 3 of Duiker Kranse Farm 45	C00900000000004500003
RE of Duiker Kranse Farm 45	C00900000000004500000
Sneeuwkraal Farm 46	C00900000000004600000

Mura 4 On-Site Substation and BESS Coordinates		
Mura 4 Substation A	22° 35' 17.678" E	31° 49' 24.420" S
Mura 4 Substation B	22° 36' 17.806" E	31° 49' 47.251" S
BESS and BESS Substation Mura 4	22° 35' 17.646" E	31° 49' 29.690" S

Mura 4 Access Road Coordinates		
Start- point	22° 24' 20.311" E	31° 53' 52.717" S
Middle- point	22° 31' 56.737" E	31° 52' 33.744" S
End- point	22° 34' 37.204" E	31° 48' 38.578" S

Mura 4 Solar PV Facility Coordinates	Longitude	Latitude
Centre Point:	22°35'38.45"E	31°49'21.77"S
1	22° 34' 46.189" E	31° 48' 23.760" S
2	22° 36' 34.567" E	31° 49' 17.105" S
3	22° 36' 36.648" E	31° 49' 25.028" S

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<b>Mura 4 Solar PV Facility Coordinates</b>	<b>Longitude</b>	<b>Latitude</b>
4	22° 36' 36.101" E	31° 49' 32.520" S
5	22° 36' 8.617" E	31° 50' 4.026" S
6	22° 35' 15.472" E	31° 49' 56.240" S
7	22° 35' 16.814" E	31° 49' 47.464" S
8	22° 35' 14.708" E	31° 49' 31.966" S
9	22° 34' 56.772" E	31° 48' 38.070" S
10	22° 34' 50.393" E	31° 48' 37.641" S
11	22° 34' 38.590" E	31° 48' 36.853" S
12	22° 34' 46.189" E	31° 48' 23.760" S
13	22° 36' 1.332" E	31° 50' 2.601" S
14	22° 35' 58.504" E	31° 49' 56.737" S
15	22° 35' 55.136" E	31° 49' 56.132" S
16	22° 35' 51.853" E	31° 49' 57.565" S
17	22° 35' 48.918" E	31° 50' 4.346" S
18	22° 35' 31.533" E	31° 49' 59.927" S
19	22° 35' 30.434" E	31° 49' 57.319" S
20	22° 35' 32.019" E	31° 49' 54.254" S
21	22° 35' 25.281" E	31° 49' 53.150" S
22	22° 35' 25.157" E	31° 49' 54.832" S
23	22° 35' 22.800" E	31° 49' 56.407" S
24	22° 35' 23.397" E	31° 49' 58.165" S
25	22° 34' 59.506" E	31° 48' 39.539" S
26	22° 34' 38.553" E	31° 48' 35.824" S

- for the construction of a Mura 4 Solar Photovoltaic Facility (Up to 360MW) Between Loxton and Beaufort West within the Beaufort West Local Municipality in the Western Cape Province, hereafter referred to as "the property".

Technical details of the proposed Mura 4 Solar PV Facility:

<b>Component</b>	<b>Description</b>
Solar Field	
Total Disturbance Footprint (incl. site camps and access road).	<b>466ha</b>

Component	Description
Project Area Footprint (Development Envelope).	<b>425ha</b> envelope for the PV facility, on-site substations, switching stations, BESS, underground cables, internal gravel roads, fencing, construction site camps and other infrastructure within this footprint.
Solar Field.	Solar Photovoltaic facility with capacity up to <b>360MW</b> .
Solar Farm Substations.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Up to two on-site solar substations adjacent to Eskom switching stations that will connect to the approved Nuweveld Collector substation.</li> <li>Maximum height of 12m and will include a high voltage gantry within a 150m x 75m substation yard.</li> </ul>
BESS and BESS substation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>240 MWac BESS (Lithium-ion or similar solid-state technology).</li> <li>BESS Substation: maximum height of 12m and will include a high voltage gantry within a 150m x 75m substation yard.</li> </ul>
Building Infrastructure.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><u>Maximum height of 8m and includes:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Offices; Operational and maintenance (O&amp;M)/ control centre; Warehouse/workshop; Ablution facilities; and Converter/inverter stations.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
Other Infrastructure located within the solar area footprint.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Internal underground cables of up to 132kV;</li> <li>Internal gravel roads;</li> <li>Fencing (between 2 – 3m high) around the PV Facility;</li> <li>Panel maintenance and cleaning area;</li> <li>Storm water management system; and</li> <li>Site camps.</li> </ul>
Associated Infrastructure ( <b>outside</b> the solar area footprint).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Access gravel roads with a footprint of 36ha: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Up to 4 m wide driving surface and may require side drains on one or both sides.</li> <li>During construction the roads may be up to 12m wide, but this will be a temporary impact and rehabilitated following the construction phase.</li> </ul> </li> <li>Site camps: Up to two 2.2ha site camps within the access road corridor.</li> </ul>

## Conditions of this Environmental Authorisation

### Scope of authorisation

1. The construction of a Mura 4 Solar Photovoltaic Facility (**Up to 360MW**) Between Loxton and Beaufort West within the Beaufort West Local Municipality in the Western Cape Province, is **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 must 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 affected. 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 must 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. The facility Environmental Management Programme (EMPr) "Appendix I" dated August 2023 submitted as part of the EIAr dated August 2023 is approved and must be implemented and adhered to.
14. The substation Generic EMPr "Appendix I" dated August 2023 submitted as part of the EIAr dated August 2023 is approved and must be implemented and adhered to.
15. The final layout map titled *Mura 4, Final PV Layout Schematic* submitted in Appendix E as part of the EIAr dated August 2023 is approved and must be implemented and adhered to.
16. 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.
17. Changes to the approved EMPr must be submitted in accordance with the EIA Regulations applicable at the time.

18. The Department reserves the right to amend the approved EMPr should any impacts that were not anticipated or covered in the EIAR be discovered.

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

19. The EMPr must be updated where the findings of the environmental audit reports, contemplated in Condition 26 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.
20. The updated EMPr must contain recommendations to rectify the shortcomings identified in the environmental audit report.
21. 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.
22. 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.
23. 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**

24. 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.
- 24.1. The ECO must be appointed before commencement of any authorised activities.

- 24.2. Once appointed, the name and contact details of the ECO must be submitted to the *Director: Compliance Monitoring* of the Department.
- 24.3. The ECO must keep record of all activities on site, problems identified, transgressions noted and a task schedule of tasks undertaken by the ECO.
- 24.4. 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**

- 25. 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.
- 26. 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.
- 27. The frequency of auditing and of submission of the environmental audit reports must be as per the frequency indicated in the EMPr, considering the processes for such auditing as prescribed in Regulation 34 of the EIA Regulations, 2014 as amended.
- 28. The holder of the authorisation must, in addition, submit environmental audit reports 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.
- 29. 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.
- 30. 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.**

- 31. A written notification of commencement must be given to the Department no later than fourteen (14) days prior to the commencement of the activity. 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**

32. 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**

33. 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**

34. All contractors and employees must undergo induction which is to include a component of environmental awareness. The induction is to include aspects such as the need to avoid littering, the reporting and cleaning of spills and leaks and general good "housekeeping". All areas disturbed by construction activities must be subject to landscaping and rehabilitation.
35. No activities must be allowed to encroach into a water resource without a water use authorisation being in place from the Department of Water and Sanitation.
36. A stormwater management plan must be compiled and implemented for the project, facilitating the diversion of clean water to the delineated resources.
37. Erosion Management Plan, Maintenance Plan and Rehabilitation Plan of natural vegetation must be developed to mitigate on habitat degradation and consider all phases of the development. Rehabilitation Plan must include the ongoing monitoring and maintenance of the surrounding natural vegetation.
38. Alien Invasive Plant Species Management and Rehabilitation Plans must be developed and submitted as part of the final report to mitigate habitat degradation due to erosion and alien plant invasion.
39. Permit from relevant authorities must be obtained prior commencement of any construction activities for the disturbance or removal of any nationally or provincially protected species.
40. Vegetation clearing prior and during construction must be limited to the footprint of the proposed development. Furthermore, the applicant must ensure that Laydown yards, camps and storage areas are placed within project area.
41. Mitigation measures as specified in the Avifauna Impact Assessment, Terrestrial biodiversity assessment, and Aquatic Ecological Assessment Report must be implemented.

42. Construction must include 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.
43. 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. No dumping of material on-site should be allowed.
44. All waste generated on-site during construction must be adequately managed. Separation and recycling of different waste materials must be supported.
45. If any archaeological material or human burials are uncovered during the course of development, work in the immediate area should be halted. The find would need to be reported to the heritage authorities and may require inspection by an archaeologist. Such heritage is the property of the state and may require excavation and curation in an approved institution.

#### **General**

46. A copy of this Environmental Authorisation, the audit and compliance monitoring reports, and the approved EMPr, must be made available for inspection and copying-
  - 46.1. at the site of the authorised activity,
  - 46.2. to anyone on request; and
  - 46.3. where the holder of the Environmental Authorisation has a website, on such publicly accessible website.
47. 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:** 17 October 2023



**Mr Vusi Skosana**

**Acting Chief Director: Integrated Environmental Authorisations  
Department of Forestry, Fisheries & 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 03 March 2023.
- b) The information contained in the EIAr dated August 2023.
- c) The comments received from the DFFE Biodiversity Conservation, SAHRA, South African National Roads Agency SOC Limited (SANRAL), CapeNature, Department of Transport and Public Works, Department of Environmental Affairs and Development Planning: Western Cape Government, Heritage Resource Management Services, Department of Cultural Affairs and Sport: Western Cape Government, South African Radio Astronomy Observatory, and South African Weather Service (SAWS), and interested and affected parties as included in the EIAr dated August 2023.
- d) Mitigation measures as proposed in the final EIAr and the EMPr's.
- e) The information contained in the specialist studies contained within the appendices of the EIAr dated August 2023 and as appears below:

Title	Prepared by	Date
Climate Change Impact Assessment.	Promethium Carbon.	April 2023.
Agricultural Compliance Statement.	Report by Johann Lanz.	28 April 2023.
Terrestrial Biodiversity Compliance Statement.	3Foxes Biodiversity Solutions.	November 2022.
Aquatic Biodiversity Assessment.	BlueScience (Pty) Ltd.	April 2023.
Plant Species Compliance Statement.	3Foxes Biodiversity Solutions.	November 2022.
Animal Species Compliance Statement.	3Foxes Biodiversity Solutions.	November 2022.
Avifaunal Impact Assessment.	WildSkies Ecological Services.	October 2022.
Heritage Impact Assessment.	ASHA Consulting (Pty) Ltd.	December 2022.
Palaeontological Assessment.	Natura Viva cc.	April 2023.
Traffic Impact Assessment.	Athol Schwarz.	7 May 2023.
Visual Impact Assessment.	Quinton Lawson Architect and Bernard Oberholzer Landscape Architect.	26 April 2023.
Socio-Economic Impact Assessment Report.	Independent Economic Researchers.	April 2023.
Geohydrological Assessment:	GEOSS South Africa (Pty) Ltd	January 2023.

## **2. Key factors considered in making the decision.**

All information presented to the Department was considered 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.

- a) The findings of all the specialist studies conducted and their recommended mitigation measures.
- b) The need for the proposed project emanates from the provision of electricity to the national grid.
- c) The EIAr dated August 2023 identified all legislation and guidelines that have been considered in the preparation of the EIAr.
- d) Assessment of all alternatives for the proposed Mura PV Developments.
- e) The location of the proposed Mura PV Developments is deemed suitable.
- f) The methodology used in assessing the potential impacts identified in the EIAr dated August 2023 and the specialist studies have been adequately indicated.
- g) 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:

- a) The identification and assessment of impacts are detailed in the EIAr dated August 2023 and sufficient assessment of the key identified issues and impacts have been completed.
- b) The procedure followed for impact assessment is adequate for the decision-making process.
- c) The information contained in the EIAr dated August 2023 is deemed to be accurate and credible.
- d) The proposed mitigation of impacts identified and assessed adequately curtails the identified impacts.
- e) EMP measures for the pre-construction, construction and rehabilitation phases of the development were proposed and included in the EIAr 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.





## forestry, fisheries & the environment

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Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment  
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Mr Vusi Skosana

Director: National Integrated Authorisations

Dear Mr Skosana

### APPOINTMENT AS CHIEF DIRECTOR: INTEGRATED ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATIONS (ACTING) FROM 13 OCTOBER 2023 UNTIL 20 OCTOBER 2023

I hereby inform you that you have been appointed to act in the post of Chief Director: Integrated Environmental Authorisations from **13 October 2023 until 20 October 2023**. Please note that acting arrangements may be terminated by any party giving 24 hours written notification.

All correspondence and other documents that are usually signed by the Chief Director: Integrated Environmental Authorisations must be signed under **Chief Director: Integrated Environmental Authorisations (Acting)** 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).

Yours sincerely

Ms Devinagie Bendeman

DDG: Regulatory Compliance & Sector Monitoring

Date: 11 October 2023

cc: Mr Sabelo Malaza

[smalaza@dfre.gov.za](mailto:smalaza@dfre.gov.za)

#### ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I ACCEPT / ~~DO NOT ACCEPT~~

appointment as Chief Director: Integrated  
Environmental Authorisations (Acting)

Signed:

Date: 13 October 2023



**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.