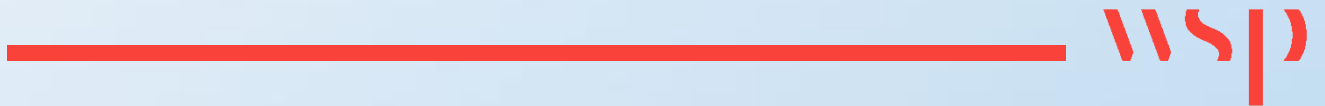


Appendix O

AQUATIC BIODIVERSITY STATEMENT





Eskom Komati Solar PV and BESS Terrestrial Animal
Species

Our Ref: 41103965

25 September 2024

CONFIDENTIAL

To whom it may concern,

**Eskom Komati Solar Photovoltaics (PV) and Battery Energy Storage System (BESS)
Project Amendment Process – Aquatic and Wetland Statement**

It is understood that since the Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) for the proposed Eskom Komati Solar PV and BESS Project was undertaken in 2023, certain changes are now being proposed, requiring an environmental amendment process. As part of this amendment process, the Aquatic and Wetland impacts need to be re-confirmed. This letter serves to advise on any changes in the Aquatic and Wetland impacts as a result of the Project changes.

It is noted that the following changes to the Komati Solar PV and BESS Project are being proposed for the amendment process:

- Extension of the BESS Area A.
- Removal of the approved on-site substations in Area A and Area B.
- Change in classification (based on changes in extent and capacities) of Solar Farm A and B to Solar Farm A1, A2 and B.
- Proposed development of three new on-site substations (one each in footprint A1, A2 and B) and associated overhead and underground cabling (capacity 33 kV) as well as associated infrastructure and road access infrastructure.
- Removal of the approved 132 kV grid connection.

Since the above changes are proposed within the existing site footprint, Aquatic and Wetland impacts (to those assessed in the 2023 studies) are not envisaged. Mitigation measures, as presented in the 2023 study, must be rigorously implemented.

Yours Sincerely

Greffrath,
Rudolph
(ZARG05575)

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